

Oakhurst First and Nursery School  
POLICY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC)

Who are our Looked After Children?

Children and young people become “Looked After” either if they have been taken into care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most Looked After Children will be living with foster parents but a smaller number may be in children’s residential units, living with a relative or even be placed at home with their birth parents. Since the White Paper ‘ Care Matters’ of July 2007 the term “Children in Care” is also in use. The governing body of Oakhurst Community First and Nursery School is committed to providing quality education for all its pupils, based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. For Looked After Children it is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational underachievement when compared with their peers and this governing body is committed to ensuring that the following roles and responsibilities are carried out effectively in order to fulfil the school’s duty regarding these pupils.

Designated Governor: Looked After Children – Nick Cunningham

Designated Teacher: Looked After Children – Ann Clark

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES GOVERNING BODY

- Ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises Looked After Children according to the Admission Code of Practice
- Ensure all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance for Looked After Children
- Ensure there is a designated teacher for Looked After Children
- Liaise with the Headteacher, designated teacher, and all other staff to ensure the needs of Looked After Children are met
- Nominate a governor with responsibility for LAC who links with the designated teacher
- Receive regular reports from the designated teacher which should include: -the number of Children Looked After on roll and the confirmation that they have a Personal Education Plan -their attendance, compared to other pupils -their attainment compared to other pupils -the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any) -the destinations of pupils who leave the school
- Ensure that the school’s policies and procedures give Looked After Children equal access in respect of Admission to school, National Curriculum and examinations, Out of school learning and extracurricular activities
- Review the effective implementation of the school policy for Looked After Children

## DESIGNATED TEACHER

- Be an advocate for Looked After Children
- Attend relevant training for Looked After Children
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals in relation to Looked After Children seeking advice from Dorset's Children Looked After Advisory Teachers when appropriate
- Ensure that all Looked After Children receive a positive reintegration on entering the school
- Ensure that all Looked After Children have an appropriate Personal Education Plan and that it is completed within 14 days of joining the school or of entering care (see Dorset's Guidance on Personal Education Plans)
- Keep Personal Education Plans and other records up to date and reviewed appropriately
- Convene an urgent multi professional meeting if a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulties or at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure confidentiality on individual children, sharing confidential/personal information on a need to know basis.
- Act as the key advisor for staff and governors on issues relevant to Looked After Children.
- Ensure that care and school liaison is effective including invitations to meetings and other school events
- Actively encourage and promote out of hours learning and extracurricular activities for Looked After Children
- Ensure speedy transfer of information when a Looked After Child transfers into another educational placement.
- Contribute information to LAC reviews when required.
- Provide regular reports to the Governing Body regarding LAC in the school and relevant policy and practice development.

## WHOLE SCHOOL STAFF

- Have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of Looked After Children
- Positively promote the raising of a Looked After Child's self esteem
- Ensure any Looked After Child is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained
- Be familiar with the Guidance on Looked After Children and respond appropriately to requests for information to support Personal Education Plans, and review meetings
- Liaise with the designated teachers where a Looked After Child is experiencing difficulties
- Give only official exclusions and only use exclusions as a last resort, in line with statutory regulations and Dorset's exclusion advice

- Contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals
- Keep appropriate records, confidentially as necessary, and make these available to other professionals as appropriate.