

OUT OF HOME CARE POLICY

PURPOSE

Out of Home Care is a temporary, medium or long-term living arrangement for children and young people who cannot live in their family home.

Schools, Child Protection practitioners and case workers are required to meet their obligations under the Out of Home Care Education Commitment: A Partnering Agreement.

SCOPE

To ensure St Albans Primary School complies with DET policy in supporting students who are part of the Out of Home Care program.

POLICY

Types of Out of Home Care

Foster care: a child is taken into care by a foster carer who has been trained and approved to look after children.

Kinship care: a child is taken into care by a relative or family friend allowing them to remain within the family or local network.

Permanent care: a child is placed into the care of a permanent carer (including foster or kinship carers where it is intended the child will remain in their care until age 18 or beyond) prior to a Permanent care order being made by the Children's Court.

Residential care: a young person is placed into a home staffed by carers.

Children and young people come into Out of Home Care through two main channels:

- After an investigation and removal from the family home by Child Protection
- When a parent or parents cannot care for their child and approach the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or a community service organisation.

The Partnering Agreement and the implementation of this policy aims to ensure that:

- Processes are in place to actively support the educational achievement of every child and young person in out of home care.
- A strongly coordinated approach exists to support the needs of children and young people in out of home care.
- All parties understand each other's roles and responsibilities and work cooperatively.
- Strategies are implemented to improve outcomes related to student enrolment, attendance, achievement, case planning, retention and school completion.
- The school will develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in accordance with the IEP guidelines for every student in OOHC.
- This plan will describe a set of strategies to address the particular educational needs of the child or young person in care.
- A Student Support Group will be established to provide a formal support network at school.

The school will consider the following factors:

- Uninterrupted attendance at school is considered a positive and protective activity.
- A child will benefit from a stable, structured and supportive classroom environment.
- Identifying key concerns for individual children and implementing strategies to maximise the learning potential of every child
- Clear and consistent rules and boundaries assist all children to develop a sense of safety and to control their own behaviours.

FURTHER INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Out of Home Care Education Commitment -

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/health/PartneringAgreement.pdf>

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.

DOCUMENT STATUS

Reviewed	School Council Ratification	Next Review
School Council Meeting	May, 2019	May, 2023