



Registered Charity # 1203754

Looked After Children

Introduction

Houghton and Wyton Pre-school is committed to supporting Looked After Children (LAC) by providing a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment. This policy outlines how the setting meets the needs of children in public care through individualised support and collaboration with professionals.

Aim

To provide high-quality care and education to Looked After Children, promoting emotional well-being, secure attachments, and their overall development.

Identification

A Looked After Child is defined as a child in public care who is placed:

- With foster carers
- In a residential home
- With parents or other relatives under local authority supervision

Services Provided to Looked After Children

1. Two-Year-Olds

- Funded places are offered to Looked After Children aged two, usually for a minimum of three months
- If a child is already attending and has a secure attachment with their key person, the place is maintained for continuity

2. Three- and Four-Year-Olds

- Funded places are offered for children aged three and four, usually for a minimum of six weeks
- If a child becomes looked after while already attending the setting, and is placed locally, their place continues uninterrupted

Additional Support for Looked After Children

1. Liaison with Agencies and Professionals

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the child's key person work closely with social workers and other agencies
- Relevant information is shared securely and sensitively to ensure the child's needs are fully understood and met

2. Planning and Reviews

- A multi-agency meeting is held at the start of the placement to plan support and gather relevant information
- A Personal Education Plan (PEP) will be completed within 10 days for children aged 3 and over. This is typically led by the Virtual School or Social Worker, with input from the setting.
- A care plan is developed and reviewed:
 - After 2 weeks
 - After 6 weeks
 - After 3 months
 - Then every 3 to 6 months thereafter



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3. Ongoing Contact with Social Workers

- Regular contact is maintained with the child's social worker
- The setting contributes to the annual review of the PEP and attends any necessary planning meetings

Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees, or sooner if significant changes occur in legislation, practice, or a child's needs require it.

Legislation and Guidance

This policy aligns with the following:

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Equality Act 2010
- Statutory Framework for the EYFS (2023)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)
- The Education Act 2002
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked-After Children (DfE, 2015)
- Promoting the Education of Looked-After and Previously Looked-After Children (DfE, 2018)

Acknowledgment

All staff, trustees, volunteers, parents, and carers are required to read and understand this policy. By doing so, they commit to following the outlined procedures and supporting the specific needs of Looked After Children with care and professionalism.