



Layfield Primary School

Every Child Matters Policy

October 2018

Review date: October 2020

Every Child Matters

Change For Children

1. Every Child Matters: Change for Children is an approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19.
2. The programme places better outcomes for children firmly at the centre of all policies and approaches involving children's services. These outcomes are:
 - * Be healthy
 - * Stay safe
 - * Enjoy and achieve through learning
 - * Make a positive contribution to society
 - * Achieve economic well-being
3. The programme demands that all organisations that provide services to children work together in more integrated and effective ways.
4. The need for change was made apparent in Lord Laming's report into the death of Victoria Climbié, the young girl who was horrifically abused and tortured, and eventually killed by her great aunt and the man with whom they lived. The report highlighted a need for improved integration and accountability across children's services.
5. In 2003, the Government published a green paper called Every Child Matters alongside its formal response to Lord Laming's report. The green paper prompted an unprecedented debate about services for children, young people and families. There was a wide consultation with people working in children's services, and with parents, children and young people.
6. Following the consultation, the Government published Every Child Matters: the Next Steps, and passed the Children Act 2004, providing the legislative spine for developing more effective and accessible services focused around the needs of children, young people and families.
7. We want every child to fulfil their potential, regardless of their background or circumstances.
8. The thinking behind Every Child Matters: Change for Children is not new. High expectations and a broad view of supporting children and young people are common features of highly successful schools.
9. We contribute to pupils' wider well-being through, for example:
 - helping each pupil achieve the highest educational standards they possibly can;
 - dealing with bullying and discrimination and keeping children safe;
 - becoming Healthy Schools and promoting healthy lifestyles through Personal, Social and Health Education lessons, drugs education, breakfast clubs and sporting activities;
 - ensuring attendance, encouraging pupils to behave responsibly, giving them a strong voice in the life of the school and encouraging them to volunteer to help others;
 - helping communities to value education and be aware that it is the way of the poverty trap;
 - engaging and helping parents in actively supporting their children's learning and development.