

Looked after children

Procedures

At St Joseph's Pre-School Unit, we identify that:

A 'Looked after Child' is a child in public care, who is placed with foster carers, in a residential home or with parents or other relatives.

At St Joseph's Pre-School Unit, the following services are provided to 'Looked After Children':

Two-year-olds

- A space will be offered to a two-year-old child who is looked after, where the placement in the Pre-School Unit will last a minimum of 3 months.
- Where the child is already in attendance at the Pre-School and has a secure attachment with an existing key person a continuation of the existing place will be offered.

Three- and four-year-olds

- A space will be offered for funded three- and four-year-olds who are looked after, where the placement in the Pre-School will last a minimum of 6 weeks.
- If a child who attends a setting is taken into care and is cared for by a local carer the place will continue to be made available to the child.

Additional Support

- The Designated Safeguarding lead and the child's key person at St Joseph's Pre-School Unit will liaise with agencies and professionals involved with the child, and his or her family, ensuring that appropriate information is gained and shared.
- A meeting of professionals involved with the child may be convened by the Pre-School Manager at the start of a placement. A Personal Education Plan (PEP) for children over 3 years old will be put.
- Following a meeting, a care plan may be required, the care plan will then be reviewed each half term and thereafter each term.
- St Joseph's Pre-School Unit will have regular contact will be maintained with the social worker through planned meetings, which may include a contribution to the PEP which is reviewed annually.