



# Highters Heath Nursery School



*Article 17: You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being.*

## Looked After Children Policy and Guidance

Nationally, children in care significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion and of becoming NEET compared with their peers. 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 to succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for Birmingham City Council and schools.

This policy takes account of:

- The City 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 July 2014 • 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). Our school's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Children in Care is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education. • Promoting attendance.
- Targeting support.
- Having high expectations.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Achieving stability and continuity.
- Early intervention and priority action.
- Listening to children.
- Promoting health and wellbeing.
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability.
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.

Implications



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As for all our pupils, our school is committed to helping every Child in Care to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This can be measured by improvement in their achievements and attendance.

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.
- Discipline Policy.
- Home School Agreement.
- Anti-bullying Policy.
- Equal Opportunities Policy.
- Policy on Racial Harassment.
- Child Protection 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.

## **CHILDREN IN CARE - RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HEADTEACHER**

- Identify a DSL for Children in Care. It is essential that another appropriate person is identified quickly should the DSL leave the school or take sick leave.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusion 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.



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## **CHILDREN IN CARE - RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

- Identify a nominated 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.

## **CHILDREN IN CARE - THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF**

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Children in Care, as for all pupils.
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to children in care 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 DSL 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.