

Chilton Trinity Technology College

Children Looked After Policy



Definition

Looked After is a term that refers to children for whom the Local Authority is sharing parental responsibility. This can happen either with parental agreement or when a Court makes a Care Order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with family members, and sometimes with their parents. These children are therefore subject to corporate parenting. Chilton Trinity recognises that Looked After children may have very specific needs and may be coping with trauma, abuse or rejection, and are likely to experience personal distress and uncertainty.

Chilton Trinity's commitment to Looked After children

Looked After Children have very poor educational achievements. Their academic and social progress is likely to be affected by their experiences, and compounded by instability in their personal circumstances. 75% of Looked After children leave education with no formal qualifications. Only 12% go on to further education compared with 68% of the general population. Looked After children are a priority for admission, and Chilton Trinity will follow the Local Authority admission criteria.

Chilton Trinity recognises that Looked After children can experience specific and significant disadvantage within a school setting, and is committed to ensuring Looked After children reach their potential in all areas. Chilton Trinity is aware that Looked After children may have specific difficulties in transport and attendance, doing homework, getting parental consent for activities, obtaining funding for extra activities, obtaining correct uniform and equipment, as well as stigma and shame about their circumstances.

Action Plan

Chilton Trinity is committed to enhancing the achievement and welfare of Looked after Children in the following ways:

- Ensure equal access to a balanced and broadly based education.
- Record, monitor, and improve academic achievement of each child.
- Prioritise reduction in exclusions and promote attendance.
- Ensure an appropriately trained Designated Teacher is appointed, who will advocate for each child and be responsible co-ordination and liaison for each Looked After child. The Designated Teacher will report to the governing body annually on attendance, attainment, and exclusions of Looked After Children.
- Promote good communication between all those involved in the child's life.
- Maintain and respect the child's confidentiality wherever possible.
- Ensure staff awareness of, and sensitivity to, the difficulties and educational disadvantages of Looked After Children.
- Appoint a named governor for Looked After Children.
- All Looked After Children will have a Personal Education Plan drawn up between the school, the child, and the child's social worker, which will identify the child's individual needs and the supports they require. Chilton Trinity will advocate for the child and promote involvement of the SENCO for additional academic and behavioural resources when required.