



1.3 Looked after children policy

Policy Statement

Little Gillies 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 'looked after children' in their care to achieve and reach their full potential.

Definition of looked after children (LAC)

'children and young people become 'looked after' if they have been taken into care by the local authority, or have been accommodated by the local authority (a voluntary care arrangement)

Most looked after children will be living in foster care, but a smaller number may be in a care home, living with a relative or even placed back home with their natural parents.

We recognise that children who are looked after have often experienced traumatic situations; physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect. However, we also recognise that not all looked after children 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 an impact on their emotional well-being.

At Little Gillies, we place emphasis on promoting children's rights to be strong, resilient and listened to. Our policy and practice guidelines for looked after children 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 of learning and are the basis in developing positive dispositions for learning. For young children to get the most out of their 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 looked after child denotes a child's current legal status; this term is never used to categorise a child as standing out from the other children. We do not refer to such a child using acronyms such as LAC
- We welcome all children to our setting regardless of looked after status. This includes day care sessions, stay and play and funded spaces.



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- Where a child who normally attends Little Gillies is taken into care and is cared for by a local foster carer, we will continue to offer the placement for the child.
- The designated person for looked after children is the safeguarding lead practitioner (SLP)
- Every child is allocated a key person
- The SLP and the key person will liaise with agencies, professionals and practitioners involved with the child and his/her family.
- Ensure appropriate information is shared
- There will be a professionals meeting before the child starts. This will determine the objectives of the placement and draw up a care plan that incorporates the Child's learning needs. The plan is then reviewed when needed

The care plans needs to consider

- The Child's emotional needs and how they are met
- How any emotional issues and problems that are affecting behaviour are met
- the Child's need to be social and form friendships
- The child's interest and abilities and possible learning journey pathway.
- How special needs will be supported

In addition we will also consider

- How information will be shared with multi agencies groups and how it will be recorded and stored
- What contact the child has with their parents. What arrangement is in place for contact? If this at Little Gillies , then when, where and what form of contact
- What written reporting is required
- The settling in process is agreed
- Any concerns about the child during their time at Little Gillies will be documented down.



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- contact with social worker will be maintained through meeting , calls and emails
- Transition to school will be handled sensitively

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Little Gillies

Held on.....

Date to reviewed

Signed on behalf of the provider.....

Name of signatory.....

Role of signatory.....

Reviewed by Sarah Beresford

Date June 2023