



Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO

Education of children who have or have had a social worker policy

School Lane, Thriplow, Royston, Herts, SG8 7RH

CIO Charity Number 1162435

Tel: 01763 208055 Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com Web: www.ladybird-playgroup.co.uk

This policy was last updated in August 2026 and is reviewed annually.

Education of children who have or have had a social worker policy.

Statement of intent

Children who have or have had a social worker generally experience lower educational attainment compared to their peers. All children that attend Ladybird playgroup who have or have had a social worker will receive high quality education, which is inspiring and challenging, resulting in the best possible outcomes, thus closing the educational gap between these children and those who have not been known to social care. Every child who has or has had a social worker will have a positive educational experience which promotes social and emotional learning and wellbeing alongside academic success to ensure readiness for school. Ladybird Playgroup will meet the needs of children who have or have had a social worker through effective liaison and integrated work with all key partners including the relevant Virtual School

Aims

Ladybird Playgroup will champion the individual needs of all children who have or have had a social worker enabling them to learn, aspire, thrive and achieve their maximum potential.

This will be achieved by:

- Placing the highest priority on their education
- Promoting regular attendance
- Having high expectations and aspirations
- Promoting access and inclusion in all areas of playgroup life
- Promoting stability and continuity
- Supporting early intervention



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- Valuing the voice of the child
- Promoting social, emotional and mental health and well-being
- Working in partnership with parents, guardians, carers, social workers and other professionals

Definitions

Under the Children Act 1989, Children in Care (CiC) are looked after by a Local Authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. This can happen under a number of arrangements:

- a) Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20).
- b) Children who are the subject of a Care Order (section 31) or Interim Care Order (section 38).
- c) Children who are subject to emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46)
- d) Children who are compulsorily accommodated - this includes children remanded to the Local Authority or subject to a criminal justice Supervision Order with a residence requirement (section 21).

Children who have previously been in care (CPiC) include those children that are no longer in care through:

- a) Adoption
- b) A Special Guardianship Order (SGO)
- c) A Child Arrangement Order (CAO)

Children with a social worker (CWSW) refers to children who have been assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and currently have a social



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worker, and those who have had a social worker in the past 6 years owing to safeguarding or welfare reasons.

Collectively, these three groups are referred to as children who have or have had a social worker. Children in Care and Previously in Care are collectively referred to as care experienced.

Procedure

Named staff and trustee members who have responsibility in relation to children who have or have had a social worker:

- Our designated person for children in care is Sharon McGinty.
- Our designated person for children previously in care is Sharon McGinty.
- Our designated safeguarding lead is Sharon McGinty.
- Our lead practitioner is Sharon McGinty.
- Our Chair of Trustees of Ladybird playgroup Thriplow CIO is Nadia De Wouters
- Named committee member for CiC and CPiC Is Jayne Pashley
- When the setting is open, but the designated person is not on site, a suitably trained deputy is available at all times for staff to discuss safeguarding concerns

Roles and Responsibilities

The lead practitioner and charity trustees:

We, the Lead Practitioner and Trustees of Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO, are committed to promoting improved educational life chances for all children who have or have had a social worker. We will ensure that the designated person for Children



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in Care has appropriate knowledge, relevant training, sufficient time and experience to fulfil this statutory role.

A named Trustee member will be nominated to link with the Designated person and all members will be fully aware of the statutory guidance for Children in Care and Previously in Care and also the non-statutory guidance on promoting the education of children with a social worker.

The lead Practitioner and nominated committee member will monitor practice of the team. This will ensure that all children who have or have had a social worker make accelerated and rapid progress and that all the setting staff have the relevant skills, knowledge and understanding to enable this.

