



Children in Care Policy

February 2021

Principal: Mrs L Jones

Chair of Governors: Mrs A Gadsden

Cared for Children Policy

At Cranberry Academy, we recognise that we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of cared for children and previously cared for children attending our school.

We work in partnership with Cheshire East and Stoke on Trent Virtual Schools and social care to ensure we are committed to providing a happy, caring and stimulating environment for all children.

Cranberry Academy Aims

To provide a safe and secure environment, where education is valued and there is a belief in the abilities and potential of all children.

To support our Cared for Children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning.

To fulfil our schools' role to promote and support the education of our Cared for Children, by asking the question, **'Would this be good enough for my child?'**

Why do we need a policy for cared for children?

Basis in legislation

This policy 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. That includes those LAC 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*

We know that a secure and successful education experience is a major factor in improving the life chances of 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

This policy is informed by the following Department for Education (DfE) document:

The Designated Teacher for Looked-After and Previously Looked-After Children. Statutory guidance on their roles and responsibilities

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf (DfE February 2018)

Additional guidance can be found on the Virtual Sschool websites

Cheshire East <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/care-and-support-for-children>

As suggested by the statutory guidance, Cranberry Academy is committed to ensuring that Cared for Children are supported as fully as possible and will ensure that the following are in place, and are working effectively:

1. A Designated Governor for Cared for Children
2. A Designated Teacher for Cared for Children
3. Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for all Cared for Children
4. The Designated Teacher, as a minimum, will have two days a year for training opportunities specific to factors that impact on the attainment of Cared for Children
5. All staff in school will have a clear understanding of the issues that affect Cared for Children; their learning needs; how to support them in school and issues relating to confidentiality.
6. Policies, procedures and strategies to promote the achievement and well-being of this vulnerable group.

The Designated Governor should ensure:

- There is a designated teacher for children in Cheshire's Care.
- Children in care have equal access to all aspects of school life, including the National Curriculum, examinations, careers guidance, extra curricular activities, work experience and additional educational support.
- There is an ethos of support and acceptance in the school for children who do not live with their birth families.
- Targets for children in care are realistic but aspirations for these pupils shall be high.
- Where the child/young person is at risk of exclusion, or excluded, they shall be treated in the same way and offered the same support as any other pupil.

The Designated Teacher will:

- Maintain an up to date record of all Cared for Children who are on the school roll.
- Ensure that (where necessary) there is an EHCP – Educational Health Care Plan - for each child/young person to include appropriate targets and above information. This must be compatible with the child's/young person's PEP and where applicable include any other school plan, e.g. Statement of Special Education Need, and associated plans, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme.
- Ensure that someone attends Childrens Services Reviews on each child/young person and/or always prepares a written report which promotes the continuity and stability of their education.
- Liaise with the Education Support Service for Cared for Children on a regular basis with regard to the performance, attendance and attainment of Cared for Children.
- Ensure that if/when the child transfers school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority.
- Ensure that systems are in place to identify and prioritise when Cared for Children are underachieving and have early interventions to improve this in line with existing school policy.
- Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed about Cared for Children where and when appropriate.

- Ensure that Cared for Children, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school.
- Ensure that they keep the school up to date with current legislation and its implication for the school in respect of Cared for Children.
- Report to the Governing Body annually on the performance of the Cared for Children who are on roll at the school.

Principal	Linda Jones
Chair of governors	Anne Gadsden
Virtual School	Claire Lawton (Deputy VS Cheshire East) Ingrid Mathers (Head VS Stoke on Trent)
Designated Teacher	Joanne Jones
Date	February 2021

