



CHILDREN IN CARE AND PREVIOUSLY IN CARE POLICY

MIDDLEWICH HIGH SCHOOL

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1 Background

The Sir John Brunner Foundation is a multi-academy trust created under the provisions of the Academies Act 2010. The Foundation is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales with company number 11227336. It is an exempt charity and its Directors are also charity trustees.

Middlewich High School is a member of The Sir John Brunner Foundation and will fulfil their statutory duty for Children in Care and Previously in Care in accordance with this policy and ensure that its contents are shared with all relevant stakeholders.

2 Legislation and Statutory Guidance

The principal legislation to which this policy relates is:

- 2.1 The Children Act 1989, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- 2.2 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, as amended.

This Policy has been written in accordance with:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

3 Definitions

- 3.1 Children in Care are children in public care and are either –
 - Subject to a Care Order or Interim Care Order, living either at home or away from home. The Local Authority has parental authority which it then shares with the parents in a prescribed way.
 - Accommodated with friends or relatives, foster care or residential homes – parents retain full parental responsibility.

- Remanded into care.
- 3.2 A private agreement is not public care - when a child lives with friends or relatives by private arrangement; these children are not designated as Children in Care.

4 Aims

- 4.1 To ensure that all Children in Care and Previously Children in Care will be encouraged to prosper and flourish, that is to:
- Stay safe
 - Be healthy
 - Enjoy and achieve
 - Be involved
 - Acquire economic well-being

within an academy environment where they develop their comprehension and command of knowledge and skills, underpinned by The Academy's values.

5 Rationale

- 5.1 The national outcomes for Children in Care in terms of educational achievement and subsequent life chances are of real concern.
- 5.2 It follows that children and young people who are in care need specialised treatment and positive discrimination in their favour if this situation is to be improved.
- 5.3 For Children in Care, Middlewich High School aims to provide positive experiences and to offer stability, safety, continuity, and individual care and attention.

6 Roles and Responsibilities

- 6.1 The Governing Body, Head Teacher, Senior Leadership Team and Designated Teacher will fulfil their duties in accordance with the legislation and statutory education guidance related to Children in Care and Previously in Care, as listed in Section 2 of this policy.

7 Previous Children in Care

- 7.1 Academies and local authorities have a duty, required by the Department of Education, to promote education, progress and achievement for Previously Children in Care. These are children who may have been adopted, placed on special guardianship orders or a child arrangement order from care. These duties recognise that children who have previously been in care may well require additional support as a result of their life experiences prior to being adopted or placed in permanent families.
- 7.2 Pupil Premium is available to support progress and achievement for Previously Children in Care by those parents who self-declare that they have a Previously Looked After Child. The use of Pupil Premium is monitored to track progress and attainment. As with Children in Care, the Designated Teacher should provide advice, support and information to parents and guardians.

8 Pupil Premium Plus

- 8.1 Pupil Premium Plus is a government grant available to support and promote the education of children and young people in care. It is available for all school aged children from Reception to Year 11. Pupil Premium Plus must be used to improve outcomes and raise attainment and will only be provided if a high-quality Personal Education Plan (PEP) clearly identifies educational and other measurable targets for improvement for the young person.
- 8.2 The Virtual School Head Teacher has overall responsibility for making sure there are effective arrangements in place for allocating Pupil Premium Plus.

9 Monitoring Arrangements

- 9.1 This policy, the information included, and its implementation will be monitored by the Governing Body and reviewed annually.