Regular communication between the lead practitioner and trustee members will include:

- The number of children who have or have had a social worker on roll (CiC, CPIC, CWSW)
- Compliance and quality of individual children's Personal Education Plans (for Children in Care)
- The use and impact of the Pupil Premium Plus grant in raising educational outcomes (for Children in Care and Previously in Care).
- Comparative data between peers and children who have or have had a social worker regarding: Attendance and exclusion; Progress and attainment data; Destinations for children that leave Ladybird Playgroup

The Designated person for Children in Care and children previously in care:

The designated person will:

- Have a full understanding of relevant statutory guidance and attend relevant training as required
- Have a lead responsibility in promoting and raising the educational achievement of every care experienced child within the setting.



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- Ensure every child in care has a high quality up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP) and regularly monitor the progress towards desirable outcomes
- Monitor the effective spend of the pupil premium plus grant to maximise educational outcomes for Children in Care and Previously in Care
- Ensure the social, emotional, mental health and well-being needs of care experienced children are recognised and prioritised
- Take the lead responsibility for helping all the settings staff to understand the factors that can affect care experienced children learn and achieve, any barriers they might face and the impact of trauma and poor attachments
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals in relation to care experienced children
- Share confidential and personal information on a need-to-know basis only
- Actively encourage and promote home learning and extra-curricular activities
- Recognise the impact of transition and plan accordingly

The Designated Safeguarding Lead

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead of Ladybird Playgroup will:

- Have a full understanding of relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance and attend relevant training as required.
- Ensure the social, emotional, mental health and well-being needs of children known to a social worker are recognised and prioritised.
- Alongside the Designated person, ensure all school staff understand the factors that can affect how children known to a social worker learn and achieve, any barriers they might face and the impact of trauma and poor attachments.
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and individuals in relation to children known to a social worker.
- Share confidential and personal information on a need-to-know basis only.



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- Actively encourage and promote home learning and extra-curricular activities.
- Recognise the impact of transition and plan accordingly

Ladybird Playgroup staff

Our staff will ensure their part in embedding an 'inclusive culture' which is attachment-aware and trauma informed. This may include attending training, referring to the Designated person for advice and sharing accurate information and data with the Designated person. Our staff will hold high expectations of, and aspirations for, children who have or have had a social worker.

Staff Development and Training

The lead practitioner and nominated trustee member will ensure that Designated Person and Designated Safeguarding Lead are trained for the role when they come to post and will continue to support them to access ongoing professional development pertinent to the role.

All staff are encouraged to participate in training that will enable them to meet the needs of children who have or have had a social worker more effectively and the Designated person will raise awareness of the circumstances and lived experiences for these children at a whole setting level.

Admissions

The importance of a thorough and planned transition is recognised, and this may include:

- Transition meetings between settings
- The swift transfer of information between settings
- Additional playgroup visits and identification of a key worker and buddy
- Additional support and planning for care-experienced children at times of transition
- Structured activities to 'say goodbye,' in recognition of the impact of broken attachments and loss



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In line with national guidance Ladybird Playgroup prioritises the admission of care-experienced children.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance procedures will reflect the specific needs of children who have or have had a social worker.

Where there is a concern about attendance or punctuality Ladybird Playgroup will speak to the child, carer / parent, social worker and other relevant professionals including the Virtual School where a child is in care.

Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)

Where a care experienced child is allocated pupil premium plus (PP+), it is to be used for the benefit of their educational needs. Ladybird Playgroup will ensure that:

- The allocation of PP+ promotes high aspirations and seeks to secure the best educational outcomes
- The extra funding provided by the PP+ reflects the significant additional barriers faced by Children in Care and Previously in Care
- For Children in Care, the allocation of PP+ will be linked to clear desirable outcomes as identified in the Personal Education Plan (PEP)

Further guidance

Cambridgeshire Virtual School Contact Details:

Cambridgeshire Virtual School - Learn Together (cambslearntogether.co.uk)

01223 699 883

virtualschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Contact details for other Virtual Schools can be obtained from



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Cambridgeshire Virtual School.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow CIO	
Held on (date)	
Signed on <i>behalf</i> of the Ladybird Playgroup Committee	
Role of signatory (e.g. chairperson etc.)	
Signed by Playgroup Leader/Deputy	
Name of Playgroup Leader/Deputy	