



Co-op Academy
Failsworth

EDUCATION of CHILDREN who are LOOKED AFTER POLICY

Issue 1

EDUCATION of CHILDREN who are LOOKED AFTER (CLA)

Objectives

The Governing Body of Co-op Academy Failsworth is committed to providing quality education for all our pupils.

We recognise that, nationally, Children who are Looked After (CLA) have significantly underachieved compared with their peers. We intend, through this policy, to promote the inclusion, well-being and achievement of CLA at Co-op Academy Failsworth.

The Governing Body is committed in particular to implementing the joint guidance from the DCSF and Department of Health on the education of CLA. This sets out six principles:-

- Prioritising education;
- Having high expectations;
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes;
- Achieving stability and continuity;
- Early intervention and priority action; and
- Listening to children.

The Guidance introduced two key measures to improve the educational life chances for CLA.

- Designated Teachers for every school/academy.
- Personal Education Plans for all CLA.

The Governing Body will ensure that the academy has a Designated Teacher and Co-ordinator and that the Designated Teacher is able to carry out his or her responsibilities effectively.

The Role of the Designated Teacher

The DCSF and DoH Guidance say that the Designated Teacher should be “someone with sufficient authority to make things happen”. At Co-op Academy Failsworth, this is the SENCO and the coordinator for CLA students. Both the SENCO and the Coordinator will be an advocate for CLA, accessing services and support, and ensuring that the academy shares and supports high expectations for them.

- Our Designated Teacher will: Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer.
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed as soon as possible which is updated every three months (or sooner if there is a problem/change in circumstances).
- Ensure that the Personal Education Plan and other records are kept up-to-date, and available in time to inform review meetings.
- Monitor and evaluate educational progress, using data to inform changes to the PEP, and liaise with the SENCO; putting into place/advising on strategies where progress is limited/ hindered.
- Advise teaching staff on suitable strategies where a CLA has AEN/SEN via the PEP.
- Ensure that each CLA has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child’s own wishes. Co-ordinate any support that is necessary within the academy.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Encourage CLA to join in extra-curricular activities and out of academy learning.
- Ensure as far as possible attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Ensure that staff in the academy receive relevant training, and act as an advisor to staff and to Governors.
- Set up urgent meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in the academy or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and – if the pupil changes school/academy – to a new school/academy.
- Report on a half termly basis to SLG/Governors on the progress of all CLA pupils, and actions being taken where any of those pupils are underachieving academically, or struggling in pastoral terms.
- Apply for Pupil Premium CLA monies in line with the targets set in PEPs, and in this way manage those monies.

The Responsibilities of all Staff

All our staff will:-

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of CLA.
- Ensure that all CLA are supported sensitively.
- Respond positively to a pupil's request to be the named member of staff whom they can talk to when they feel it is necessary.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable CLA to achieve stability and success within the academy.
- Promote the self-esteem of all CLA; maintain confidentiality; and ensuring that no CLA is stigmatised in any way.
- Monitor progress of CLA children in their subject, and put into place additional strategies where progress is limited/hindered to facilitate success.

Responsibility of the Governing Body

The Governing Body will:-

- Ensure that the academy has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities.
- Support the Headteacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of CLA are recognised and met.
- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and Guidance on the education of CLA.
- Nominate a Governor to take a special interest in this area of the academy's work.

Responsibility of the Nominated Governor

The Nominated Governor will liaise with the Designated Teacher and the Designated Teacher will report to the Governing Body on an annual basis:-

- The number of CLA in the academy (if any).
- Their attendance, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
- Their KS2 scores and GCSE results, as a discreet group, compared to other pupils.
- The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
- The destinations of pupils who leave the academy.

The information for this report will be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity, and respect of the confidentiality of the pupils concerned. It will be collated termly by the CLA Coordinator or SENCO.

The Nominated Governor will also ensure that the academy's other policies and procedures give CLA equal access in respect of:-

- Admission to the academy. (Admission criteria 2).
- The National Curriculum and public examinations.
- Additional educational support where this is needed.
- Extra curricular activities.
- Work experience and careers guidance.

Monitoring the Policy

This Policy will be reviewed by the SENCO and Senior Leadership Team annually, and set before Governors for their continued approval.

