

# Out of Home Care Policy

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

- Children and young people in out of home care are a diverse group who share a common experience of not being able to live with their parents. The State takes on the responsibility usually undertaken by a parent. Children and young people in out of home care have a right to be protected, cared for and educated in a way that maximises their life opportunities.

### **Aims:**

- To strengthen and clarify the roles and relationships between the Department and School.
- To monitor the educational achievement and attendance of young people in out of home care.
- To ensure that both DHS and DoE systems work cooperatively to improve the educational experience and outcomes of children and young people in out of home care.

### **Implementation:**

Set up an Individual Support Group consisting of the following:

- the parent, guardian or caregiver of the child or young person (whichever is most appropriate as indicated by the DHS case manager).
- the DHS Protective Services case manager or a Community Service Organisation case manager.
- a teacher or Year Level Coordinator nominated as having responsibility for the child or young person.
- the Principal or nominee to act as chairperson.
- the Student Welfare Coordinator and/or Student Support Service Staff.
- the child or young person (where appropriate)

The student support group will:

- Develop an Individual Education Plan
- Meet with the Student Support Group at least once per term
- Evaluates the student's progress in line with the Individual Education Plan

### **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be deemed implemented when all students affected have an Individual Education Plan
- The policy and procedures are broadly published and understood in the community
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. Or as determined by updated DEECD advice

This policy was last ratified by School Council in 2009

Reference: Partnering Agreement – School Attendance and Engagement of Children and Young People in Out of Home Care. (Dept of Education & Dept of Human Services – Vic)