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Legally Required Policy
Review Frequency: Annual

Ethos

Birchwood High School Education of Children Looked After Policy

- Birchwood High School believes that, in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council and Essex County Council, we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Children Looked After (CLA) and Children Previously Looked After (PLA), ensuring support, opportunities and challenge.
- The Children Act (1989) introduced changes in terminology. The term 'in care' now refers solely to children who are subject to Care Orders. Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are 'accommodated' by
- The Local Authority. Both groups are said to be 'Children Looked After' (CLA) or children in care or 'Children
- Looked After' (CLA) by the LA, the term used by Hertfordshire.
- PLA students were looked after but left care and fall into the following 3 categories:
- Under a Residence Order (Child Arrangement Order) on or after 14 October 1991 (under the Children Act 1989);
- Under a Special Guardianship Order on or after 30 December 2005 (under the Children Act 1989);
- Adopted from care (under the Adoption and Children Act 2002).

Objectives and Principles

- The objective of the Education of Children Looked After Policy at Birchwood High School is to provide a full and comprehensive education to all students, including those who may come from a disadvantaged background. We will remove barriers to learning where necessary, enabling students to make rapid and sustained progress.
- The objectives of the policy are to:
- 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 CLA and PLA, providing them with every opportunity to achieve their potential and enjoy learning
- To monitor the progress of our CLA and PLA, working in partnership with outside agencies to promote common goals and aims

- **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Birchwood High School will appoint a senior member of staff to serve as Designated Teacher for CLA and PLA. This member of staff will act as advocate for the Children Looked After, coordinating provision and monitoring progress. Birchwood High School will appoint a school governor who will ensure that the Education of Children Looked After Policy is carried out effectively and that the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After is supported in carrying out their duties
- The Designated Teacher for Children Looked After will ensure that all members of staff are informed of ways in which to support the student. Classroom teachers and support staff will ensure that they employ strategies for support in the classroom, removing barriers to learning and promoting opportunities. They will also work collaboratively with the SEND Team to ensure any additional needs that the student may have are being supported.
- In supporting CLA and PLA, the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After will:
 - Maintain an up to date record and profile of all the CLA and PLA on the school roll
 - Ensure that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is compiled for each Child Looked After and that clear targets are set and developed
 - Attend all Review meetings, preparing written reports where necessary
 - Liaise with external professionals where necessary
 - Ensure that – if a CLA or PLA transfers to a new setting, all necessary paperwork and information is forwarded as a matter of urgency
 - Ensure that early systems are in place to identify underachievement and offer early intervention where appropriate
 - Ensure that systems are in place to keep staff up to date and informed as to the progress of CLA and PLA learners
 - Ensure that CLA and PLA learners are offered consistent access to effective pastoral support
 - Ensure that the school is kept up to date with changing legislation and that policy and practice is reviewed in light of changes to legislation
 - Report to Governors on the progress of CLA and PLA, as required.

Review

- The Governing Body will review this policy yearly and at any point where there has been statutory change. The review will take place in consultation with staff, students and parents.
- The outcome of the review and changes to policy, resolutions and solutions will be communicated to all those involved and incorporated into an amended Education of Children Looked After Policy.