



Providing the keys to success for every child

Whole School Policy on:

The Education of Children in Care (CIC)

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Kent County Council

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1 Policy and Practice for Children in Care (CIC) at Palm Bay Primary School

Nationally, Children in Care (CIC) significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. We have a major responsibility and role to play, therefore, as a caring school community, in ensuring our Children in Care are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to the school and society and achieve economic well-being, in line with the Every Child Matters agenda, to which we wholeheartedly subscribe.

Supporting and helping our Children in Care to succeed and attain a better future is a key priority for Kent County Council and all Kent schools. Our policy takes account of:

- The County Council's duty under Section 52 of the Children's Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Children in Care (CIC).
- The Education (Admission of Children in Care) (England) Regulations 2006.
- Relevant DfES guidance to governing bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors).

Palm Bay's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Children in Care is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education; ensuring they are accessed to all areas of the curriculum.
- Promoting good attendance.
- Targeting support where and when needed, so their emotional, social and academic needs are met.
- Having high expectations of their learning and behaviour.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Offering and achieving stability and continuity through our caring ethos, policies and practices.
- Organising early intervention and action when relevant.
- Listening to the children; letting them know we care and their thoughts, perceptions and comments are relevant and taken into account.
- Promotion of their health and well-being.
- Making every effort to reduce exclusions and promote a stable environment in school for them.
- Working in partnership with their carers, social workers and any other professionals involved with them.

2 Implications

As for all the pupils at Palm Bay Primary School, we are committed to helping every Child in Care achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting their aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. We endeavour to help set and secure the foundations for those ambitions and aspirations. This can be measured by improvement in their achievements and attendance.

The Governing Body of Palm Bay Primary School is committed to providing quality education for all our pupils and will:

- Ensure a designated teacher for Children in Care is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below. At Palm Bay Primary School the designated teacher is the Deputy Head/Inclusion Manager, Mrs. Janice Ross.
- Ensure a PEP (Personal Education Plan) is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed for every Child in Care in school, in line with Kent's guidance on PEPs. This applies whether the Child in Care is a Kent Child in Care or from out of county. It is the responsibility of the Social Worker involved with any Child in Care to instigate the PEP meeting and the Inclusion Manager will monitor this to ensure it occurs.
- Liaise with carers and social workers to promote academic achievement and social/emotional well-being of the child.
- Liaise when appropriate with the Virtual School Kent (VSK) Advisor.
- Attend relevant meetings and provide updated information relating to the academic, social and emotional achievements of any Child in Care.
- Offer pastoral support to Children in Care in the school and gain their perceptions of their life in school, ensuring they feel safe and secure, have friends and feel they are making progress in their work.
- Identify a Governor as Designated Governor for Children in Care. At Palm Bay Primary School, the designated Governor is Mrs Clare Lane, who is the Inclusion Governor, taking on board SEN/AEN and G&T also. She has an overview of the needs and provision for some of our most vulnerable groups of children.

This policy links with a number of other school policies and it is important that Governors and staff have due regard to the needs of Children in Care when reviewing them. These include:

- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Home-School Agreement
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Special and Additional Educational Needs Policy
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- Racism and Racial Discrimination Policy

The school will champion the needs of Children in Care, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotyping about them, in order to ensure that they enjoy the same opportunities and challenges that every child at Palm Bay Primary School is offered, in order to support them achieve their goals.

3 Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed bi-annually (every odd year) during Term 1.

The next review of this policy is due: Autumn Term 1, 2015.