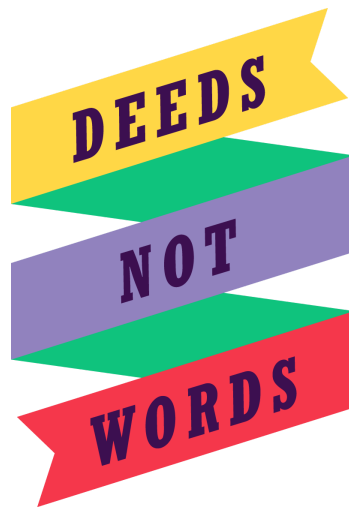




EMILY DAVISON SCHOOL

CHILDREN IN CARE POLICY



| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Date Created | November 2024 |
| Date of Review | November 2025 |
| Headteacher | Michael Hutchison |
| Chair of Governors | David Harrison |



As an inclusive school, we ensure that Children in Care are supported to thrive and are not disadvantaged due to their social care circumstances. We are committed to keeping children safe and ensuring that they make progress towards their academic and social/emotional development.

Within school, The nominated teacher for Looked After Children Children in Care is Cath Taylor and the Designated Safeguarding Lead is Elizabeth Airey.

Aim:

- 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 Children in Care and give them access to every opportunity to achieve to their full potential and enjoy learning

Safeguarding Children in Care

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is of paramount importance and is everyone's responsibility.

It is the responsibility of *every* member of staff, volunteer and regular visitor to our school to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the pupils at this school. This includes the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

We recognise that staff at our school play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from escalating. **All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.** When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members must always act in the **best interests** of the child.

Our school will establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children will be able to talk freely to any member of staff at our school if they are worried or concerned about something. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is of paramount importance and is everyone's responsibility.

It is the responsibility of *every* member of staff, volunteer and regular visitor to our school to ensure that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the pupils at this school. This includes the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.

We recognise that staff at our school play a particularly important role as they are in a position to identify concerns early and provide help for children to prevent concerns from



escalating. **All staff are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned.** When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members must always act in the **best interests** of the child.

Our school will establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, are listened to and are safe. Children will be able to talk freely to any member of staff at our school if they are worried or concerned about something.

- To fulfill the school role, as competently as possible

In support of this Policy the Designated Teacher for Children in Care will:

- Work cooperatively with the Virtual School and Education Support for Looked After Children (ESLAC), contributing to data collection, termly outcome and progress reviews, Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings etc
- Liaise Regularly with the Virtual School Lead Teacher and Educational Psychologist with regard to performance, attendance, attainment and identified needs.
- Liaise regularly with the EWDS Alternative Provision Lead and directly with Alternative Provisions where Children in Care attend those provisions
- Work collaboratively with families and carers of Children in Care as well as external agencies including but not limited to Early Help, Social Care, CYPS, Youth Justice, Sorted
- Ensure that the voice of Children in Care and their families and carers is heard
- Ensure that the school is represented at Care Team Meetings (CTM) and Team Around the Family (TAF) Meetings. These are usually attended by Learning Community Manager Linkworkers for the student.
- Ensure that systems are in place to prioritise support for under-achieving Children in Care. This will be in line with the school's existing policy
- Ensure that Children in Care, along with all children are listened to and have equal opportunity to pastoral support in school
- Ensure that they keep staff up to date with current legislation
- Report to the Governing Body annually on the performance of Looked After Children
- Maintain an up to date record of all Children in Care who are on the school roll. The record will detail:
 - Baseline information and all test results
 - Ensure that there is a Personal Education Plan for each child to include appropriate targets and above information. This will be compatible with the



child's Care Plan and where appropriate will include any other school plans like Educational, Health and Care Plans.

- Training will be offered, on a needs basis, to the designated persons.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

- Maintain an up to date record of all Looked After Children who are on the school role. The record will detail:
 - status i.e. care order or accommodation
 - type of placement i.e. foster, respite, residential etc
 - name of Social Worker
 - daily contact numbers
 - Child Protection information when appropriate
 - attendance figures
 - exclusions/suspensions
 - Ensure that the school is represented at Social Services reviews and that a report is provided for each meeting
 - Ensure that if/when the child transfers to another school all relevant information is forwarded to the next school as a matter of urgency
 - Ensure that staff are kept up to date on a 'need to know' basis

All Management Committee members and Staff will support the Local Authority in its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children.

The policy documents of EWDS are revised and published periodically in good faith. They are inevitably subject to revision. On occasions a significant revision may have to take effect between the re-publication of a set of policy documents. Care should therefore be taken to ensure, by consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, that the details of any policy document are still effectively current at a particular moment.