





Respect – Commitment – Success
Parch – Ymrywmiaid – Llwyddiant

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER POLICY

Document Version Control

Document	<i>Children Looked After Policy</i>
Reference	<i>2022NSP/Children Looked After</i>
Associated Policies and Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Education Act 2002, Section 175</i> • <i>Preventing unsuitable people from working with children and young people – Circular No:34/2002</i> • <i>Keeping learners safe - the role of local authorities, governing bodies and proprietors of independent schools under the Education Act 2002 (Guidance document 158/2015)</i>
Author	<i>Cardiff Local Authority</i>
Reviewer	<i>Cardiff Local Authority</i>
Consultation	<i>Cardiff Local Authority</i>
Approval	<i>Full Governing Body</i>
Date of approval	<i>October 2022</i>
Date of review	<i>October 2023</i>
Date of publication	<i>October 2022</i>
Chair of Governors	
Headteacher	

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of Policy or Procedure	Children Looked After Policy
Date of review/approval	October 2022
Those involved in the assessment	Local Authority
Protected characteristics unlikely to be impacted by the policy/procedure and reasons for drawing these conclusions (by reference to each characteristic or group of characteristics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race • Disability • Gender/sex • Sexual orientation • Religion/belief • Age • Gender reassignment • Pregnancy/maternity • Marital status • The policy sets out by the policy and procedures • which the school follows to protect children from abuse. It recognises that some children, including those with disabilities, are especially vulnerable to abuse, • The policy does not discriminate by reference to any of the protected characteristics
Protected characteristics which could be impacted by the policy/procedure i.e. there is the potential for having a negative differential impact – reasons for drawing these conclusions by reference to each characteristic	None
How the policy as reviewed/approved takes account of each characteristic for which there could be a negative differential impact – by reference to each of those characteristics	N/A
Recommended changes to mitigate against potential negative differential impacts	No changes recommended

The commentary highlighted in red above has been replicated in the policy to assist the reader in locating the commentary.



CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

POLICY IN RELATION TO CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

1 Policy

- 1.1 Cardiff Children's Services believe that children are most appropriately looked after within their own families wherever this is safe and reasonable.
- 1.2 Where a parent or immediate carer of a child is unable to provide care for them, the possibility of the child being looked after by a member of their extended family or close family friends should always be fully explored.
- 1.3 A range of services will be made available to support children and young people to live at home or with extended family or friends.
- 1.4 It is recognised that for some children, the provision of accommodation by the local authority will be the most appropriate way to meet their needs. Placement will be made within a close proximity to Cardiff in order to maintain contact with friends and relatives and better co-ordinate and access support services unless the child's needs cannot be met in this way.

2 Scope

- 2.1 All children in need whose care plan involves the child being looked after

3 Key Principles

- 3.1 The welfare of the child is paramount, in formulating plans for their care. In most circumstances the welfare of the child is best met by being brought up within their own family. Where this is not possible and community resources are not appropriate to meet a child's identified needs, a planned period in a substitute care setting may have a positive role in providing stability.
- 3.2 Where it is not possible for children to remain with family or friends, placement away from home is designed to return them to their families as soon as possible. When return to family is not possible within realistic timescales, the policy is to place children in a permanent substitute family or care setting where they will be legally protected and can attach to a new family or to new carers.
- 3.3 LAC Services will promote the rights of children to be protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation, and safeguard the welfare of children who are looked after.

- 3.4 All services will be provided with the aim of ensuring the individual needs of the child are met. All looked after children will have access to services that are sensitive to the needs of race, culture, religion, ability, sexuality, language, ethnicity, health and education.
- 3.5 Children's Services believe that substitute care settings should provide: a flexible resource that affords children protection; offer families a chance for recovery from stress; provide opportunities for retaining family links; where appropriate enable children to return to their families; and prepare young people for to live independently.
- 3.6 All admissions to substitute care settings will be planned, based on an appropriate, assessment of need although it is accepted that admissions may sometimes be necessary either in an emergency and/or where the child is not known previously. All admissions must be made in the best interests of the child concerned; a positive choice, subject to assessment and the legislative process and requirements.
- 3.7 Plans will take account of the child's wishes, according to their age and maturity and those of their families, wherever possible, , and will be implemented according to agreed timescales
- 3.8 All admissions to substitute care settings will be to units and services that are approved by the relevant statutory agencies. The relevant regulatory body in Wales is the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW).
- 3.9 All looked after children will be allocated an appropriately qualified worker who will be responsible for managing, co-ordinating and driving forward the child's Child Care Plan, taking into consideration the wishes and feelings of the child.

4 Legislative Framework

- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Care Standards Act 2000
- Adoption and Children Act 2002
- Human Rights Act 1998
- National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services
- National Minimum Standards for Fostering Services
- National Minimum Standards for Children's Homes
- The Review of Children's Cases (Wales) Regulations 2007
- The Placement of Children (Wales) Regulation 2007
- Children (Leaving Care Act) 2000

5 Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to determine its appropriateness and effectiveness.