



Saint GREGORY'S
Bath

Policy on Children in Care

September 2016

Mission Statement

All members of staff, in conjunction with the authorities, (Governing Body and LA) have a responsibility to ensure that every student is safe both in and beyond school. "As a Catholic school, our inspiration is Jesus Christ. We therefore promote the dignity and well-being of every child and ensure that they flourish with us in a safe, happy and enriching environment. We believe that everyone is gifted and called by God to fulfil some definite service for the greater good of society. We will help our students to discover their vocation in life, to achieve their full potential and to use their gifts for the greater glory of God."

It follows that students who are looked after are among the most vulnerable students in the school. They may be the 'poorest of the poor' emotionally and therefore require more support and nurturing than those who are not looked after.

Rationale

The national outcomes for Children in Care in terms of educational achievement and subsequent life chances are significantly lower than other children of similar ability (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509965/SFR11_2016_SFRTxt.pdf). 14% of students that are looked after secured five GCSE passes (including English and Mathematics) in 2015 compared to 54% of non-Children in Care. The majority of Children in Care have been victims of abuse or neglect. It therefore follows that **these students need special treatment and positive discrimination in their favour** if this situation is to be improved. At St Gregory's we put in place strategies that allow these children to succeed in all aspects of life in line with children of similar abilities.

Purpose

- To clarify responsibilities with regard to Children in Care
- To ensure there are structures and strategies in place to support the achievement and wellbeing of Children in Care.

Guidelines

Definition of a Looked After Child

Children in Care are those in public care and are either:

- Subject to a Care Order or Interim Care Order, living either at home or away from home
- Accommodated with friends or relatives, foster care or residential homes – parents retain full parental responsibility
- Remanded into care.

A private agreement is not public care i.e. when a child lives with friends or relatives by private arrangement and these children are not designated as Looked After. Children living in these informal arrangements may be vulnerable.

Roles & Priorities

Governing Body

- To appoint a Designated Governor for Children in Care
- To check that the Senior Leadership Team are meeting their responsibilities related to Children in Care as listed below.

Headteacher

- To ensure that provision/outcomes for Children in Care are specifically developed, recorded, monitored and evaluated by means of:
 - The School Improvement Plan and SEF
 - All school policies and procedures
 - Behaviour and exclusions reports
 - Analysis of public and internal examinations and assessments: student progress in relation to targets & FFT
 - Year 9 Option choice decisions
 - Entry to Public examinations
 - Participation in extracurricular activities
 - Attendance
 - Participation in Gifted and Talented provision and successes
 - Admissions
 - Student voice
 - Complaints
 - Student destinations
- To provide an annual report on the provision for, and progress of Children in Care to the Governing Body
- To make it clear to staff and other school stakeholders that Children in Care require special treatment and positive discrimination
- To give the designated member of staff for Children in Care the time and facilities to carry out his/her job description and to provide strong support for his/her work
- To show a personal interest and involvement with Children in Care in the school
- To challenge negative stereotypes of Children in Care if they exist and to insist on the highest of expectations in terms of Children in Care achieving their potential
- To give Children in Care the highest priority regarding admissions to the school even when there is oversubscription
- To avoid as far as possible the exclusion of a Looked After Child
- To provide CPD for staff on issues pertaining to Children in Care and to ensure that designated staff attend regular external training provided by the LA and national bodies.

Designated Member of Staff for Children in Care

- To be a champion for Children in Care within the schools and to ensure that they are receiving special provision

- To act as the first point of contact regarding Children in Care for external agencies, including the LA Virtual School
- To ensure that the pupil premium for Children in Care is deployed efficiently and effectively, is focussed on raising achievement and is monitored and evaluated
- To ensure that staff who need to know are aware of the Children in Care; to make staff aware that extra support should be given to this group of students to help them achieve their academic potential and further their personal and social development
- To ensure that sensitive information related to Children in Care remains confidential at all times
- To liaise with carers, Social Services and the LA Virtual Headteacher so that all possible support is given at the times of transition:
 - all relevant information is collected and Children in Care receive a smooth induction into the schools
 - additional support is given to support Pathway Choices
 - students receive all possible guidance and assistance in terms of their Post 16 pathways to ensure that they progress to education, employment or training
- To ensure they are following an appropriate curriculum
- To check that they know their targets and get regular feedback (four times a year) on how they are performing in relation to these targets and how they can improve and do better (using the same process as for the student body as a whole)
- To use the school's data tracking and comparisons with FFT four times annually to indicate if a student is underachieving and ensure that intervention strategies put in place and are monitored, including full access to any booster support that is available.
- To ensure students are entered for public examinations in all cases
- To ensure they have all possible individual assistance in developing their basic skills including reading
- To make sure that students on the SEN register receive all possible support to meet their needs and able students have access to the school's Gifted & Talented provision
- To check that they complete homework and coursework on time and to a good quality and that intervention occurs if this is not the case
- To keep comprehensive and up to date files on each student and to ensure that these are passed on should the student move school
- To ensure reviews occur on time and to play the lead educational role at these meetings
- To meet regularly with the Child in Care to check progress and to listen to his/her views about both in school and out of school issues
- To check with staff on a continuous basis how the students are doing and to intervene quickly at the first sign of a problem eg behaviour issues, poor effort etc.
- To monitor attendance on a weekly basis and to report any concerns to the Headteacher/LA
- To ensure that strategies for students who are not achieving, behaving poorly or not attending are implemented and then monitor the success of their implementation
- To make sure students are given specific help in developing the social, personal skills that will give them better life chances
- To undertake periodic student voice exercises
- To encourage students to be fully involved in extracurricular and extension activities
- To keep the Headteacher, Leadership Team and Governors appraised of all data, developments and progress of looked after students.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- The Designated Member of Staff responsible for Children in Care provides an annual report to the Senior Leadership Team and Governors on provision for and progress of Children in Care
- The Governing Body and the Governor responsible for Child Protection will review all processes on an annual basis.

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following;

- Anti-bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Medical Conditions Policy
- Equalities Statement
- Relationship and Sex Education Policy
- E Safety Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy

Policy prepared by Mr K McDermott (Director of Pastoral Care)

Date when policy was last reviewed: September 2016

Date when next review is due: September 2017

Signed: