



## **The Butterfly Rooms (Incorporating Woodlands) LTD**

Tank Hill Road | Purfleet | Essex | RM19 1TA

Registered Charity Number: 1148068 | Ofsted Number: 453859 | Company Number: 7984150 | *Limited by Guarantee*

Telephone Number: 01708 863 737

### **Looked After Children Policy Statement – 2025 Update**

#### **Our Commitment**

We are dedicated to providing high-quality care and education for all children, ensuring equality of opportunity regardless of their background. Our team is committed to supporting Looked After Children (LAC) by creating a stable, nurturing, and responsive environment that enables them to achieve and thrive.

#### **Definition of Looked After Children**

Children become Looked After when placed under the care of the local authority due to a legal order or voluntary arrangement. They may live in foster homes, children's homes, with relatives, or be placed back home under supervision.

We acknowledge that Looked After Children may have experienced significant disruption in their lives, including trauma, neglect, or loss. However, we recognize that each child's story is unique, and our support is tailored to their individual needs.

#### **Core Principles**

- **Respectful Terminology:** We refer to children by their names and do not categorize them as "Looked After Children" in daily interactions.
- **Placement Considerations:** We do not typically offer places for children under two years who are in care. Instead, we support play-based engagement with their foster carer present.
- **Two-Year-Old Provision:** In exceptional cases, placements for children aged two are considered if they have formed a secure attachment with their foster carer for at least two months and remain in placement for a minimum of three months.

- **Early Education Entitlement:** We provide places for three- and four-year-old children in care, ensuring access to high-quality early education. Children should have been with their foster carer for at least one month, with a placement commitment of at least six weeks.
- **Stay & Play Support:** We offer Stay & Play sessions for children aged two to five who are in temporary foster placements or still adjusting to care.
- **Continuity of Care:** If a child who attends our setting enters foster care locally, we strive to maintain their placement to ensure stability.

### **Implementation Procedure**

- **Designated Child Protection Coordinator:** Oversees the welfare and support of Looked After Children.
- **Designated Teacher Role:** We liaise with the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children in local schools to support transitions and educational planning.
- **Key Person Approach:** Each child is assigned a key person to ensure continuity, emotional security, and individualized support.
- **Collaborative Care Planning:**
  - o Regular professional meetings at two weeks, six weeks, and three months after placement, then every three to six months.
  - o Consideration of emotional well-being, identity, friendships, interests, special educational needs (SEND), and stability.
- **Safeguarding and Reporting:**
  - o Concerns about a child's care or well-being are reported immediately to the safeguarding authority and the child's social worker.
  - o Adherence to enhanced Ofsted safeguarding protocols (2025).
- **Trauma-Informed Training:** All staff receive training on attachment, trauma, and developmental delay to support children effectively.
- **GDPR-Compliant Information Sharing:** All records and communications are handled in accordance with GDPR and the Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023) guidance.
- **School Transition Support:**
  - o Close collaboration with local schools, ensuring seamless transitions and continuity in education.
  - o Sharing of relevant developmental records with consent from the child's social worker.

### **Funding and Support**

- **Pupil Premium Plus (PP+):** We identify eligible children and work with the local authority to ensure PP+ funding is used to support educational progress and well-being.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- This policy is reviewed annually or in response to statutory updates.
- Feedback from staff, carers, and professionals is incorporated into the review process.

### **Additional Considerations**

- Voice of the Child: We actively seek and incorporate the views of children into planning and support.
- Cultural Identity: We support each child’s cultural and ethnic identity, especially in cross-cultural placements.
- Digital Safety: We ensure appropriate digital safeguarding measures are in place for children in our care.

This policy was adopted by

The Butterfly Rooms Ltd

On

7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Date to be reviewed

7<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Signed on behalf of the Management  
committee



Name of signatory

Miss Aimee Thompson

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