



## ST. HILD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

### Policy Document

#### CHILDREN IN CARE (CIC)

**At St. Hild's we aim to serve our community by providing high quality education in a Christian context. We are a comprehensive school guaranteeing equal opportunities, a responsive curriculum and a supportive community. We expect to find God at work in our school.**

*The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

***"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness (John 10:10)"***

#### **St. Hild's Church of England School Policy for the Education of Children in Care**

It is the duty of the Local Authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of a Child in care. At St. Hild's we are committed to supporting all children to reach their full potential in line with our Christian beliefs. We recognise that as Corporate Parents we have a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of Children in Care (CIC). Nationally, Children in Care significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. St. Hild's will ensure that our Children in Care are enabled to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well being.

This Policy takes account of:

- The Local Authority's duty under Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 to promote the educational achievement of Children in Care (CIC)
- The School Admissions Code 2014
- Relevant DfE guidance to Governing Bodies (*Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors*).

St. Hild's approach to supporting the educational achievement of Children in Care (CIC) is based on the following principles:

1. Prioritising education.
2. Promoting attendance.
3. Targeting support.
4. Having high expectations.
5. Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
6. Achieving stability and continuity.
7. Early intervention and priority action.
8. Listening to children.
9. Promoting health and wellbeing.
10. Reducing exclusions and promoting stability.
11. Working in partnership with carers, social workers and other professionals.

We support the Local Authority by closely monitoring and reporting the academic progress of children in public care through our school assessment procedures and by the attendance at Review Meetings of the designated worker.

### **Our Aims:**

1. To provide a safe and secure environment, which reflects our Christian beliefs, values education and believes in the abilities and potential of all children.
2. To bring the educational achievements of our Children in Care pupils in line with those of their peers.
3. To accept our role as Corporate Parents in relation to the moral wellbeing, Christian beliefs and educational progress of Children in Care pupils and to ask the question; "Would this be good enough for my child?"

*In pursuit of these principles and aims, we will:*

- Ensure Children in Care are prioritised in the school's oversubscription criteria, in line with The School Admissions Code 2014
- Ensure a Designated Teacher/Team for Children in Care is identified and enabled to carry out the responsibilities set out below.
- Ensure a Personal Education Plan (PEP) is put in place, implemented and regularly reviewed for every Child in Care, in line with Hartlepool's guidance on Personal Education Plans.
- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies and procedures to ensure Children in Care achieve and enjoy their time at the school, by recognising the extra problems caused by excluding them and by not excluding them except as a last resort.
- Report once a year, to the Chair of Governors, setting out:
  - The number of Children in Care pupils on the school's roll (if any).
  - Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
  - Their achievement is monitored in through school data collection, GCSE results, and other qualifications achieved, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
  - The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any).
  - The destinations of pupils who leave the school.
  - The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

### **The Role of the Designated Teacher/Team.**

The Designated Teacher for CIC is Mrs L Day. The Designated Team are Mrs S Anderson, Mrs L Hornby, Mr D Richardson and Mrs K Parker. Their role is to:

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker.
- Ensure the needs of CIC pupils attending the school are identified and that the pupil has an appropriate advocate.
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed with the child, the social worker, the foster carer and any other relevant people, at least two weeks before the Care Plan reviews.
- Ensure that each Child in Care 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. They should also be alert to any child protection issues, any disclosures that pupils may make, and know what action to take. They should link closely therefore with the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Co-ordinate any support for the Child in Care that is necessary within school.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.

- Encourage Children in Care to join in extra-curricular activities and out of school learning.
- Ensure, as far as possible, attendance at planning and review meetings.
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of Children in Care
- Set up timely meetings with relevant parties where the pupils is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the speedy transfer of information between individuals, agencies and – if the student changes school – to a new school.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life.
- Be aware that 60% of Children in Care say they are bullied, so will actively monitor and prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Ensure that the audit on attendance and numbers is returned to the CIC Education Adviser every Term.
- Raise awareness in secondary schools that Children in Care are automatically entitled to an allowance if they go into the sixth form.

**All our staff will:**

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of Children in Care, as for all pupils.
- Maintain pupil confidentiality and ensure they 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.
- Work to enable Children in Care to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self-esteem of all Children in Care.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of Children in Care.
- Be aware that 60% of Children in Care say they are bullied so work to prevent bullying in line with the School's Policy.

The Headteacher/the Designated Teacher/the Team will ensure that all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this Policy.

Headteacher: Mrs T Gibson  
Designated Teacher: Mrs L Day  
Designated Governor Mrs J Lewis  
Team: Mrs S Anderson, Mrs L Hornby, Mr D Richardson, Mrs K Parker

Advice and support is available from Hartlepool's Adviser: Emma Rutherford.  
Information about the education of Children in Care is also available on <http://reescentre.education.ox.ac.uk/>

Signed.....Headteacher	<b>Next Review Date: May 2019</b>
Signed.....Chair of Governors	

Revision Date	Version	Status
March 17	23.4	Approved@Full Governors 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2017