

## Looked After Children Policy

Children and young people become 'Looked After' either if they have been taken into Care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement). Most Looked After Children (LAC) will be living in foster homes but a smaller number may be in a children's home, living with a relative or even be placed back at home with their natural parent(s).

### ***Aim***

We aim to provide quality education for every child, based on equality of opportunity, access and outcomes. Heath Barn Pre-school recognises that, nationally, there is considerable educational underachievement of Looked After Children, when compared with their peers, and is committed to implementing the principles and practice, as outlined in DfEE Circular 0269/2000 and DfEE/DOH Guidance 2000 and the Children Act (2004). The Children Act places a duty to safeguard looked after children, to promote their educational achievements and to ensure that they are able to "achieve to and reach their full potential". The Guidance recognises the collective responsibility of local authorities and Pre-schools to achieve good parenting and sets out six principles:

- Prioritising education.
- Having high expectations.
- Inclusion – changing and challenging attitudes.
- Achieving continuity and stability.
- Early intervention – priority action.
- Listening to children.

The Guidance also introduced two key measures:

- To ensure designated Looked After Child co-ordinators are nominated in every setting.
- To ensure Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are in place for all Looked After Children.

### ***In order to meet these aims, we will;***

Appoint a member of staff to be the LAC Co-ordinator and ensure that they receive the relevant training (currently Emma Firoozmand)

- Ensure a smooth and welcoming induction for the child and carer/s (and parent/s where possible). Note any specific requirements, including care status.
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed (within 20 days of joining Heath Barn Preschool). This should be prepared with the child and the carer/s (and parent/s if possible), in liaison with the social worker and other relevant

support workers/agencies. Where appropriate, the PEP should take account of any Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Pastoral Support Plan (PSP), Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP), career plan or any other relevant plans. The PEP should inform and be reviewed.

- Ensure that each Looked After Child has an identified member of staff that they can talk to.
- Co-ordinate support for the child in the Pre-school and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary.
- Ensure all staff and the Chair to the Management Committee receive relevant information and training.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis.
- Provide written information to assist planning or review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible.
- Seek urgent meetings with relevant parties where the child is experiencing difficulties and/or is in danger of being excluded.
- As with all children, we will have high aspirations and celebrate the educational and personal achievement of Looked After Children.