



To nurture each individual's aspirations and talent
To provide outstanding learning experiences and opportunities
To promote respect for one another and the environment
To encourage collaboration and partnership

CHILDREN IN CARE POLICY

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Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 places an obligation on a local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child looked after by them (known as Children in Care (**CIC**)) including in particular a duty to promote the child's educational achievement.

Who are looked after children?

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority.

Helping CIC succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for Farmor's School.

This policy takes account of and is in order to support the duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of CIC and the requirement under the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 for the governing body to appoint a designated teacher to promote the educational achievement of CIC

The school will ensure we have a **designated teacher** and **designated governor** with responsibility for CIC. The identities of the **designated teacher** and the **designated governor** are kept on the list of nominated persons available from the school.

The aims of the school are to:

- Ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for CIC as for all children.
- Ensure that all CIC have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual CIC's needs and abilities.
- Ensure that CIC take as full a part as possible in all school activities.
- Ensure that carers, social workers and birth parents (where appropriate) are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment. This would cease to be the case if the child is placed at risk. The school would seek advice from the appropriate social worker in such circumstances.
- Ensure that CIC are involved, where practicable, in decisions affecting the future provision of the school services for them.

The designated teacher for CIC will:

- Be an advocate for CIC within the school.
- Consider and have regard to the impact of decisions for CIC on both the CIC and the rest of the school community.
- Know who all the CIC in school are, including those in the care of other authorities and keep relevant records.
- Attend relevant training about CIC.
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and carers in relation to CIC, seeking advice when appropriate.

- Ensure that CIC receive a positive welcome on entering our school, especially where this occurs mid-year and if necessary offer additional support and a pre-entry visit to help the new pupil settle.
- Ensure all CIC have an appropriate Personal Education Plan (**PEP**) that is completed within 20 days of the student joining the school or of entering care and ensure that the pupil contributes to the plan.
- Keep PEPs and other records up to date.
- Review PEPs at transfer and at six monthly intervals.
- Alert the senior leadership team, CIC designated governor and convene an urgent multi-agency meeting if a CIC is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion from the school.
- Ensure that information concerning CIC is kept confidential, sharing confidential and personal information on a need to know basis, bearing in mind the wishes of the individual pupil.
- Ensure a speedy transfer of information, records and coursework when a CIC transfers to another educational placement.
- Report at least annually to the governing body on CIC in the school and keep them appraised of developments in the policy and practices applied to CIC.
- Agree with the social worker the relevant people to invite to parents' evenings etc.
- Liaise with the special educational needs co-ordinator when a CIC has special educational needs.
- Liaise with the Virtual School to ensure they are invited to relevant meetings and receive all relevant paperwork.

All school staff will:

- Follow school policies and procedures relating to CIC.
- Be aware of the legal requirements relating to CIC.
- Keep the designated teacher informed of the progress of CIC and alerting them when a CIC seems to be having difficulties.
- Be aware of the importance of the PEP of a CIC and how it fits into the wider care planning duties of the responsible Local Authority.
- Respond in a timely manner to requests for information regarding CIC to support PEPs or meetings regarding CIC.

The governing body will:

- Ensure there is a designated teacher for CIC and that the designated teacher undertakes appropriate training
- Ensure there is a dedicated governor with responsibility for CIC who links with the designated teacher.

- Ensure all members of the Governing Board's Curriculum and Student Welfare Committee are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for CIC.
- The Curriculum and Student Welfare Committee of the Governing Board will:
 - Consider the annual report from the designated teacher.
 - Act on any issues raised by the designated teacher's annual report so as to support the designated teacher and in order to maximise the impact of the role.
 - Annually review the effective implementation of this school policy for CIC.