

## Greatstone Primary School and Nursery

### Policy for the Education of Children in Care

Nationally, Children in Care significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion 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.

This policy takes account of:

- Kent and other relevant County Council's duties under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Children in Care (CiC).
- The Education (Admission of Children in Care) (England) Regulations 2006.
- Relevant DfES guidance to Governing Bodies (*Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors*).

Greatstone Primary 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.

As for all our pupils, Greatstone Primary 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.

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

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### The Governing Body

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

- 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.

Within its procedures, the Governing Body will:

- Monitor the academic progress of Children in Care (at least once a year), through the relevant section within the Headteacher's report to the Governing Body. Included within the Children in Care report will be:
  1. The number of looked-after pupils on the school's roll (if any).
  2. Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
  3. Their SAT scores/levels, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
  4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).

(The information for this report will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.)

- Ensure that Children in Care are given priority when applying for places in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.
- 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 Children in Care are recognised and met.
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed for every Child in Care, in line with the appropriate authority's guidance on Personal Education Plans.

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher will:

- Identify a Designated Teacher for Children in Care
- 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.
- Ensure that staff receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.

### **The Designated Teacher**

The 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
- 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.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately
- Co-ordinate any support for the Children 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 the audit on attendance and numbers is returned to the Children in Care Education Advisor every Term.

## **Staff**

All staff at Greatstone Primary School 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 60% of Children in Care say they are bullied so work to prevent bullying in line with the School's Policy.

***The Designated Teacher for Children in Care at Greatstone Primary School is Mrs. G. Norman***

This Policy will be subject to an annual review. Where new legislation is brought in between reviews, the electronically stored copy will be amended immediately and the hard copy amended as soon as is practicable.