

Rise Park Primary and Nursery School



Policy for the Education of Children in Care

October 2024

Signed by Chair of Committee	
Print Name	Jeanette Kirkby
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Rise Park Primary and Nursery School Policy for the Education of Children in Care

Nationally, children in care significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion and of becoming not in education, employment or training compared to their peers. Schools have a major part to play in ensuring that children in care are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing, in line with Every Child Matters.

Helping children in care to succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority for Nottingham City schools. This policy takes account of:

- The Local Authority's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to 'safeguard and promote the welfare of a child ... in particular a duty to promote the child's educational achievement'
- Promoting the Education of Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children: Statutory guidance for local authorities February 2018.
- The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.
- Relevant DfE guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors).

Rise Park Primary and Nursery School's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Children in Care is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education.
- Promoting attendance.
- Targeting support.
- Having high and consistent expectations.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Achieving stability and continuity.

- Early intervention and priority action.
- Speaking and listening to children.
- Promoting health and wellbeing.
- Reducing exclusions and promoting stability.
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.

Implications

As for all of our pupils, Rise Park Primary and Nursery School is committed to helping every Child in Care to achieve the highest standards they can, including supporting aspirations to achieve in further and higher education. This can be measured by improvement in their achievements, attendance and emotional wellbeing.

The Governing Body of Rise Park Primary and Nursery School is committed to providing quality education for all pupils and will:

- Ensure Children in Care are prioritised in the school's oversubscription criteria, in line with the Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006. These require admissions authorities to give top priority for admission to Children in Care in their oversubscription criteria.
- Ensure a Designated Teacher for Children in Care is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below.
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is put in place, implemented and regularly reviews every term for every Child in Care.
- Identify a governor as Designated Governor for Children in Care.

This policy should be read alongside a number of other school policies and it is important that Governors have regard to the needs to Children in Care when reviewing them:

- The whole school code of conduct
- Attendance policy
- Behaviour policy
- Home school agreement

- Anti-bullying policy
- Equality and diversity policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Special Educational Needs policy

The school will champion the needs of Children in Care, raise awareness and challenge negative stereotypes about them, in order to ensure that they achieve to the best of their potential.

Staff responsibilities

Responsibility of the headteacher

- Identify a Designated Teacher for Children in Care, whose role is set out below. It is essential that another appropriate person is identified quickly should the Designated Teacher leave the school or take sick leave.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusion of Children in Care and take action where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations.
- Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.

Responsibility of the Governing Body

- Identify a nominated Governor for Children in Care.
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of Children in Care.
- Allocate resources where needed to meet the needs of Children in Care.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.

Procedures: The Governing Body will:

- Monitor the academic progress of Children in Care, through an annual report (see below).

- Ensure that Children in Care are given top priority when applying for school places in accordance with the school's oversubscription criteria.
- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies and procedures to ensure Children in Care achieve and enjoy their time at school, by recognising the extra problems caused by excluding them and by not excluding them except as a last resort.
- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out her responsibilities as below.
- Support the headteacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of Children in Care are recognised and met.
- Receive a report once a year setting out:
 1. The number of looked-after pupils on the school's roll (if any).
 2. Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 3. Their SAT scores and other assessments achieved as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
 4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
 5. The destinations of pupils who leave the school.
 6. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

The role of the Designated Teacher

Government Guidance says that the Designated Teacher should be "someone with sufficient authority to make things happen ... [who] should be an advocate for Children in Care, assessing services and support, and ensuring that the school shares and supports high expectations for them."

The named Designated Teacher at Rise Park Primary and Nursery School is Mrs Rachel Mee.

Governors should be aware that all schools are already required to have a Designated Teacher for Children in Care. It is strongly recommended that this person should be a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Training for Designated Teachers has been and continues to be available through the Virtual School.

Our Designated Teacher will:

- ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker and the virtual school.
- Ensure that sufficient information has been gathered to report in Care Plan reviews.
- Ensure that each Child in Care has access to a member/s of staff that they can talk to. This does not have to be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child's own wishes. *Staff should feel confident in how to respond in relation to any potential disclosures from the child.*
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Co-ordinate any support for the child in care that is necessary within school.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Encourage children in care to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of Children in Care.
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals and agencies if the pupil moves to a new school.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.

- Be aware that Children in Care can be bullied, so will actively monitor the prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school's ant-bullying policy.
- Ensure that attendance of each Child in Care on the school role is reported to Welfare call when required.

The responsibilities of all staff

All of our staff will:

- Have high expectations for the educational and personal achievement of Children in Care, as for all pupils.
- Maintain confidentiality with regard to Children in Care and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a pupil's request to be a member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable Children in Care to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Children in Care.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Children in Care.

Further advice and support can be accessed via the Virtual School:

<http://www.nottinghamcityvirtualschool.org.uk/>

The Nottingham City head of the Virtual School is Jasmin Howell.