



Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre

Policy for Looked After Children (LAC)

Learning together in a changing world, creating success for all.

Objectives

The governing body and staff of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre are committed to providing high quality education for all our pupils.

We recognise that nationally, pupils in public care have significantly underachieved compared to their peers. We intend, through this policy, to promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of looked after children in Trinity Fields.

The governing body is committed to implementing the guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government relating to the education of young people in public care and Circular 2/2001. This sets out six principles:

- prioritising education
- having high expectations
- promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes
- achieving continuity and stability
- early intervention and priority action
- listening to children

Key aims

The fundamental aim of this policy is to raise the achievement of all pupils in the school including those who are looked after and accommodated. In order to raise attainment levels we will ensure that:

- All pupils will be encouraged to fully achieve their potential.
- All pupils will be encouraged to pursue accredited courses appropriate to their ability and aptitude.
- All pupils will be enabled and supported, where appropriate, to take part in school assessments.
- Attendance will be monitored and an IBP put in place if a pupil is deemed to be at risk of exclusion. (WAG Circular 3/99)
- Children leaving care and Trinity Fields School will be encouraged, where appropriate, to enter further education, training or employment.

Circular 2/002 introduced two key measures to improve the educational life chances for children in public care.

- Designated teachers at every school
- Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for all pupils in public care

The governing body will ensure that the school has a designated teacher for Looked After Children, and that the designated teacher is able to carry out his or her responsibilities effectively.

The role of the Designated Teacher

WAG Circular 2/002 states that the Designated Teacher should be:

'Someone with sufficient authority to makes thing happen...(who) should be an advocate for the young people in public care, accessing services and support and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them. The designated teacher oversees the school's work in relation to Looked After Children. He or she will ensure the speedy transfer of educational information between agencies and individuals, and check that each Looked After Child has a Personal Education Plan. The designated teacher will ensure that the school contributes to the statutory review for each Looked After Child.'

Training for designated teachers in their role and responsibilities will be provided by the local authority (LA). Our Designated Teachers will:

- ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the pupil and their carers if not already a member of the school;
- ensure that a PEP is completed as soon as possible (and within the 20 school days of the pupil joining the school);
- ensure that the PEP and other records are kept up to date and available in time to inform review meetings;
- ensure that each pupil in public care has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This member of staff (usually the class teacher) needs to be alert to any child protection and safeguarding issues and any disclosures that pupils might make and know what action to take. They should link closely with the school's senior designated person for child protection and safeguarding;
- co-ordinate any support that is necessary within school and within the LA (i.e. LAC education support);
- ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis;
- encourage pupils in public care to join in extra curricular activities and out of school learning, where appropriate;
- monitor the attendance and attainment of the Looked After Children and inform the relevant person in the LA if there are any concerns. (The attendance and attainment data and any fixed or permanent exclusions is collected annually by the Welsh Government);
- arrange meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of an exclusion;
- ensure, as far as possible attendance at planning and review meetings or send the relevant information required for the meeting;
- act as advisor to staff and governors for Looked After Children;
- ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and if the pupil changes school, to a new school.

Responsibilities of all staff

All our staff will:

- have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievements of all pupils, including those in public care;
- ensure that all pupils in public care are supported sensitively;
- respond positively, wherever possible to a pupil's request for a 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 pupils in public care to achieve stability and success within school;
- promote the self esteem of all pupils in public care, maintain confidentiality and ensure that no child in public care is stigmatised in any way.

Responsibilities of the headteacher

The headteacher will:

- inform the Education Officer (Children First) if the designated teacher changes;
- ensure that the Education Officer (Children First), carer and social worker are informed about any behavioural issues and how the school is dealing with them;
- follow the good practice and expectations in the WAG Circular 3/99 in respect of exclusion procedures.

Responsibilities of the governing body

The governing body will:

- ensure that the school has a designated teacher and that the designated teacher is able to carry out his/her responsibilities;
- support the headteacher, the designated teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of pupils in public care are recognised and met;
- ensure that all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of pupils in public care;
- nominate a governor to take a special interest in this area of the school's work.

Our Designated Senior Teachers are:

Ian Elliott (headteacher)

Tracey McGuirk (Deputy headteacher)

Our nominated Governor is: **Brian Witchell**

The LA lead for Looked After Children is: **Helen West**

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed as detailed in the school's policy review cycle. It may also be necessary to review and amend it sooner to reflect both local and national changes.

Signed		Headteacher
Signed		Chair of Governors
Date of review: Autumn 2019		