



Policy Name: Looked After Child Policy

Approved by: _____ on _____

To be reviewed: Autumn Term 2023

Edition/Version Number: v2

Beliefs and Values

At Melin Primary School we believe that the emotional wellbeing of the child, developed through a curriculum based on activity and experience is at the heart of learning.

We aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment across the Primary phase in which children are given the best opportunities to develop into literate, numerate, digitally competent, creative life-long learners so that they reach their potential.

We work together with the adults in our children's lives to ensure that they are safe, happy and are empowered to make a change in their lives.

Aims

Melin Primary School believes that in partnership with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, as Corporate Parents we have a duty to safeguard and promote the education of Looked After Children.

- To provide a safe and secure environment, where there is belief in the abilities and potential of all children.
- To support our Looked After Children and give them equal access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and to enjoy learning.
- To fulfil our schools' role as corporate parent, to promote and support the education of Looked After Children (pupils looked after by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and/or other authorities).
- To ensure that all school policies and procedures are inclusive to and followed for Looked After Children.

Organisation and Leadership

The Head Teacher will:

- Nominate a designated teacher for Looked After Children who will act as an advocate and co-ordinate support .
- Ensure that a school governor is nominated to oversee that the needs of Looked After Children in the school are taken into account at a school management level and to support the designated teacher.
- Arrange time out for the designated teacher to attend where appropriate training and statutory review meetings.
- Ensure that the NAFW Guidance 2/2001 is incorporated into school policy.
- Adhere to the local authority school admissions policy.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Maintain (with the support of electronic systems i.e. Integrated Children System) an up to date record of all pupils who are looked after on the school roll.
- Track and monitor progress of individual pupils who are looked after.
- Ensure educational information is transferred speedily between agencies, new schools and individuals.
- Liaise with the Social Worker to ensure that there is a Personal Education Plan for each child pupil looked after, to include appropriate targets.
- Ensure the school shares and supports high expectations for Looked After Children.
- Ensure a culture of positive collaboration is fostered. Where communication difficulties arise with social workers or foster carers, contact is made with the Education Co-ordinator for Looked After Children.
- Ensure a home-school agreement is drawn up with the carer.
- Ensure that Looked After Children, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school.
- Ensure the child's educational needs are identified in consultation with his/her teacher(s) in order to address them by setting realistic challenges and academic targets. Where appropriate access additional support of the LAC Education Services.
- Ensure the school is represented at the LAC reviews and/or the schools consultation document is completed and returned to the Independent Reviewing Officer.
- Ensure any issues arising that might threaten the school placement are addressed without delay. All steps should be taken to prevent exclusion, including the implementation of a Pastoral Support Programme, referral for behaviour support, involvement of the Education Welfare Service.

School staff and Governors will:

- Support the local authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of pupils who are looked after.

Assessment, Recording and Record Keeping

Assessment of pupils across the school will be carried out using the Incerts Assessment system as part of our formative assessment procedures. The skills outlined within the teachers' planning will be assessed through a variety of methods, as outlined in our Assessment, Recording and Record Keeping Policy.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the nine term self evaluation procedure or changes to statutory orders, whichever is sooner.

T. Richards

October 2020