

**Beecroft Primary School**  
**Policy For Children and Young People in Public Care - 2017**

Beecroft School believes that as part of the Corporate parent, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of children and young people in public care.

In this respect, our **aims** are:

- To provide a safe and secure environment, which values education and believes in the abilities and potential of all children and young people
- To ensure that the educational achievement of each child looked after on roll is monitored, tracked and promoted and wherever possible, accelerated
- To identify our schools' role as a Corporate Parent to promote and support the education of our children and young people in public care, by asking the question: **Would this be good enough for my child?**

**In pursuit of these aims:**

- Miss Brown is nominated as a Designated Teacher for children and young people in public care who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them

**The Designated Teacher will:**

- ◆ Maintain a register of all children and young people in public care in line with policy
- ◆ Ensure that on admission or transfer all relevant information is obtained at the outset
- ◆ Along with the social worker, ensure there is an up to date Personal Education Plan with SMART targets that will promote progress;
- ◆ Ensure that the educational targets within the Personal Education Plan are implemented fully, reviewed regularly and that all relevant school staff are aware of them;
- ◆ Advise on most effective use of the core Pupil Premium Plus during the Personal Education Planning meeting;
- ◆ Ensure that the Pupil Premium Plus funding and any additional funding (where relevant) is used to support the learning objectives for the student and to be accountable for how the funding is spent and able to produce evidence of good progress and outcomes;

- ◆ Actively inform members of staff of the general educational needs of children who are in care, and to promote the involvement of these children in our school homework clubs, extra-curricular activities, home reading schemes, school councils, etc.;
- ◆ Ensure that members of staff who teach the children looked after on roll provide accurate progress data and advice on specific learning targets to inform the target setting at the Personal Educational Planning meeting;
- ◆ Act as an advocate for children and young people in care;
- ◆ Develop and monitor systems for liaising with carers and colleagues in Children's Services, (CS) and birth parents where appropriate;
- ◆ Hold a supervisory brief for all children in care on roll, e.g. to ensure all relevant education and care information is available to school staff where relevant and carer (s), and that this information is kept up to date, used on a need to know basis to help the student overcome obstacles to learning and to make good progress;
- ◆ Track and support the educational progress of all children who are looked after in order to inform the school's development plan;
- ◆ Intervene if there is evidence of absence from school or truancy following our rigorous school policy;
- ◆ Report to the Governing Body, at least on an annual basis, on the outcomes for children looked after.
- ◆ Complete the Virtual School training specifically for Designated Teachers and attend other training as appropriate;
- ◆ Ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantage faced by children and young people 'in care' including a basic knowledge of attachment and trauma on behaviour and learning and understanding of the need for positive systems of support within the school, to overcome them;
- ◆ Ensure that someone from Beecroft attends the Statutory Care Review for each child or young person wherever possible, and / or always prepares a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education
- ◆ Be the named contact for colleagues in Children's Services
- ◆ Ensure the speedy transfer of information between schools, agencies and individuals, and report on the progress and attendance of all children in care on the school roll to the Virtual School as requested –

Progress and attainment data submitted each term.

**All governors will:**

- ◆ Work in partnership with parents, carers and other agencies especially Social Services and the Health Department to co-ordinate support for children and young people in public care
- ◆ Ensure that the school's other policies and procedures give children in public care equal access in respect of admission, the National Curriculum, additional educational support where needed and extra-curricular activities
- ◆ Create an ethos of support and acceptance in the school and an environment where children and young people who do not live with their birth families are equally accepted and valued
- ◆ Maintain high expectations for children in public care
- ◆ The name of a Governor with special responsibility for Children Looked After in the school is Mrs. Pat Gradys.

**The named governor will:**

- ◆ report to the Governing Body on an annual basis using the report from the Designated Teacher (Miss Brown) as a source of information:
  - The number of looked after pupils in the school;
  - A comparison of progress as a discrete group, compared with those of other pupils in school and nationally;
  - A comparison of attainment measures as a discrete group, compared with those of other pupils in school and nationally;
  - The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;
  - The number of fixed term/permanent exclusions; and
  - Pupil destinations after leaving the school.

**Admission Arrangements**

On admission, records will be requested from the pupil's previous school and a meeting will be held with carer/parent/Social Worker as appropriate – but always involving someone with parental responsibility. This will provide information to inform the new Personal Education Plan. Appropriate school induction will take place to ensure that the pupil feels welcome and settled in their new class. The pupil will be assigned a 'buddy' and will work with the learning mentor to ensure a smooth transition.

**School Responsibility And Information Sharing**

- ◆ The responsibility for the transfer of this information about the child should be that of the Head Teacher and/or the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children.
- ◆ It is appropriate for a member of the support staff team to have knowledge that the young person is in care only when directly involved in the teaching of the young person. However, it is important that these staff are aware of the effect of attachment and trauma on the behaviour and learning of these children.

### **Work With Individual Children**

At Beecroft we work closely with individual pupils to:

- ◆ discuss with them, possibly alongside a carer, to arrive at a statement about their care arrangements and circumstances that they would be happy to share with staff and/or pupils;
- ◆ enable the child to make a contribution to the educational aspects of their Care Plan;
- ◆ ensure that the Pupil Voice section of the PEP is completed for each child and is the result of a one to one meeting so that the views of the student are faithfully represented in the PEP;
- ◆ to supervise the smooth induction of a new child looked after into the school;
- ◆ to fully support additional learning opportunities that may be available from the Virtual School and partner agencies.

### **Communication With Other Agencies**

We ensure that a copy of all reports (e.g. End of year reports) are forwarded to the child's Social Worker in addition to the foster carer or Residential Social Worker and the Virtual School, and where appropriate, the birth parents. A copy is also attached to the child's PEP.

### **Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures**

Each pupil in care will have a Care Plan that will include a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that is developed jointly by the Social Worker and Designated Teacher. This will identify specific areas of focus and include targets and associated actions to improve performance, progress or educational achievement. Areas for consideration will include:

- Long term plans and aspirations (targets including progress, career plans and aspirations);
- Educational Data so that progress may be easily tracked between Key Stages;
- Effective use of the Pupil Premium and evidence of impact;
- Extended learning opportunities;
- Involvement in Out of School Hours Activities;
- Special needs (if any);

- Attendance;
- Behaviour.

Review Date: 2019