

**The Sue Hedley Nursery School**



**Looked After Children Policy and Procedure**

| Date of next review | March 2025 |
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| Author | Ashley Honey/Amy Hindes |
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**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN POLICY**

In The Sue Hedley Nursery School we recognise that Looked After Children experience educational under-achievement and that they deserve the same life chances as any other child, e.g. to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing. We also recognise that they need good corporate parenting in order to realise their potential and improve their life chances. We believe that the nursery can provide a source of continuity and normality for children who may have been subject to emotional distress, abuse and disruption.

**Definition**

The term “Looked After” was introduced by the Children Act 1989. This refers to a child who is either accommodated (whereby the local authority provides for the child on an agreed basis with the person who has parental responsibility) or is subject to a care order (whereby the court order grants shared parental responsibility to the local authority in order to protect and promote a child’s welfare). Children in both instances could be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with relatives or even with parents on a part time or full time basis.

**Aim**

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

To support our looked after children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning.

**We will**

* Nominate a Designated Teacher for Looked After Children who will act as their advocate and co-ordinate support for them.
* Nominate a school governor to ensure that the needs of Looked After Children in the nursery are taken into account at a school management level and to support the Designated Teacher.
* Ensure that the Designated Teacher attends appropriate training.

**LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN PROCEDURE**

**Aim**

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

To support our looked after children and give them access to every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning.

**Roles and responsibilities**

* Staff will provide a climate of acceptance and challenge negative stereotypes.
* The nursery will work in partnership with appropriate agencies to ensure that each child who is deemed as “Looked After” is monitored and progress is reviewed regularly.
* Staff will ensure that a clear protocol for sharing information is followed both within the nursery and with outside agencies.
* Staff will ensure discretion when addressing a child’s status and ensure there is sensitivity to the background of children who are looked after, especially surrounding work with families.
* Staff will foster good partnerships and encourage joint working with appropriate professionals and with parents/carers.
* Staff will ensure that all children who are looked after have the same opportunities to participate fully in the curriculum.
* Staff will monitor the children’s progress to ensure that any challenges and successes are recorded and used to inform planning, development and interventions.
* Staff will compile a Personal Education Plan if appropriate or requested by the child’s Social Worker.
* Senior managers will monitor the progress of Looked After children through regular supervisions with staff.
* Senior managers will ensure that staff access appropriate training