

# CARE EXPERIENCED PUPIL POLICY



August 2020

***Rationale: Children who are currently in care or are care experienced have the right to feel supported within our school and will have an allocated member of the senior management team supporting them to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for them whilst educated in our school and at points of transition.***

- Article 9: we have the right to be with our parents if this is what's best for us.  
Article 12: we have the right to say what we think should happen and be listened to  
Article 13: we have the right to information  
Article 19: we have the right to be looked after and kept safe from harm  
Article 20: we have the right to be looked after properly if we can't live with our own family  
Article 21: we have the right to live in the best place for us if we can't live with our parents



## **AIMS OF THIS POLICY**

- Outline roles and responsibilities
- To clarify abbreviations used
- To explain some specific terminology
- To ensure all staff are clear as to how care experienced pupils and their families will be supported by us.

## **WHO ARE CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE?**

The term care experienced replaces the term looked after and accommodated (LAC or LAAC).

The majority of children who become care experienced do so following a decision by a children's panel who place a supervision requirement on a child or young person under children's (Scotland) act 1995

The most common routes by which a child or young person can become care experienced are when:

- A child or young person remains at home, under section 70(1) of the children (Scotland) act 1995, frequently referred to as looked after at home      **or**
- A child or young person becomes looked after and accommodated i.e. away from their normal place of residence, under section 70(3) of the children (Scotland) act 1995. If this is the case they will become part of the looked after children system which requires regular review by the local authority of the child or young person's care, including their current location, care plan, education, health and other areas.  
**Or**
- A child or young person can also be looked after and accommodated when they are provided with accommodation by the local authority under section 25 of the children (Scotland) act 1995, which is sometimes referred to as a 'voluntary agreement'.      **Or**
- A child or young person is the subject of a permanence order, section 80 of the adoption and children (Scotland) act.

Children and young people looked after away from home may be accommodated in:

- Kinship care, living with family or close friends
- Foster care, provided by local authority carers or an independent foster care provider
- Residential care, in a local authority home or private/independent children's home or residential school
- Secure accommodation

## **CORPORATE PARENTING**

Corporate parenting is the parental responsibility of council employees; it's partners, elected members and the council as a whole to collectively safeguard the wellbeing of children under council custody.

It is widely recognised that the role of the corporate parent is crucial in improving outcomes for care experience children.

Collectively, all those working for South Ayrshire council have a role as a corporate parent and therefore have responsibilities as if they were the parent of a care experienced child. These responsibilities are shared by all those in the public and voluntary sector, including the police, social work and NHS.

### **5 key factors important in achieving success have been identified:**

- Having people in your life who care about you
- Experiencing stability
- Being given high expectations
- Receiving encouragement and support
- Being supported to participate and achieve.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Senior Management Team**

- To ensure that there is a designated senior manager with specific responsibilities for co-ordinating meetings and planning for care experienced children  
(At Tarbolton primary school Mrs Ross is our care experienced co-ordinator)
- To liaise with social work services to ensure that all those who should be are involved in working towards positive educational outcomes.
- To ensure that pupils receive a positive welcome when starting in school ensuring that appropriate assessments take place timeously leading prompt and appropriate support
- To attend all reviews and case conferences
- The care experienced co-ordinator will have pastoral responsibility to develop a relationship with each individual who is or have been care experienced in order to ensure that the pupil engages fully with all aspects of learning and teaching, school activities, residential visits etc ensuring any barriers are addressed.
- To ensure a timeously transfer of information records and course work should the child transfer to another educational placement

### **CLASS TEACHER**

- When a young person becomes care experienced, a SDQ (strengths and difficulties questionnaire) should be completed by person who knows child best (usually class teacher).
- If SDQ scores as borderline or abnormal or very high normal, a BOXALL assessment should be completed by either the class teacher or pupil support coordinator.
- Strands from BOXALL should be used to set targets for staged interventions. This may be in partnership with educational psychologist.
- If SDQ scores as normal and there are still concerns, then emotional literacy assessment should be completed by pupil, parent and teacher.
- P1-P3 adapted wellbeing web (smiley face) and P4-7 wellbeing web completed when child becomes care experienced.
- To aim to overcome any identified barriers to ensure each child is fully involved in the life of the school
- Attend relevant CPD
- Contribute to the child's assessment plan

## **CLERICAL STAFF**

- To liaise with ATL in order to monitor changes to seemis information

## **PARENT OR CARER**

- To attend reviews and case conferences as appropriate.
- To liaise with the school and where appropriate attend parents evenings.
- Notify the school of any relevant incidents or change or personal details/circumstances

## **ABBREVIATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CARE EXPERIENCED PUPILS**

LAC	Looked after and accommodated – This phrase has now to be avoided
IEP	individual educational support plan
SW	social worker
CC	case conference

## **SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY**

### **Child's Hearing**

This is Scotland's unique care and justice system specifically for children. It is made up of children's panel members. These are trained volunteers. There are 3 members at each hearing as well as a child's reporter who advises the panel. Hearings are generally held at the local reporters office. Parents, children and professional attend by invite.

### **Core Group Meeting**

These are meetings held by the professionals mainly involved in supporting a child. The child, their carer and the parents would normally be invited to these meetings. Meetings of this kind are generally held in the social work department or at a child's school.

### **Child Protection Case Conferences**

This is a meeting held when social work and the police have concerns regarding the safety of a child.

REVIEW DATE: JUNE 2022