



Children in Care Policy

At Bright Eyes Childcare we believe that all Children in Care should have equitable access to excellent nursery provision and achieve at a similar level to all children. We as a community aim to be champions for Children in Care and take a proactive approach to support their success, recognising that we as a nursery setting have a vital role to play in promoting children and young people's social and emotional development.

Our aims to support Children in Care

- Provide a safe and secure environment, which values education and believes in the abilities and potential of all children.
- Closing the gap - Bring the educational attainments of our Children in Care in line to those of their peers.
- Making sure that they have access to education appropriate to their age and ability through our tailored curriculum.
- Identifying our settings' role to promote and support the learning and development of our Children in Care.
- To provide a designated safeguarding lead for Children in Care who will act as their advocate and coordinate support for them. Liaising with carers and or parents (as appropriate) and working in partnership with social workers on a wide variety of educational and care issues.

All staff, leaders and management are committed to ensuring improved educational life chances for Children in Care by ensuring that the relevant personnel have reasonable support and time to complete tasks and responsibilities. Also, to establish and maintain appropriate reporting and monitoring procedures both within the setting and with other agencies.

Our designated person for CIC are to maintain a register of all Children in Care (this includes children both from in and out of Cornwall). This designated person must participate in appropriate current training and ensure all statutory documents are kept up to date.

This record should include:

- The contact person in the relevant Children in Care Education Support Service (CICISS).
- Status of care - clarify who is allowed to collect
- Type of Placement e.g. foster, respite, residential, adoptive.
- Name of Social Worker, area office, telephone number
- Daily contact and telephone numbers of those who need to be contacted in an emergency or for any other concerns.
- Share Child Protection / disability information if appropriate (if not appropriate to share, indicate the confidential nature of the information)
- Relevant health information
- Baseline information and any other relevant assessments or information.

All children in care will have a trusted key person who is available to listen and support them when needed, staff will be aware of the child's needs. The team are encouraged to be sensitive when information is shared and ensured it is not discussed in front of the child.

All children will receive a baseline assessment within the first 2 weeks of starting at our nursery and then 6 months thereafter, unless requested by social care before.

All key persons are aware of the impact being in care can have on a child, this is to be considered when assessing learning and monitoring behaviour. Also of the issues that may undermine the young person's ability to engage in the learning process including feelings of loss, rejection, isolation, confusion, or low self-esteem.



Terms and meanings:

Section 20 - Cornwall Council's Children's Services can provide accommodation for a child with the parent's voluntary consent, offering support when parents can't cope, but parents can withdraw consent anytime, potentially leading to care orders if needed. It's a temporary, non-forced agreement for a child to stay in care, often used when children are in need, with Cornwall Council managing these arrangements locally

Interim care order - An Interim Care Order (ICO) in Cornwall (and generally) is a temporary court order placing a child in the care of the local authority (Cornwall Council) at the start of care proceedings, granting shared parental responsibility to ensure the child's safety if there are reasonable grounds to believe they face significant harm, outlining a temporary care plan, often lasting until a final hearing.

When Social Services apply for an Interim Care Order, they must have prepared an Interim Care Plan which sets out where the child should live until the final hearing. This will include contact arrangements between the parent and the child. The Interim Care Order, like a Care Order grants Cornwall Parental Responsibility which means they can make decisions about the child's living arrangements and do not need the parent's permission to do so.

Care order

This is an order that places the child in the care of Cornwall and gives it parental responsibility. This does not mean the parents lose parental responsibility, but it does mean Cornwall can override their wishes if it believes this would be best for your child. However, it must have consulted parents first. For this order to be made, the child must be under 17 years old.

A care order means that Cornwall must provide a place for the child to live (for example with relatives or foster carers) and is responsible for the child's 'maintenance' (making sure they have money to live on). Occasionally the child remains at home with parents under a care order, but Cornwall still makes all decisions and can remove the child at any time if they are concerned about the care the child is receiving. If Cornwall is granted a care order, its plans for the child will be set out in the care plan filed at court. This plan must be reviewed regularly and parents should be consulted about this. A full care order can remain in force until the child is 18 years old.

Supervision order

This means parents have parental responsibility and remain responsible for their child's care, but Cornwall has the power to 'supervise' how they care for your child. A supervision order lasts up to one year, but the council can ask the court for an extension for up to two more years.

Childcare arrangement order

This order would mean that the child would live with someone else, such as a member of the family, without Cornwall being involved. It would give that person parental responsibility for the period of the order.

Special guardianship orders

This court order places a child with someone who is not their parent in a longer-term arrangement. It is more permanent than a residence order because a parent cannot apply to 'revoke' (end) the order without the court's permission. The court can give this permission only where the circumstances have changed significantly since the order was made. However, a special guardianship order (SGO) does not break the legal relationship between a parent and child.



If an SGO is made for the child, the special guardian will gain parental responsibility for him or her. Parents will still have parental responsibility as well, but the special guardian has the right to override their wishes if they cannot agree.

Placement order

In rare cases Cornwall may consider that the child should be placed for adoption. Where adoption is planned, Cornwall will probably apply for a 'placement order' at the final hearing. This order allows Cornwall to place the child with prospective adopters even if parents don't consent to this.

CLC Lead - April Turner

Reviewed September 2025

Signed By: Nursery Manager