



Overarching Children in Care Policy

Date First Published	September 2018
Version	3
Last approved	October 2024
Review Cycle	Annual
Review Date	November 2025

“Learning together, to be the best we can be”

1. Scope

- 1.1. This overarching Children in Care (CiC) policy has been developed and published to outline the Nexus Multi Academy Trust commitment to a best practice approach in ensuring the best possible support for children in care and previously children in care
- 1.2. To promote the educational achievement and welfare of Nexus children in care and previously children in care.
- 1.3. Our pupils' welfare is our paramount concern. Trust Governance will ensure that an academy within Nexus will safeguard and promote the welfare of children in care and work together with other agencies to ensure that the academy has adequate arrangements to identify, assess and support them.

2. Ethos

- 2.1. We believe that all our academies should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that ent

3.2. Under the Children Act 1989, a child is 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she is in their care

7. Allocation of Resources

- 7.1. The Trust Board, via the Chief Executive Officer, will ensure that the academy allocates resources to support appropriate provision for children in care and previously children in care, meeting the objectives set out in this policy. Schools will work in partnership with Local Authority Virtual Schools for looked after children and other Virtual Schools for students who are from other Local Authorities, to ensure that children in care receive the full range of support to which they are entitled to enable them to make progress and achieve.

8. Record keeping

- 8.1. The Designated Teacher knows all the looked after children in the academy and has access to their relevant contact details including parents, carers, Local Authority Virtual Schools specialist staff, teacher/support worker and social worker. The status of looked after children is identified within the school's information systems so that information is readily available to all classroom teachers and relevant associate staff. Children in care or previously children in care are identified as a vulnerable group when tracking, monitoring and reporting on attainment and progress.

9. Monitoring progress

- 9.1. Each academy assesses each looked after student's attainment on entry to ensure continuity of learning. The social worker for the looked after child initiates a Personal Education Plan (PEP) within 20 days of the student joining the school, or of entering care, and ensures that the young person is actively involved. Following the initial PEP, the role of the Designated Teacher is to liaise with other agencies involved to arrange further PEP review meetings and provide copies of the PEP to the social worker, specialist teacher from the Virtual School (or other Virtual School, where the child is from another Local Authority) and other agencies. The allocation and purpose of the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) will be included within the PEP. All PEPs are completed electronically through the online system provided by Welfare Call.

10. Staff Induction, Training and Development

- 10.1. We encourage staff to attend courses that help them to acquire the skills needed to support a children in care or previously been in care.

- 10.2. Part of the Designated Teacher's role is to raise awareness of issues associated with children in care within the academy and disseminate information.

11. Partnership with Parents/Carers and Care Workers

- 11.1. We believe in developing strong partnerships with parents/carers and care workers to enable children in care and previously children in care to achieve their potential to aid their future economic well-being. Review meetings are an opportunity to further this collaboration and partnership working.

12. Confidentiality, Consent and Information Sharing

- 12.1. We recognise that all matters relating to children in care and previously children in care are confidential. The Headteacher, DSL or the Designated Teacher will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need-to-know basis only.

12.2.

13.2 We will ensure that the designated teacher will participate in multi -agency meetings and forums, including IRO and PEP meetings during which, they