

Connaught School for Girls



CHILDREN WITH A SOCIAL WORKER POLICY

Date of Ratification by the Governing Body: **December 2021**

Date of Review: **December 2024**



DEFINITION

The cohort of children who have been assessed as being in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and currently have a social worker and those who have previously had a social worker.

For ease, the term 'children with a social worker' will be used to refer to this group of children throughout this document. It covers all children who were assessed as needing a social worker at any time due to safeguarding and/or welfare reasons, which includes all those subject to a Child in Need plan or a Child Protection plan. Hereafter referred to as 'Children with a Social Worker'

IN PURSUIT OF THIS POLICY WE WILL

- Nominate a Designated Person for children with a social worker who will act as their advocate, target support and champion them in aspects of school life. The Designated Person for children with a social worker is Rachel Hlckes (Assistant Headteacher).
- Nominate a school governor to ensure that the needs of children with a social worker in the school are taken into account at a school management level and to support the Designated Person in carrying out their duties. The nominated school governor is Hannah Wood (Chair).
- Support the Designated Person in carrying out their role by making time available and ensuring that they engage with training on children with a social worker, Virtual School forums and network meetings.
- Abide by the admissions code in all matters relating to the admission of children with a social worker.

As a school, we keep the following in mind:

- Self esteem
- Gaps in school experience
- Social/emotional/cognitive development
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Making and maintaining friendships
- Attachment
- Confidentiality and discretion



ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- Identify a Nominated Governor for children with a social worker.
- Ensure that all governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of children with a social worker. Including recent government guidance: Promoting the Education of Children with a Social Worker (2021):
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994028/Promoting_the_education_of_children_with_a_social_worker.pdf
- Ensure the school has an overview of the needs of all its children with a social worker.
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of children with a social worker.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.

This Governing Body will:

- Monitor the academic progress of children with a social worker, through an annual report from the Head Teacher.
- Work to prevent exclusions and reduce time out of school, by ensuring the school implements policies, practices and procedures to ensure children with a social worker achieve and enjoy their time at the school.
- Ensure the school has a designated person for children with a social worker and that they are enabled and supported, along with the Head Teacher and other staff, to carry out their responsibilities as below
- Receive a report each year setting out:
 - The number of children with a social worker on roll (if any) and dates of joining and/or leaving.
 - Children with a social worker receiving pupil premium.
 - Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils
 - Their results in SATs, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
 - The number and duration of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any) as a discrete group, compared to other pupils.
 - The destination of pupils who leave the school
 - The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.
- Ensure systems are in place to share the above annual report in line with current statutory requirements.
- Share the report with the Virtual School.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Person will be responsible for ensuring all staff are briefed on the regulations and practice outlined in this policy.

The Designated Person will:



- Maintain an up to date record of all children with a social worker who are on the school roll. This will include:
 - Status i.e. Child in Need, Child Protection or Previous CIN or CP.
 - Name of Social Worker, area office, telephone number.
 - Daily contact and numbers e.g. name of parent.
 - SEND Code of Practice
 - Baseline information and all test results.
 - Attendance figures
 - Exclusions

- Complete the termly 'Children with a Social Worker Tracking' document and send to the Virtual School as requested. Request up to date round robins from teaching staff to inform tracking.

- Contribute to reviews and meetings on each child/young person as appropriate.

- Liaise with the Virtual School on a regular basis.

- Ensure that if/when the child transfers school all relevant information is forwarded to the receiving school as a matter of priority.

- Ensure that any underachieving child with a social worker is identified and prioritised for school based interventions

- Share information about children with a social worker appropriately and sensitively with staff.

- Listen to children with a social worker and champion them within the school community.

- Keep the school up-to-date with current, relevant legislation and its implications.

- Report to the Governing body annually on the performance of all children with a social worker on the school roll.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL STAFF

All our staff will:

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of children with a social worker, as for all pupils.
- Maintain confidentiality and ensure that children with a social worker are supported sensitively.
- Respond promptly to the designated teacher's requests for information.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that may affect the learning of children with a social worker.



Information on children with a social worker will be shared with school staff on a “need to know” basis. All staff have a clear understanding of confidentiality and issues that children with a social worker may have.

The Designated Person will discuss what information is shared with which school staff at meetings. This has been agreed with the social worker, carer, young person, and other parties, complete confidentiality is to be maintained.

Relevant legislation

- The Children Act 1989, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
- ‘Promoting the Education of Children with a Social Worker’ (2021)
- ‘Improving Educational Outcomes of Children in Need of Help and Protection’ (2018).