



ST. MARY'S

Children in care Policy

St Mary's CE (A) Primary School

2017-2018

St Mary's has adopted the STOKE ON TRENT MODEL POLICY FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN CARE

Introduction

This model policy expresses the commitment of schools, the Virtual School and social care to achieve excellent education outcomes for Children in Care [CiC] in Stoke-on-Trent.

Why do we need a policy and standard?

The neglect and abuse that have brought nearly 600 children into care provide a moral, legal and pragmatic drive for us to work together as corporate parents or in loco parentis to repair the damage. We know that a secure and successful education experience is a major factor in improving the life chances of our children in care.

'Parents want their children to have the best start in life and to reach their full potential. As corporate parents, local authorities should have equally high aspirations for the children they look after.'

Promoting the education of Looked after Children statutory guidance for Local Authorities - July 2014

'Excellent practice in supporting looked-after children already exists in many schools. The designated teacher role is statutory to help ensure that effective practice becomes universal.'

The Designated Teacher for Looked after Children statutory guidance for the governing bodies of maintained schools and academies and designated teachers on their roles and responsibilities – 2009

[NB is likely to be updated in the light of VS role and Pupil Premium for CiC changes]

Basis in legislation

The policy and standard is based on the legislation below:

- 1. Section 20 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 ("the Act") and The Designated Teacher (Looked-after Pupils etc.) (England) Regulations 2009.*
- 2. The Local Authority statutory duty under 22(3A) of the Children Act 1989 to promote the educational achievement of looked after children [includes those CiC placed out-of-authority].*
- 3. The Children and Families Act 2014, which requires every local authority in England to appoint an officer to make sure that its duty is properly discharged - referred to as the Virtual School Head*

How will the impact of the policy be measured and how will the policy be reviewed?

The impact of the policy will be seen in improved outcomes for CiC:

- Inclusion [zero permanent exclusion]
- Attendance

- Attainment
- Progression
- The quality of plans for CiC in Personal Education Plans [PEPs]
- The views of children [captured in PEPs]

All of the above is summarised in the **annual report of the designated teacher to the governing body**, and any review with the Virtual School of the report and outcomes for children.

Signed: *Sonia Oxford* **Chair of Governors**

Policy Date: July 2017