

## Weald of Kent Grammar School

### Children in Care Policy 2021

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Weald of Kent Grammar School (**Weald**) believes it has a special duty to safeguard and promote the education of children in care. The School understands the powerful role it can play in significantly improving the quality of life and the educational experiences of these students.

A school ethos that promotes respect for all students, values diversity and does not tolerate bullying is a necessary foundation and Weald has policies and practice embedded in a whole-school approach to meet this need.

Therefore, this policy should be read alongside: School policies on Behaviour, Child Protection, PHSCE, Equalities, SEND, Anti-bullying, Attendance, Admissions, Curriculum and the School Improvement Plan.

There is, however, compelling evidence that reliance on a supportive whole-school approach is not enough on its own. Children in care may be overlooked without specific policies and practices to highlight their needs.

The educational achievement of Children in care in general remains unacceptably low. That is why the Children Act 2004 (Section 52) places a duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of these students and provide access to the Pupil Premium Plus Grant.

To ensure that Weald meets the educational, social and emotional needs of children in care the school will:

1. Designate a nominated teacher and Governor for children in care to be an advocate for these students within school, providing an opportunity for their views to be heard and their feelings made known.
2. Maintain a current list of children in care including contact information and change of care status and ensure the electronic data concerning children in care is correct. Our school aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) as set out in the Data Protection Bill, and the School's Data Protection Policy published in the Policy Section of the website: [www.wealdofkent.kent.sch.uk](http://www.wealdofkent.kent.sch.uk)
3. Closely monitor the progress and attendance of children in care and provide suitable interventions if necessary, having regard to the outcomes from Every Child Matters.
4. Ensure each children in care has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that reflects the student's achievements and targets.
5. Work in partnership with all professionals, parents and carers of children in care.
6. Attend and contribute to children in care reviews as required.
7. Keep Governors informed in a yearly report on the achievement of children in public care so they are able to fulfil their duties to these students. To include:
  - a. The number of children in care on the school's roll (if any).
  - b. Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
  - c. Their end of year attainment, levels, grades, GCSE results, and other qualifications achieved, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.

- d. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any) for children in care pupils.
  - e. The destinations of children in care pupils who leave the school.
  - f. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
8. Ensure top priority for looked after children in the school's admission policy (Section 106 of the Education Act 2005).
  9. If appropriate, seek to address behavioural issues for looked after children to avoid exclusion.
  10. Ensure the designated teacher has training for their role and keeps all staff informed on issues concerning children in care.
  11. Liaise with other schools and educational providers to facilitate the effective transfer of students, recognising that for some I-ACS change of care placement will result in school transfer during the school year.
  12. Communicate high expectations and celebrate the achievements of our children in care.
  13. Work closely with the Virtual School Kent and Kent Children's Social Services to ensure adequate provision.

**Trustees**

The Trustee group with special responsibility for children in care in the school is the Quality of Care Committee.

**Designate Teacher**

The named nominated teacher with special responsibility for children in care in the school is the Director of Inclusion, supported by the Family Liaison Managers.

Author:	Jake Gladman	Reviewed:	November 2021
Link Trustees:	Quality of Care Committee	Next Review Date:	October 2022
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