



CHILDREN IN CARE POLICY

Status	Approved	Approval	Full Governing Body
Maintenance	CSIP COMMITTEE	Role(s) responsible	Headteacher
Date Effective	September 2022	Date of last review	July 2024
Date of next review	September 2025	Date withdrawn	Not withdrawn.
Lead Professional	Deputy Headteacher	Location of policy	www.coltonhills.co.uk

COLTON HILLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Colton Hills Community School Children in Care Policy

At Colton Hills Community School, we aim to:

- make a difference in helping to provide the best possible education for children in care as much as any other.
- seek to give our young people in care professional help, encouragement, and support, so they find our school a welcoming and friendly place.
- be fully inclusive and we will challenge negative views and stereotypes.
- offer support to and work with carers on how to assist the young person’s learning and enhance educational opportunities.
- We will support the Government’s agenda for giving all children in care the same life chances as any other child, in that we want them to: be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to society, and achieve economic well-being.
- The Children Act 2004 and the statutory guidance Promoting the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children 2015, (updated 2018) places a duty on us to work together to promote the educational achievement of looked after children. We recognise that our school and staff are at the very heart of this process so that we can provide a good education in order to unlock a bright future and so increase life chances of this vulnerable group. We are highly ambitious for these young people, knowing that securing the best possible progress for them will greatly enhance their life chances.
- We recognise our responsibility as a school and we actively want to support the local authority in undertaking its statutory responsibility, under section 52 of the Children Act 2004. This is to help this vulnerable group to succeed in education, champion their needs, raise awareness and challenge negative assumptions at all levels.

Definition

In the UK, law ‘Children In Care’ (CIC) were previously referred to as ‘Looked After Children’ (LAC). A child is identified as being in care if they are in the care of a local authority for more than 24 hours.

Legally, this could be when they are:

- living in accommodation provided by the local authority with the parents’ agreement
- the subject of an interim or full care order or, in Scotland, a permanence order
- the subject of an emergency legal order to remove them from immediate danger



CHILDREN IN CARE POLICY

- in a secure children's home, secure training centre or young offender institution unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Principles and Objectives

This policy incorporates requirements set out in the statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children in care and previously Looked After Children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004.

The Designated Teacher

The designated person must be a qualified teacher. The role became statutory in September 2009 under the Children and Young Person's Act 2008. Ideally, the designated teacher should also be a senior member of staff who is able to influence decisions about the teaching and learning, plus promote the educational achievements of every CIC and previously LAC.

Some responsibilities of the designated teacher are to:

- Maintain a detailed record of all Children in Care and previously Looked After Children – including information relating to current status, type of placement, name and contact details of the Social Worker, Virtual School Head, relevant health information, SEN status, PEP information, current and historic assessment information.
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is completed when a child enters the school (within 6 weeks) and is then reviewed every term. The PEP should consider the opinion of the social worker, education advisor, class teacher, carer, and the child. Where appropriate the views of other professionals should also be included.
- Complete and keep PEPs updated, plus ensuring targets are SMART
- Ensure information is shared with teaching staff.
- Work closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) to ensure that any safeguarding concerns regarding children are quickly and effectively responded to.
- Co-ordinate the support for the child in school, liaising where necessary with other professionals involved in supporting the child.
- Ensure that all staff, are appropriately trained and aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantages faced by children and understand the need for positive systems to support them.
- Ensure all information remains confidential, sharing only personal information on a need-to-know basis.
- Monitor the educational progress and intervene, in co-operation with other agencies if required, if there is evidence of underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy, or other similar concern.
- Submit data to the appropriate Virtual School upon request.

Further Information

The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children: February 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_lookedafter_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf



CHILDREN IN CARE POLICY

Keeping Children Safe in Education: September 2023

(To be up-dated August 2024 once KCSIE guidance has been published)

The name of our appointed Designated Governor is: **Duane Williams**, Chair of Governors.

The name of our school's Designated Teacher is: **Kieran Pope**, Associate Assistant Headteacher for SEND

& Inclusion supported by **Martin Winward**, Deputy Headteacher.