

*'...those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.'* Isaiah 40:31

connect | nurture | aspire | learn | excel | hope



# Reculver Church of England Primary School



## Children in Care Policy

Date adopted by Local Governing Body: March 2017

Date of next Review: March 2021

We show love and compassion for others by truly helping them, and not merely talking about it."

1 John 3:18

Our values, interwoven through all aspects of school life, spring from our faith in Jesus, the person and His stories. Following His example, everyone is loved and encouraged as an individual in an inclusive, stimulating environment, empowering us all to become compassionate citizens and resilient lifelong learners who reach their potential.



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### **Purpose of this document**

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of looked after children within Reculver C.E. Primary School.

### **Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health**

Reculver CE Primary School is a community and we are mindful of the need to support and protect the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health of all members of our community including pupils, staff, wider families, visitors and volunteers. All actions are underpinned by the need to protect Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health and vigilance in this respect is maintained.

### **Rationale**

Children in Care (CIC) or Looked after children (LAC) are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. The majority of looked after children have suffered abuse or neglect and it is nationally recognised that considerable educational underachievement exists when compared to their peers.

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is '**looked after**' by a local authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. They fall into four main groups:

- children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20)
- children who are the subjects of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38)
- children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46)

- children who are compulsorily accommodated – this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

The term **'In Care'** refers only to children who are subject to a care order by the Court under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989 - they may live with Foster Carers, in a Children's Home, in a Residential School, with relatives or with parents under supervision.

Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are **'accommodated'** by the local authority under Section 20 of the Children Act – they may live in foster care, in a children's home or in a residential school.

All these groups are said to be **Children in Care (CIC)** or **'Looked After Children' (LAC)**. They may be looked after by the Local Authority or may be in the care of another authority but living in Kent.

### **Introduction**

Reculver C.E. Primary School aims to promote the educational attainment, achievement and welfare of Children in Care.

### **The Designated Teacher for Children in Care is Fiona Cunningham.**

The governing body is committed to providing a quality education for all its students based on equality of access, opportunity and outcomes. This policy includes requirements set out in "Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of looked after children under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004" (Nov 2005) and associated guidance on the education of looked after children.

### **Aims**

The aims of the school are to:

- ensure that school policies and procedures are followed for looked after children as for all children
- ensure that all looked after children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and ability
- ensure that looked after students take as full a part as possible in school activities
- ensure that carers and social workers of looked after students are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment
- ensure that looked after students are involved, where possible, in decisions affecting their future provision.

### **Admissions**

The Governing Body endorses the Kent County Council Policy for the admission of Children in Care. Due to changes in care placements, Children in Care may enter school

at any time in the term. At Reculver C.E. Primary School we believe that it is vital that all new pupils receive a positive welcome and full support for their inclusion in our learning community.

### **Inclusion**

This policy recognises that all students are entitled to a balanced, broadly based curriculum. Our CIC Policy reinforces the need for teaching and learning that is fully inclusive. The Governing Body will ensure the school makes appropriate provision for all looked after students.

### **Allocation of Resources**

The Governing Body will ensure that the school allocates resources to support appropriate provision for CIC, meeting the objectives set out in this policy. We will work in partnership with Kent County Council Virtual School for looked after children and other Virtual Schools for students who are from other Local Authorities, to ensure that looked after children receive the full range of support to which they are entitled to enable them to make progress and achieve.

### **Monitoring the progress of Children in Care**

This school assesses each looked after student's attainment on entry to ensure continuity of learning. The social worker for the looked after child initiates a Personal Education Plan – PEP - within 20 days of the student joining the school, or of entering care, and ensures that the young person is actively involved. Following the initial PEP, the role of the Designated Teacher is to liaise with other agencies involved to arrange further PEP review meetings and produce their part of the EPEP from Kent County Council Virtual School (or other Virtual School, where the child is from another Local Authority) and other agencies. The allocation and purpose of the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) will be included within the PEP. All PEPs are completed electronically through the online system.

### **Record Keeping**

The Designated Teacher knows all the Children in Care in school and has access to their relevant contact details including parents, carers, KCC Virtual School specialist staff, teacher/support worker and social worker. The status of looked after children is identified within the school's information systems so that information is readily available to all classroom teachers and relevant associate staff. CIC are identified as a vulnerable group when tracking, monitoring and reporting on attainment and progress.

### **Staff Development**

We encourage staff to attend courses that help them to acquire the skills needed to support a CIC. Part of the Designated Teacher's role is to raise awareness of issues associated with CIC within the school and disseminate information.

### **Partnership with parents/carers and care workers**

We believe in developing strong partnerships with parents/carers and care workers to enable CIC to achieve their potential to aid their future economic well-being. Review meetings are an opportunity to further this collaboration and partnership working.

## **Links with external agencies/organisations**

We recognise the important contribution that external support services make in supporting CIC. Colleagues from the following support services may be involved with individual CIC:

- Social care worker/ Community care worker/ Residential child care worker
- Virtual School for Children in Care
- Other Virtual Schools for Children in Care from other Local Authorities
- Educational psychologists and others from Local Authority SEN services
- Medical officers
- School nurses
- CAMHS
- Education Welfare Officers
- Youth Offending Service
- External Learning Providers

## **CIC Policy Review and Evaluation**

The Designated Teacher for CIC will undertake a thorough review and evaluation of the impact of the Children in Care policy and practice each year and report to the Governing Body.

## **Sources of Additional Advice and Information:**

**Gina Turner** | Assistant Head for Canterbury & East Kent SENCo | Virtual School Kent | Kent County Council | Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3SS | Internal: 7200 419420 | External: 03000 419420 | Mobile: 07920526551  
[www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk](http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk) | [www.kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk](http://www.kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk) |

## **The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children**

### **Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities**

**February 2018 - DfE**