

We welcome children of all faiths, backgrounds and beliefs into our inclusive community. We seek inspiration from the life and teaching of Jesus Christ to help our children achieve their full potential. We uphold the distinctive Christian ethos and values of the Heartwood academy when making all decisions and implementing policy and practice. We aim to provide a caring and stimulating environment which promotes a love of learning whilst seeking to inspire every pupil to become a well-motivated, independent and resourceful learner.

Heartwood Church of England Academy Trust



Education of children in public care (Looked after children) Policy

Date Revised: July 2017

Next Review Date: July 2019

Sign off signatory:

The objectives of this policy:

The Heartwood Academy is committed to providing quality education for all our pupils.

We recognise that nationally, pupils in public care/looked after children (LAC) have significantly underachieved compared with their peers. We intend, through this policy, to promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of looked after children in all the Heartwood schools.

The Governing Body is committed in particular to implementing the joint guidance from the DfE and Department of Health in the education of young people in public care. This sets out six principles:

- Prioritising education
- Having high expectations
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes
- Achieving stability and continuity
- Early intervention and priority action
- Listening to children.

The guidance introduced two key measures to improve the educational life chances for children in public care:

- Designated teacher for every pupil
- Personal Education Plans for all pupils in public care

The Governing Body will ensure that each school has a Designated Teacher and that the Designated Teacher is able to carry out his/her responsibilities effectively.

THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER.

The DfE and Department of Health says that the Designated Teacher should be 'someone with sufficient authority to make things happen, (who) should be an advocate for the young people in public care, accessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them'.

Our Designated Teacher will:

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer

- In conjunction with the child's social worker, ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed within 12 weeks of the child joining the school.
- In conjunction with the social worker ensure that the Personal Education Plan is reviewed every 6 months
- Ensure that each pupil in public care has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child's own wishes
- Encourage pupils in public care to join in extra- curricular activities and out of school learning
- Ensure as far as possible attendance at planning and review meetings
- Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training
- Set up urgent meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfers of information between individuals, agencies and - if the pupil changes school - to a new school.
- Monitor all Looked after Children to ensure, children make progress against targets and National Expectations.
- Report to the full governing body an annual written report

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF.

All our staff will:

- Promote a sense of 'normality' for the children who may have been subject to emotional distress, abuse and disruption
- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of young people in public care
- Ensure that all pupils in public care are supported sensitively
- Respond positively to a pupils request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's request for information
- Work to enable pupils in public care to achieve stability and success within school
- Promote the self-esteem of all pupils in public care; maintain confidentiality; and ensure that no child in public care is stigmatised in any way.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities.
- Support the Headteacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of the pupils in public care are recognised and met
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance on the education of pupils in public care
- Nominate a Governor to take special interest in this area of the school's work.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NOMINATED GOVERNOR.

The Nominated Governor will liaise with the Designated Teacher regularly and will ensure

that a written report (provided by the designated teacher) is presented to governors.

The report should include the following:-

- The number of looked after pupils in school
- Their attendance as a discrete group, compared to other pupils
- Their attainment and progress as a discrete group compared to other pupils
- The number of fixed term or permanent exclusions
- The destinations of pupils who leave the school.

The information for this report will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

The Nominated Governor will also ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give looked after children equal; access in respect of;

- Admission to school
- The National Curriculum and public examinations
- Additional Educational support where this is needed
- Extra Curricular activities

TRAINING

The Headteacher/Designated Teacher will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.