



# **The Castle Partnership Trust**

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## **Children in Care Policy**

**Date: September 2019**

Executive Headteacher: Sarah Watson

Acting Headteacher Court Fields School: Polly Matthews

Headteacher Wellesley Park School: Carly Wilkins

Headteacher Isambard Kingdom Brunel School: Richard Healey

Due for review: Autumn Term 2020

## **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 in the Castle Partnership Trust 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.

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 read in conjunction with:

- The statutory guidance for local authorities from the DfE – 'Promoting the education of looked after children and previously 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 (HoH) and Form Tutors, 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. 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 interviewed by the HoH to obtain their views. A proforma is available in the appendices. The PEP can be completed during the meeting and all parties given a copy within 5 days.
- 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.

## **APPENDICES:**

- A) List of current Designated Teachers for each school
- B) Proforma PEP