Pool House CP School

Liaison With Outside Agencies Policy

Introduction

At Pool House we believe that liaison with outside agencies is vital in providing the best possible care and support for our children.

Many agencies and support services are able to help identify and assess pupils' needs and to provide support for those pupils. Such agencies and support services include a wide variety of specialist teachers and other professionals. The School has a named medical officer and a named school nurse within the Local Health Authority to whom references are made in accordance with the SEN Staged Procedure for assessment. Before contacting an outside agency the Head teacher and the SENCO will liase in order to avoid duplication of effort, etc. Once a strategy for procuring support has been agreed all parties should be kept well informed of developments as is appropriate.

The Head teacher and the SENCO are the School's in house experts on how best to access the LA's support services. The LA provides all schools with a booklet that details the range of services that are available and how they can be accessed.

The Head teacher and SENCO work with the following services that are provided by the LA and the LHA:

i. Educational Psychology Service EPS (pupils with SEN, e.g. autism, sensory impairment, severe emotional and behavioural difficulties);
ii. CAMHs (mental health services)
iii. Student Support Service (for pupils excluded or having attendance problems);
iv. Literacy Support Service;
v. Advice and Inspection Unit;
vi. Special Educational Needs Assessment Service;
vii. Speech Therapy;
viii. Physiotherapy;
ix. Occupational therapy;
x. L.E.I.S.
xi. Special Needs Teaching Team - staff specialising in supporting pupils with:
    - hearing impairment;
    - visual impairment;
    - autism;
    - general learning difficulties;
    - specific learning difficulties.
xii. Community Education;
xiii. Access and Welfare (attendance, admissions and allocations, child employment, child protection, child abuse, exclusions, etc.);
xiv. Residential Education and Outdoor Activities Service;
xv. Multi-cultural support service;

xvi. Awards and Grants, e.g. information and administration re: free school meals.

The School may procure the aid of the above specialist services at any time that it is deemed appropriate, e.g. advice on the identification, assessment and effective provision of resources. However, the School always consults appropriate specialists when a child is assessed as being at School Action Plus.

Co-operation between the School, the LA, the health services and social services is vital if we are to secure the most effective assessment, intervention and deployment of resources for pupils.

Children's Integrated Services

Referral in the form of a 'CAF' is made to the Social Services Department and multi-agencies as appropriate. Such contact and liaison is maintained by the Head teacher or SENCO and named individuals at the respective services. All agencies co-operate and a lead practitioner is identified in order to produce workable action plans. All services will encourage parental involvement in the resolution of any problems or difficulties.

The Head teacher and/or SENCO usually attend a child's care plan review that is co-ordinated by the social services.

The Head teacher or SENCO will be responsible for contacting the social services to register concern about a child's welfare and implementing procedures relating to child protection.