



## NIGHTINGALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### THE EDUCATION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY

#### Introduction

Nightingale Primary School recognises that, in partnership with Hampshire County Council as Corporate Parents, we have a shared and specific responsibility to safeguard and promote the education, wellbeing and achievement of Looked After Children (LAC). We are committed to ensuring that Looked After Children are supported to thrive academically, socially and emotionally, and that their individual needs are understood, prioritised and met.

#### Aims

At Nightingale Primary School, we aim to:

- Provide a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment where education is highly valued and the abilities, talents and potential of all children are recognised and developed.
- Ensure Looked After Children are supported to access all opportunities to achieve, enjoy learning and make good progress.
- Fulfil our responsibilities as Corporate Parents by consistently asking: "Would this be good enough for my child?"

#### In Pursuit of This Policy, the School Will:

- Appoint a **Designated Teacher for Looked After Children** who will act as an advocate and coordinate appropriate support.
- Nominate a **School Governor** with specific responsibility for Looked After Children to ensure their needs are considered at a strategic level and to support the work of the Designated Teacher.
- Ensure the Designated Teacher is given sufficient time, resources and access to relevant training to fulfil their role effectively.

#### Role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

The Designated Teacher will:

- Maintain an up-to-date and confidential record of all Looked After Children on the school roll, including:
  - Legal status (care order or accommodated)
  - Type of placement (e.g. foster care, respite, residential)
  - Social worker details and contact information
  - Daily contact details (parent, carer or key worker)
  - SEN status and relevant plans
  - Child protection information, where appropriate
  - Baseline assessments, attainment data and progress information
  - Attendance and exclusion records
- Ensure that each Looked After Child has a high-quality **Personal Education Plan (PEP)** that is regularly reviewed and aligned with their Care Plan and, where appropriate, other school-based plans (e.g. Pupil Passport, Transition Plan, Pastoral Support Programme).
- Attend Children's Services Reviews or provide written reports as required to promote stability, continuity and positive educational outcomes.
- Liaise regularly with the **Virtual School for Looked After Children** to monitor attainment, progress and attendance.
- Support smooth and timely transitions when a child joins or leaves the school by ensuring that all relevant information is shared promptly and securely.
- Identify Looked After Children who may be underachieving and ensure that early and effective interventions are put in place in line with school policy.
- Raise staff awareness of the needs of Looked After Children and promote appropriate training where necessary.
- Ensure Looked After Children have equal access to pastoral and wellbeing support and that their views are listened to and considered in decisions that affect them.
- Keep up to date with current legislation, statutory guidance and best practice relating to Looked After Children, advising the Headteacher and Governing Body as appropriate.
- Provide an annual report to the Governing Body on the progress, attainment and wellbeing of Looked After Children (maintaining confidentiality at all times).

### **Role of Governors and Staff**

All governors and staff at Nightingale Primary School will:

- Work in partnership with the local authority to support its statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Looked After Children.
- Maintain high expectations and a commitment to inclusion, equality and safeguarding for all Looked After Children.

### **Hampshire County Council Mission Statement**

*Making Hampshire a better place for children and young people, where all of them - including those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged - have the best possible start in*

*life and are supported by the whole community to reach their potential, whatever it takes.*

**Date of Policy Approval:** Spring 2025

**Date of Next Review:** Spring 2028