



The Gateway Primary Academy

Policy for the Education of Children in Care

September 2025

Written by: Mr Cassem

Date shared with the governing body: Tuesday 3rd October

Date for review: September 2027

Signed by Chair of governors:

Introduction

Nationally, Children in Care significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion and of becoming NEET compared with their peers. At the Gateway Primary Academy we recognise that schools have a major part to play in ensuring that Children in Care are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being, in line with Every Child Matters.

Helping children in care succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority Kent County Council and Kent schools.

This policy takes account of:

- The County Council's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children (LAC).
- Promoting the Education of Looked after Children: Statutory guidance for local authorities **February 2018**
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.
- Relevant DfES guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors).

Key Principles

The Gateway Primary Academy recognises the important role it plays in supporting the educational achievement of a Child in Care. We would ensure that through nurturing approach every child is supported to reach their full potential. We would seek to do this by:

- Ensuring that all pupils joining us form good relationships with adults in their class and know who they can talk to about their worries, concerns and wishes.
- Providing a welcoming environment that is safe, stable, secure, happy and stimulating
- Supporting all children to develop a love of learning and ensure that their education is prioritised.
- Ensuring good attendance to enable pupils to make the most of all learning opportunities (see attendance policy).
- Working alongside the SENCO to ensure targeted support is put in place to support the pupil both academically, emotionally and socially when they join us and ensure early intervention and priority action is in place.
- Ensuring that **all staff** have high expectations for the pupil's achievement.
- Nurturing an attitude of self-belief and confidence as individuals.
- Developing an understanding that positive risk taking and self-evaluation is an essential stepping-stone in successful learning.
- Working together to meet the needs of each individual through inclusive practices including through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.
- Promoting health and wellbeing through our RSHE, computing, PE and science curriculums.
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability.
- Extending an awareness of individual's rights and responsibilities as members of a multicultural society and global community

Implications

As for all our pupils, The Gateway Primary Academy is committed to helping every Child in Care to achieve the highest standards they can. This can be measured by improvement in their achievements and attendance.

The Governing Body of The Gateway Primary Academy is committed to providing quality education for all pupils and will:

- Ensure Looked After Children are prioritised in the school's oversubscription criteria, in line with the Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006
- Ensure a Designated Teacher for Children in Care is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities **set out below**.
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed every 6 months for every Child in Care, in line with Kent's guidance on Personal Education Plans.
- Identify a governor as Designated Governor for Children in Care.

This policy links with a number of other school policies and it is important that Governors have regard to the needs of Children in Care when reviewing them:

- Oversubscription criteria.
- The School Code of Conduct.
- Behaviour Policy.
- Home School Agreement.
- Anti-bullying Policy.
- Inclusion policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy.
- Safeguarding Policy.
- Special Educational Needs Policy.

The school will champion the needs of Children in Care, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to the highest level possible.

Responsibility of the Headteacher

- The Designated Teacher for Children in Care is Miss Warner (SENCO). It is essential that another appropriate person is identified quickly should the Designated Teacher leave the school or take sick leave.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusions of Children in Care and take action where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations.
- Report on the progress, attendance and conduct of Children in Care. OFSTED now select a number of Children in Care, tracking their results and the support they have received.
- Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.

Role of the Governing Body

- Mrs V Harmen (safeguarding Governor) is the Governor for Children in Care
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Children in Care.
- Ensure the school has an overview of the needs and progress of Children in Care.
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of Children in Care.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.

Procedures: the Governing Body will:

- Monitor the academic progress of Children in Care, through an annual report (see below).
- Ensure that Children in Care are given top priority when applying for places in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.

- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies and procedures to ensure Children in Care achieve and enjoy their time at the school, by recognising the extra problems caused by excluding them and by not excluding them except as a last resort.
- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities as below.
- Support the Headteacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of the Children in Care are recognised and met.
- Receive a report once a year setting out:
 1. The number of Children in Care on the school's roll (if any).
 2. Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 3. Their EYFS results, KS1/2 results as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
 5. The destinations of pupils who leave the school.
 6. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

The Role of the Designated Teacher

Government Guidance says that the Designated Teacher should be "someone with sufficient authority to make things happen...[who] should be an advocate for Children in Care, assessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them."

Governors should be aware that all schools are already required to have a designated teacher for Children in Care. It is strongly recommended that this person should be a member of the Senior Management Team. Training for Designated Teachers has been and will continue to be available through the Virtual School Kent (VSK). Governors should also be aware that OFSTED will focus on Children in Care, monitoring how the School has promoted their inclusion and attainment and the effectiveness of joint working with other services involved with them.

Our Designated Teacher will:

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker and VSK.
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed with the child, the social worker, the foster carer and any other relevant people, at least two weeks before the Care Plan reviews.
- Ensure that each Child in Care has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child's own wishes. ***Members of staff who take on this role may need to be supported by someone from the school's pastoral staff. They should also be alert to any child protection issues, any disclosures that pupils may make, and know what action to take. They should link closely therefore with the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection.***
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately
- Co-ordinate any support for the Child in Care that is necessary within school.

- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Encourage Children in Care to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of Children in Care.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and - if the pupil changes school - to a new school.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.
- Be aware that 60% of Children in Care say they are bullied, so will actively monitor and prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Ensure that attendance of each Child in Care on the school roll is reported to Welfare each day.

The Responsibility of All School Staff at The Gateway

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Children in Care, as for all pupils.
- Maintain Children in Care's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a pupil's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable Children in Care to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Children in Care.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Children in Care.
- Be aware that many Children in Care say they are bullied so work to prevent bullying in line with the School's policy.

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy. Further advice and support is available from Virtual School Kent: <https://virtuelschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/>