

St Andrew's CEVC Primary School, Great Yeldham

Children in Public Care Policy



**Model Policy reviewed and
adopted in May 2009**

**St. Andrew's C of E (VC) Primary School
Church Road
Great Yeldham
HALSTEAD
Essex
CO9 4PT**

Introduction

The governing body of St Andrew's School, Great Yeldham recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in public care, when compared with their peers and is committed to implementing the principles and practice as outlined in DfES Circular 0269/2000, DfES/DoH Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care 2000 and Essex County Council Protocol on the Education of Children in Public Care 2002.

The DfES/DoH guidance introduced two key measures in order to improve a) multi-agency co-ordination, and b) educational achievement of children in public care.

They were:

- The appointment of a designated teacher in every school, and
- Each child in public care to have a Personal Education Plan.
- This governing body is committed to ensuring that the designated teacher and whole staff group are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

Role and Responsibility of the Designated Teacher

The Designated Teacher for Children in Public Care should be a senior member of staff with sufficient authority to influence school policy and practice. The named teacher in this school is Ms Maria Trappitt (Head teacher).

The Designated Teacher will:

- be an advocate to all children in this school who are in public care;
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- respond to the social worker initiating the Personal Education Plan by ensuring the drawing together of the required information, co-ordinating the plan's delivery and monitoring and reviewing its effectiveness;
- ensure the child, carer/s, social worker and other relevant parties receive early notification of school based meetings, parents

evening and other events and that communication, both written and verbal, remains regular and positive;

- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- co-ordinate support for individual children in school, monitor educational progress and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;
- inform the responsible social worker of any major decisions affecting the child;
- inform the responsible social worker when a child in public care is absent from school without notification;
- inform the carer/social worker and the LEA of any fixed term or permanent exclusions;
- promote the involvement of children in public care in school clubs and extra-curricular activities;
- ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors;
- attend relevant training and cascade to school staff, where appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities of all Staff

The school staff will:

- ensure any child in public care is sensitively supported and that confidentiality is maintained;
- be familiar with the DfES/DoH Guidance on Children and Young People in Public Care and have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievements of children in public care;
- respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of Personal Education Plans and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- contribute to the designated teacher's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate;
- provide a supportive climate in school, enabling children in public care to achieve stability.

The Role and Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The governing body will:

- ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and the DfEs/DoH Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care;
- ensure there is a named Designated Teacher for children in public care and that s/he is enabled carry out his/her responsibilities in relation to children in public care;
- support the Headteacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of children in public care are met;
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher and who reports to the governing body on an annual basis:
 - the number of children in public care in the school (without detail or name);
 - the educational attainment as a discrete group, compared with that of other pupils;
 - the attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils; - any fixed term/permanent exclusions;

the named governor should be satisfied that the schools policies and procedures ensure that children in public care have equal access to :

- the National Curriculum;
- public examinations;
- careers guidance;
- extra curricular activities;
- work experience;
- additional educational support.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as to its effective implementation on an annual basis and updated as appropriate.

Reviewed by M Trappitt **April 2009**

Shared with staff **May 2009**

Shared with Governors **May 2009**

Review date **May 2012**