

HORNSEA BURTON AND SKIPSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL (FEDERATION) LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY

Introduction

At Hornsea Burton and Skipsea Primary Schools we believe that, working in partnership with the East Riding Of Yorkshire Local Authority, we have a duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children.

Aims and Objectives

- To provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children.
- To support our children who are looked after and give them access to every opportunity to achieve to their potential and enjoy learning.
- To fulfil our schools' role to promote and support the education of our children who are looked after.

Principles

Hornsea Burton and Skipsea Primary School's approaches to supporting the educational achievement of Looked After Children are 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, our school is committed to helping every Looked After Child 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.

The school will champion the needs of Looked After Children; raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them in order to ensure that our expectations for their achievement are high.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THE GOVERNING BODY

Governors should be aware that all schools are already required to have a designated teacher for LAC. It is strongly recommended that this person should be a member of the Senior Management Team. The designated teacher is currently Mrs Shiels, the Head teacher. Training for Designated Teachers has been and will continue to be regularly available through our LA
Governors should also be aware that OFSTED will focus on Looked After Children,

monitoring how the School has promoted their inclusion and attainment and the effectiveness of joint working with other services involved with them.

The Governing Body will:

- Identify a nominated Governor for Looked After Children (Child Protection Governor)
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Looked After Children
- Ensure the school has an overview of the needs and progress of Looked After Children
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of Looked After Children
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs
- 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 Head Teacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of Looked After Children are recognised and met
- Monitor the academic progress of Looked After Children, through an annual report

The Head Teacher will:

- Identify a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, whose role is set out below
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusions of Looked After Children and take action where attainment, behaviour or attendance is causing concern
- Report on the attainment, behaviour and attendance of Looked After Children. OFSTED now select a number of Looked After Children, 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.

THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

Government Guidance says that the Designated Teacher should be "someone with sufficient authority to make things happen who should be an advocate for Looked After Children, assessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them."

Our Designated Teacher will:

- Be the named contact for colleagues and carers within the school community and for colleagues in children's services including social services and health
 - Keep an up to date list of LAC in school and clearly establish who has parental Responsibility
 - Advocate on behalf of LAC with particular regard to issues such as school trips, fixed term exclusions, flexibility of procedures and communicating high expectations for LAC with both staff and the pupils themselves
 - Develop knowledge of legislation relating to LAC and of Children's Services procedures through a variety of ways including attending multi-agency training
 - Attend relevant training
 - Inform staff and governors about up to date training
 - Be aware that the specific needs of LAC should be communicated sensitively to appropriate staff – teaching and non-teaching
 - Be aware that LAC should have an up to date, quality PEP
- NB It is the Social Worker's responsibility to initiate this
- Support the pupil in making a contribution to the PEP
 - In conjunction with social workers, arrange education planning meetings for new

admissions to school

- Liaise with the pupil's social worker, the school's designated governor and other relevant outside professionals
- Liaise with the Education Adviser as appropriate
- Advise on systems, including recording of progress, to be put in place to support attendance and achievement
- Promote the involvement of LAC in school clubs, extra curricular activities especially where these coincide with the pupil's interests
- Liaise with other designated teachers at transition times such as moving key stages or to a new school
- Complete necessary paperwork to contribute towards LAC reviews and PEP meetings and review impact of PPG on attainment and progress and other identified needs.

ALL STAFF

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children, as for all pupils
- Maintain Looked After Children's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information
- Work to enable Looked After Children to achieve stability and success within school
- Promote the self-esteem of all Looked After Children
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Looked After Children
- Be aware that 60% of Looked After Children say they are bullied, so work to prevent bullying in line with the School's policy

This policy was reviewed and updated Spring 2017.
It will be reviewed on an annual basis.