

# PARENTING TOGETHER

## POLICY BRUNSWICK EAST PRIMARY

**Rationale:** To enable the school attendance and engagement of children in Out of Home Care.

**Aims:** The Parenting Agreed between Department of Education & Training (DE&T) and Department of Human Services (D.H.S.) is to ensure that both systems work cooperatively to improve the educational experience and outcomes of children in Out of Home Care.

**Implementation:** Children in out of home care are a diverse group who share a common experience of not being able to live with their parents. They have a right to be protected, cared for and educated in a way that maximises their life opportunities.

### **The school will implement this through:**

#### **School Enrolment:**

- support the child to continue at attend current school
- Assist the parent, guardian or caregiver to identify a school closer to the child's placement when placement changes prevent them from remaining at their current school.
- Enrol a child with a minimum of delay.
- be available to provide appropriate information and consult with the new school regarding the child's learning and support needs in situations where they change school.

#### **School Attendance:**

- develop policies and strategies to support children in out of home care to attend school.
- utilise the processes outlined in Student Attendance Guidelines.

#### **Supporting Achievement:**

- development policies and strategies to support individual children in out of home care to reach levels of achievement appropriate for their age.
- work collaboratively to submit an application for children in out of home care who may be eligible for the Program for Students with Disabilities.
- establish a Student Support Group to monitor progress and provide additional support to each child in out of home care. At least one Student Support Group meeting is to be convened each year. Participants will be: foster parent/carer, class teacher, principal/delegate, representative of D.H.S./delegated agency

#### **Case Planning Process:**

- participate as appropriate in the Case Planning process including the provision of reports if required.

### **School Retention:**

- follow appropriate processes regarding the suspension or expulsion of a child outlined in the *Guidelines for Developing the Student Code of Conduct*.
- inform the Regional Director, DE&T, in advance in all cases where expulsion of a child is being considered.
- convene a meeting of the Student Support Group where discipline procedures (especially expulsion) are under consideration for a child in out of home care.
- identify another school for the child and provide details of the alternative school placement to the Regional Director, DE&T.
- notify the Regional Director, DE&T, promptly when a suitable alternative school or educational placement could not be found.

### **Evaluation:**

The criteria for evaluation will include its impact on improving the attendance, retention and educational achievement of child in out of home care, as well as the extent to which both systems DE&T and D.H.S., are working cooperatively to improve the education experiences and outcomes of children in out of home care.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2003.