

# Out of Home Care Policy

St Albans East Primary School



Date: March 2018

<b>Rationale</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Schools, Child Protection Practitioners and case workers are required to meet their obligations under the Out-Of-Home Care Education Commitment: A Partnering Agreement. (To view the agreement in full, see: <a href="#">Out of home care education commitment</a> )</p>
<b>Aim</b>	<p>To ensure St Albans East Primary School complies with the Department of Education and Training (DET) policy in supporting students who are part of the Out-of-Home Care program.</p>
<b>Implementation</b>	<p><b>Types of Out-of-Home Care</b></p> <p>Foster care: a child is taken into care by a foster carer who has been trained and approved to look after children.</p> <p>Kinship care: a child is taken into care by a relative or family friend allowing them to remain within the family or local network.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Residential care: a young person is placed into a home staffed by carers.</p> <p>Children and young people come into Out-of-Home Care through two main channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• after an investigation and removal from the family home by Child Protection</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <p>The Partnering Agreement and the implementation of this policy aims to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• processes are in place to actively support the educational achievement of every child and young person in Out-of-Home Care</li><li>• a strongly coordinated approach exists to support the needs of children and young people in Out-of-Home Care</li><li>• all parties understand each other's roles and responsibilities and work cooperatively</li><li>• strategies are implemented to improve outcomes related to student enrolment, attendance, achievement, case planning, retention and school completion</li><li>• the school will develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) in accordance with the IEP guidelines for every student in Out-of-Home Care</li><li>• this plan will describe a set of strategies to address the particular educational needs of the child or young person in care</li><li>• a Student Support Group will be established to provide a formal support network at school.</li></ul> <p>The school will consider the following factors:</p>



- 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.

Evaluation

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

Review Year

2021