

# **Court Fields School**

**Achieve | Belong | Participate**



## **Children in Care Policy**

**Date: June 2024**

Headteacher: Polly Matthews

Due for review: Summer Term 2025

## **PURPOSE:**

To ensure that Children in Care are able to fulfil their academic potential.

## **INTRODUCTION**

A Child in Care (CiC) is one who is fostered or in the care of a local authority. Each school has a 'Designated Teacher', who is responsible for Children in Care. The Designated Teacher will keep a register of all CiC. The register will be updated as appropriate and the Local Authority CiC team informed.

Each CiC will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP). The Child in Care's social worker will have responsibility for arranging a meeting in which the PEP will be developed. The meeting will include all interested parties, which should include, when appropriate: social worker, parents, carers, the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), the relevant Head of House and the relevant member of the Local Authority's Children in Care Education Team (Virtual School).

After the meeting, the Designated Teacher, is responsible for completing the PEP, accommodating input from all interested parties.

Students who are in care often achieve less well academically and every effort should be made to ensure that this is not so. Various forms of positive action can be used to improve the educational outcomes for these students. This will include: targeting the additional funds from the Virtual School, close monitoring of performance, mentoring by staff and other timely and appropriate interventions.

## **OTHER RESOURCES:**

This policy should also be operated in conjunction with:

- The statutory guidance for local authorities from the DfE – 'Promoting the education of looked after children and previous looked after children' February 2018 ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683556/Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683556/Promoting_the_education_of_looked-after_children_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf))
- The guidance for the designated teacher for looked after and previously looked after children ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/683561/The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf))

## **POLICY DETAILS:**

- The social worker will complete the initial sections of the PEP and then email it to the school in advance of the PEP meeting.
- The educational attainment of CiC is monitored regularly through data drops and reports by Heads of House/Year (HoH/HOY), Form Tutors, teachers and other staff, where appropriate.
- The PEP and its recommendations will be available for the first review of the CiC's plan which will be held within 20 working days of the child entering care. The social worker will attend the PEP meeting and then update the relevant Protocol system to show the PEP meeting has occurred.
- The educational elements of the PEP are to be completed at the meeting or as soon as possible afterwards by the Designated Teacher and the outcomes must be available for the 20-day review.

## **ONGOING MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN IN CARE:**

- A PEP meeting will take place every term, or in line with the local authority's guidance. All PEPs should reflect long term and career planning.
- The PEP is reviewed to coincide with the In Care review by the relevant Social Services, which is responsible for informing the school of the date of this review in advance.
- At each PEP meeting, the date for a subsequent PEP review will be agreed. Prior to the PEP meeting the student should be spoken to by a key member of staff to obtain their views. The PEP document has space for these views to be included within. The PEP document can be completed during the meeting and is then sent to the Virtual School, for them to check and distribute, as well as allocate funding.
- Children in care are tracked carefully as a specific group until they are aged 25.
- Students on the CiC register will be a standard item for inclusion at each Consultation meeting held with the SENCO and outside agencies.

## **DESIGNATED TEACHER:**

- Sarah Westwood