

Education of Children in Public Care Policy

St. Thomas More's Catholic Primary School



Approved by the Governing Body

Summer 2025

Next Review:

Summer 2027

Our Mission Statement

As we walk together with Jesus we love, live and learn.

INTRODUCTION

The Governing Body of St. Thomas More's recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of children in public care, when compared with their peers and is committed to implementing principles and practice to address this.

We follow two key measures in order to improve a) multi-agency coordination, and b) educational achievement of children in public care.

They are:

- The appointment of a designated teacher and
- Each child in public care has a Personal Education Plan.

This governing body is committed to ensuring that the designated teacher and whole staff group are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

ROLE and RESPONSIBILITY of the DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher for Children in Public Care should be a senior member of staff with sufficient authority to influence school policy and practice. The named teacher in this school is Mrs J Reid.

The Designated Teacher will:

- be an advocate to all children in this school who are in public care;
- ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need-to-know basis;
- respond to the social worker initiating the Personal Education Plan by ensuring the drawing together of the required information, co-ordinating the plan's delivery and monitoring and reviewing its effectiveness;
- ensure the child, carer/s, social worker and other relevant parties receive early notification of school based meetings, parents evening and other events and that communication, both written and verbal, remains regular and positive;
- provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- coordinate support for individual children in school, monitor educational progress and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;

- inform the responsible social worker of any major decisions affecting the child;
- inform the responsible social worker when a child in public care is absent from school without notification;
- inform the carer/social worker and the LA of any fixed term or permanent exclusions;
- promote the involvement of children in public care in school clubs and extracurricular activities;
- ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and governors;
- attend relevant training and cascade to school staff, where appropriate.

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES of ALL STAFF

The school staff will:

- ensure any child in public care is sensitively supported and that confidentiality is maintained;
- be familiar with *Guidance on Children and Young People in Public Care* and have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievements of children in public care;
- respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of Personal Education Plans and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- contribute to the designated teacher's requests for information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate;
- provide a supportive climate in school, enabling children in public care to achieve stability.

THE ROLE and RESPONSIBILITY of the GOVERNING BODY

The governing body will:

- ensure there is a named Designated Teacher for children in public care and that s/he is enabled to carry out his/her responsibilities in relation to children in public care;
- support the Headteacher, Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring the needs of children in public care are met;
- nominate a governor who links with the Designated Teacher and who reports to the governing body on an annual basis:
 - the number of children in public care in the school;
 - the educational attainment as a discrete group, compared with that of other pupils;
 - the attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;
 - any fixed term/permanent exclusions;
- the named governor should be satisfied that the schools policies and procedures ensure that children in public care have equal access to :
 - the curriculum;
 - public examinations;
 - extra curricular activities;
 - additional educational support.