



General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding And Promoting Children's Welfare
The provider must take necessary steps to safe guard and promote the welfare of children

Safeguarding Children **Looked after Children**

Policy

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

Cherry Blossom Nursery and Preschool is committed to providing equality of opportunity to all their children and families. The team is committed to making sure that all looked after children reach their full potential and enjoy all of the experiences that nursery has to offer.

We understand that children who are being looked after have sometimes experienced traumatic times, this could be sexual abuse/physical/neglect - it could also be for reasons that are separate from this but for whatever the reason a child's separation from loved ones is almost definitely going to impact on their young lives and their emotional well-being.

At Cherry Blossom Nursery and Preschool we encourage children to be confident, independent and strong. We help them to become settled, to build attachments and to trust. We want them to enjoy nursery, to take advantage of the social and emotional skills it offers and to build a positive self image.

Principles

- The term 'looked after child' refers to a child's legal status - this term however is never used to set a child apart from others.
- We do offer places to children who are in care but they must be showing secure attachments to their carers.
- We would always offer a child the chance to stay and play with the carer - for a child that is settling in to new foster care or for a child that is in care only temporary.
- Where a child who normally attends our nursery is taken into care we will almost certainly continue the nursery placement.

Procedures

- The named person for child protection is also the designated person for LAC.
- Each child attending Birkdale Nursery has a key person - this is no different for the LAC - the key person however would be informed and supported in order to meet the child's needs.
- The named person and the key person would be expected to liaise with other professionals so that all information is shared and the best possible care provided.
- Cherry Blossom Nursery and Preschool understands the legal role that the local authority has as the child's corporate parent and that they have the main role in any decisions to be made.
- If necessary a meeting with professionals would be made at the very beginning of the placement, this would be to create a care plan so that the child's needs could be fully addressed and any support put in place. It would be reviewed as suggested by the professionals.
 - The care plan would take account of...
 - The child's emotional needs
 - How behaviour might need to be managed
 - How to support the child's sense of self, identity and sense of belonging
 - The child's social needs, friendships etc
 - The child's interests and abilities
 - Any SEND
 - In addition we would also consider...
 - How information would be shared - GDPR compliant
 - What contact the child would be having with birth parents
 - What written reporting was necessary
 - The long term plan

The settling-in process would take place in the same way as for other children but it may take longer and it is very important that the child had formed a strong relationship with the key person before being left.

Continual observations would be noted throughout and added to the child's Learning Story which is in line with the EYFS areas of learning.

Regular contact would be maintained on a daily basis as with other children.

All of the care would be handled sensitively, confidentially and with understanding. Good communication would be followed throughout.

Date: 01/10/2025

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