



## **BLACKHALL COLLIERY PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY FOR THE EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Blackhall Colliery Primary School is committed to ensuring all children have equitable access to a high quality education delivered within a safe and positive learning environment, which enables them to fulfil their potential.

The school recognises that nationally and locally there is considerable underachievement of looked after children in comparison to their peers largely as a result of the impact of life experiences, rather than differences in overall ability

Under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004, the school understands and supports its role in working with children, parents and carers and the local authority to ensure underachievement is challenged and high aspirations are encouraged amongst looked after children attending our school.

### **COMMITMENT**

Taking into account article 20\* and 25\* of the United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child, the Governing Body and school staff are committed to ensuring improved life chances for looked after children by ensuring that:

- The Governing Body and the school staff are fully aware of the issues affecting looked after children and the legislation and statutory guidance underpinning the work to improve academic achievement
- The school adopts a Policy for the Education of Looked After children which is disseminated to all staff and regularly reviewed
- The Governing Body ensures that all staff within the school have received training on the needs of looked after children
- The confidentiality policy of the school protects looked after children and ensures that there is controlled and appropriate sharing of information.
- The school ensures inclusion of looked after children by ensuring its policies are non discriminatory and take into account the additional issues affecting looked after children and other vulnerable groups
- A designated teacher is identified within the school to ensure the child achieves stability and success within the school in accordance with the duties specified in statutory guidance
- A designated Governor is nominated to monitor the work of the school in supporting its looked after children as part of a larger group of vulnerable children

- The school actively participates in the Personal Education Planning process by ensuring appropriate representation at meetings and contribution towards SMART targets
- Following the completion of the PEP, the school will ensure it deploys resources appropriately to support targets being achieved
- Looked after children will pursue accredited curriculum pathways that are appropriate to their ability and interests
- Looked after children are encouraged to access out of school hours learning activities realising the positive impact this could have on friendships, self esteem and achievement
- The schools will liaise closely with parents/carers and colleagues from Children and Adult's Services to celebrate achievement and discuss concerns
- The school will liaise closely with LACES to ensure the child receives further educational support as appropriate
- The school will send reports/representatives to any reviews held for the child including Personal Education Plan and Care Plan reviews
- The school will release looked after children from lessons to attend the PEP meetings if necessary
- The school will ensure the views of looked after children are heard and used to inform further development of school practice
- The school will develop strong methods of communication with parents and carers and ensure all appropriate people with parental responsibility receive invitations to school activities and events

## **MONITORING**

The day to day monitoring of the implementation of the Policy will be undertaken by the Designated Teacher for looked after children.

The Governing Body will receive a report on the educational performance of looked after children and the effectiveness of the role of the designated teacher on an annual basis.

## **DISSEMINATION OF THE POLICY**

The Head teacher will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlines in this policy.

### **Signatures**

Head Teacher:

Date:

Chair of Governors:

Date:

**Date for the review of the Policy: March 2018**

## **UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.**

**\*Article 20 (Children deprived of family environment):** Children who cannot be looked after by their own family have a right to special care and must be looked after properly, by people who respect their ethnic group, religion, culture and language.

**\*Article 25 (Review of treatment in care):** Children who are looked after by their local authorities, rather than their parents, have the right to have these living arrangements looked at regularly to see if they are the most appropriate. Their care and treatment should always be based on “the best interests of the child”.