

Safeguarding children

1.3 Children in Care (looked after children)

Policy statement for St Joseph's Out of School Club

St Joseph's Out of School Club is committed to providing quality provision based on equality of opportunity for all children and their families. All staff are committed to doing all they can to enable Children in Care to achieve and reach their full potential.

Definition: A child who has been in care of their local authority for a continuous period of more than 24 hours, in circumstances set out in sections 20 and 21 of the Children Act 1989, or is placed in the care of a local authority by the virtue of an order made under part IV of the Act, is known as a looked after child. Looked after children are also often referred to as children in care, a term which many children and young people prefer¹.

We recognise that children in care have often experienced traumatic situations; physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect. However, we also recognise that not all children in care have experienced abuse and that there are a range of reasons for children to be taken in to the care of the local authority. Whatever the reason, a child's separation from their home and family signifies a disruption in their lives that has impact on their emotional wellbeing.

In our setting, we place emphasis on promoting *children's right to be strong, resilient and listened to*. Our policy and practice guidelines for Children in care are based on these two important concepts, attachment and resilience. The basis of this is to promote secure attachments in children's lives as the basis for resilience. These aspects of well-being underpin the child's responsiveness to learning and are the basis in developing positive dispositions for learning. For young children to get the most out of educational opportunities they need to be settled enough with their carer to be able to cope with further separation, a new environment and new expectations made upon them.

Principles

- The term 'Children in Care' denotes a child's current legal status; this term is never used to categorise a child as standing out from others. We do not refer to such a child using acronyms such as LAC.

¹ Taken from the Children Act 1989 and courtesy of www.nspcc.org.uk

Version Number	Author	Purpose of change	Date
1.0	NP and HS	Updating policies	23.01.2023