

SHEERHATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

Objective

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of Looked After Children.

The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is Mrs Danica Kipling

The Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

- To ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantages faced by Looked After Children and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them.
- To inform members of staff of the general educational needs of Looked After Children and to promote the involvement of these children in extra-curricular activities.
- To act as an advocate for Looked After Children.
- To develop and monitor systems for liaising with carers, social workers and the Virtual School for Looked After Children.
- To ensure all relevant education and care information is available to school staff and carers, and that this information is kept up to date.
- To monitor the educational progress of all Looked After Children in order to inform the school's development and provision/intervention planning, thereby ensuring that the attainment 'gap' is closing.
- To intervene if there is evidence of individual underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy.
- To enable the pupil to make a contribution to the educational aspects of their Care Plan.
- Helping to ensure that each pupil has a Personal Education Plan - PEP (initiated by the pupil's social worker) or Early Years PEP (aged 3 to end of Reception Year).
- To help co-ordinate education and PEP reviews so that they can inform the pupil's Care Plan.
- To attend, when appropriate, or arrange for someone else to attend, Looked After Children Care Plan meetings.
- To be the named contact for colleagues.
- To develop knowledge of legislation and good practice by attending training events organised by the Virtual School and cascade to school staff as appropriate.
- To keep Governors informed about the provision for and progress of Looked After Children.

The Role of School Staff

- To be aware of particular needs of any Looked After Children in their care.
- To monitor the educational targets and progress of Looked After Children with reference to their PEP.
- To liaise with the designated teacher regarding any concerns.

Admission Arrangements

On admission, records (including the PEP) will be requested from the pupil's previous school and a meeting will be held with carer/parent/social worker. A date will be agreed for a PEP meeting, taking reference to statutory timescales. An appropriate school induction will take place.

Involving the Young Person

It is important that a young person is aware that information is being recorded regarding their personal circumstances. How this is shared with them clearly depends on their age and understanding. The explanation should emphasise that the school, the social worker, and their carer(s) are working together to promote their education.

Communication with Other Agencies

The school will ensure that a copy of all reports (e.g. end of year reports) is forwarded to the young person's social worker in addition to the foster carer or residential social worker.

Where possible services should endeavour to co-ordinate their review meetings e.g. to have an Annual Review of an EHCP combined with a Statutory Care Review.

Information will be exchanged between formal reviews if there are significant changes in the young person's circumstances, e.g. if school is considering an exclusion, there is a change of care placement or there are significant attendance issues.

Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures

Each Looked After Child will have a Care Plan that will include a PEP which the social worker takes a lead in developing. School will play an active role in contributing to those areas of the PEP that are education related e.g.

- SMART target setting.
- Identification of current and target NC levels.
- How additional resources are being utilised to meet educational targets (e.g. the Pupil Premium, Personal Education Allowance).
- Attendance.
- Involvement in Extra Curricular Activities.
- Special Educational Needs (if any).
- Long term plans and aspirations.

The PEP will be updated termly, as part of the Statutory Reviewing process.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed every two years. The Policy was approved by the Governing Body at its meeting on: **7th May 2025**

Signed by Head Teacher

Signed by Chair of Governors