



# Denver VC Primary School

## Children in Care/Previously Children in Care Policy

### Introduction

As a church school, our values are based on Christian principles, and we have an ethos of hard work and mutual respect. **Our shared Christian vision is:**

**To seek to discover and celebrate whatever is good in each individual.**

**Discover – Value - Celebrate - Praise**



*Matthew 5:16*

**We aim to** develop the whole school community, promoting the academic, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and aesthetic aspects of the individual.

This is the starting point of all our policy writing so that we can encourage all members of our community to 'Let their light shine' surrounded by a safe, enabling and encouraging environment.

<b>Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-</b>	<b>Denver V. C. Primary School</b>
<b>On:-</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>
<b>Chair of Governors:-</b>	<b>Carole Reich</b>
<b>Last updated:-</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>

## **Statement of Intent**

At Denver VC Primary School, we recognise that 'Children in Care' (CiC) and 'Children Previously in Care' may have very specific needs and may be coping with trauma, abuse or rejection, and are likely to experience personal distress and uncertainty. Educational achievement and subsequent life chances for CiC and Previously CiC are of real concern. Children who are looked after require special treatment and additional attention in order to improve their situation. Denver VC Primary School endeavours to provide positive experiences and offer stability, safety, and individual care and attention, for all our children. With this in mind, we aim to:

- Encourage children to reach their potential and to make good progress in relation to their academic, social and emotional development
- Ensure that children enjoy high quality teaching and a curriculum which meets their needs and the requirements of legislation
- Plan support for CiC realistically and using the schools resources efficiently in order to ensure their needs are met.

## **Legal Framework**

This policy has due regard to legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children Act 1989
- The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- DfE (2018) 'Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked after children'
- DfE (2017) 'Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Admissions Arrangements
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Equalities Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy/SEN Information Report

## **Definitions**

CiC are defined as:

- Children or young people who are the subject of a Care Order or Interim Care Order under the Children Act 1989.
- Children who are placed in foster care, children's residential homes, with relatives or friends, in semi-independent or supported independent accommodation.

- Children subject to a Care or Interim Care Order whilst placed with a parent, as the LA has parental responsibility.
- Children who are not subject to an order, but are accommodated by the LA under an agreement with their parents.

Previously CiC are defined as:

- Children no longer looked after by an LA in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order.
- Children who were adopted outside England and Wales from 'state care' (care that is provided by a public authority, religious organisation, or other organisation whose main purpose is to benefit society).

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school has a coherent policy for CiC and Previously CiC.
- Reviewing the school's policies and procedures in conjunction with legislation and statutory guidance.
- Ensuring the designated teacher for CiC and Previously CiC has received the appropriate training.
- Ensuring CiC and Previously CiC have equal access to all areas of the curriculum and that reasonable adjustments are made, if necessary.
- Evaluating the progress of CiC through reports, discussion or meeting with the designated teacher. Due to small cohort sizes this may vary to ensure individual children cannot be identified

### **The Designated Teacher for CiC and Previously CiC is responsible for:**

- Building relationships with health, education and social care partners and other partners.
- Promoting the educational achievement of CiC and Previously CiC at the school.
- Acting as the main contact.
- Promoting a culture of high expectations and aspirations.
- Ensuring CiC are involved in setting their own targets.
- Advising staff on teaching strategies for CiC.
- Ensuring that the needs of CiC are prioritised for support.
- Leading on how the child's personal education plan PEP is developed and used in school to ensure the child's progress towards targets is monitored.
- Liaising with the SENDCo to ensure all pupil needs are met.
- Working with the Virtual School and social worker to develop and implement their PEP.
- Working with the headteacher to submit an annual report to the governors, which details the progress of all CiC and Previously CiC.

**Staff are responsible for:**

- Being aware of CiC and Previously CiC in their classes and providing them with support and encouragement.
- Preserving confidentiality, where appropriate, and showing sensitivity and understanding.
- Being vigilant for any signs of bullying towards CiC and Previously CiC.
- Promoting the self-esteem and wellbeing of CiC and Previously CiC.

**Personal education plans (PEPs)**

- All CiC must have a care plan; PEPs are an integral part of this care plan.
- The PEP is an evolving record of what needs to happen for a pupil to enable them to make the expected progress and fulfil their potential.
- The PEP will reflect the importance of a personalised approach to learning which meets the identified educational needs of the child.
- The school will work with other professionals and the child's carers to use the PEP to support the child's educational needs, raise the child's aspirations and improve their life chances.
- All relevant bodies, such as the LA, the designated teacher and carers, will involve the child in the PEP process at all stages.
- The PEP will address the pupil's full range of education and development needs.

**Working with agencies and the Virtual School**

- The school will work with the Virtual School, social worker and other relevant agencies to monitor any arrangements in place so that actions and activities recorded in the child's PEP are implemented without delay.
- Ensure that copies of all relevant reports are forwarded to the CiC social workers, in addition to carers. The school will work with other agencies to exchange information such as changes in circumstances, exclusions or attendance issues.
- Behaviour management strategies will be agreed between the Virtual School and the school, to ensure challenging behaviour is managed in the most effective way for that individual child.
- The designated teacher for CiC and Previously CiC will communicate with the Virtual School and child's social worker to facilitate the completion of the PEP and agree on how pupil premium plus (PP+) can be used effectively to accommodate the child's educational attainment and progress.
- PP+ for Previously CiC will be allocated directly to, and managed by, the school and will work with the Virtual School to manage allocation of PP+ for the benefit of our cohort of CiC, or Previously CiC, and according to their needs.
- The designated teacher will ensure consistent and strong communication with the Virtual School regarding LAC who are absent without authorisation.

**Training**

- The designated teacher and other school staff involved in the education of CiC and previously CiC have received the appropriate training.

### **Confidentiality**

Information on CiC will be shared with school staff on a “need to know basis”. The designated teacher will discuss what information is shared with which school staff at the PEP meeting. Once this has been agreed with the social worker, carer, young person, and other parties, complete confidentiality is to be maintained.

### **Pupil mental health**

CiC and Previously CiC are more likely to experience the challenge of social, emotional and mental health issues which can impact their behaviour and education. Designated teachers will have awareness, training and skills regarding a child’s needs and how to support them in relation to behaviour management and mental health. The designated teacher will work with the Virtual School to ensure the school is able to identify signs of potential mental health issues, understand the impact issues can have on CiC and Previously CiC, and knows how to access further assessment and support, where necessary.

### **Exclusions**

Past experiences of CiC and Previously CiC will be considered when designing and implementing the school’s behaviour policy. The school will have regard to the DfE’s statutory guidance ‘Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England’ and, as far as possible, avoid excluding any CiC. Where the school has concerns about a child’s behaviour, the Virtual School will be informed at the earliest opportunity. Exclusions will only be considered as a last resort; where exclusion is considered, the school will work with the Virtual School, and others, to consider what additional support can be provided to prevent exclusion, and any additional arrangements that can be made to support the pupil’s education in the event of exclusion.

### **Pupils with SEND**

Support for CiC with SEND, who do not need an EHC plan, will be covered as part of the child’s PEP and care plan reviews. The SENDCo, class teacher, designated teacher and specialists will involve parents/carers when considering interventions to support their child’s progress. If appropriate, the Virtual School will be invited to comment on proposed SEND provision for Previously CiC.