Harvey Bears Nursery and Preschool
Looked After Children

Date of last review	September 2026
Signature of registered provider	*C. Hall* Committee Chair

At Harvey Bears Nursery and Preschool, we are committed to providing quality provision for all children and their families. We work together to ensure that looked after children reach their full potential.

Children are considered 'looked after' if they are in care, this includes foster homes or living with a relative.

We recognize that 'looked after children 'may have experienced trauma, including bereavement, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, or neglect. We recognise there are many reasons children are taken into care and understand this leaves a disruption in their lives that has an impact on their wellbeing.

We place emphasis on a looked after child's right to be strong, resilient, and listened to.

Through our keyworker system we aim to give children secure attachments, as the foundation for resilience.

Principles

- We never to refer to a child as a 'looked after child' to anyone outside the setting.
- We do not offer places to 'looked after children' under 2 unless recommended by the local authority.
- We point foster carers of children under two to stay and play sessions in the local area.
- We offer places to looked after children who are funded, providing they have been with the foster carer for over a month and formed a bond with them.
- Where a child already with us is placed into care we continue to offer them a placement.

Procedures

- The keyworker for a 'looked after child' is normally the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Circumstances of the placement will not have any discussions between staff.
- The keyperson consults with all outside agencies involved with the child, and the carer to ensure that we know all necessary information.
- The setting recognises the role of the local authority children's social care teams as the child's corporate parent.
- The setting agrees to notify the child's social worker of any meaningful change in activities or relevant information.
- At the start of the placement an Educational Health and Care Plan will be drawn up involving all relevant parties. This includes.
    1) The child's emotional needs and how they can be fulfilled.
    2) How emotional needs and problems with behaviour to be monitored.
    3) How to encourage their sense of self, culture language, and identity.
    4) Their need for sociability and friendships.
    5) Their interests, abilities, and learning pathways.
    6) How any special educational needs and disabilities are to be maintained.

In addition, the educational health and care plan will include.

1) How the information is discussed with the foster parents and local authority and where it will be recorded and stored.
2) Who the child has contact with and what arrangements are in place for this contact.
3) What written reporting will be required
4) What are the long-term plans, if any, for the child to return home.
5) What contact the setting will be allowed to have with the birth parents
6) Are any adaptations to be made to the settling in process.
7) Observations should be conducted within the first 2 weeks to ensure the child has settled in.
8) Concerns to be expressed to the relevant party as soon as possible.
9) Any concerns about the foster parent's treatment of the child to be reported to the social worker immediately.

Policy Review

These policies and procedures are a working document and can be added to and changed as and when necessary.

This policy will be reviewed annually or when an incident occurs or there are new local or national policies and procedures. The review process will be led by the registered provider and the DSL and include all those working in the setting.