

Our vision for children, schools and families in Bexley

Most important to us, is the **effectiveness of the work that we do and the difference that we make** in doing it.

In Bexley, we work with the phrase **'what life and education is like for me'**. This helps us to focus on the experiences of children, families, carers and other professionals when we are involved in their lives, education and work.

We believe that all children, young people and families should reach their potential. We will try to support them as they grow up, to be safe, healthy, and able to make the best use of their skills to secure good employment and therefore make the most of their lives.

Our ambition is that all children and young people live or are educated in good or outstanding environments.

We will try to meet the needs of children and young people who have a special educational need or disability as locally as possible. Their education, health and care needs will be regularly reviewed with their best interests at the centre of our thinking.

We believe that **strong families are at the heart of our community**. All of our work to support families is driven by **their strengths that we can build upon** to help them to be more **resilient and more able to support and protect their children**.

We will try to help families at the earliest opportunity, especially if there are children living with violence, the mental ill health of a parent or carer, the risk of or actual school exclusion or drug and alcohol abuse by an adult or carer in the household.



In our work with families and alongside our partners, we will work to **reduce harm to children and young people and we will protect them from abuse and neglect**. If the risk remains or intensifies, we will act quickly to protect them from further harm.

Where it is not possible for children and young people to remain living with their families, we will provide good permanent alternatives that improve their life chances. They will not be disadvantaged by becoming looked after children.

The feedback that we receive from children, young people, families, carers and colleagues who we are working with, helps us to improve and to learn. We will ask people about their experiences of our work with them and will listen and learn from the mistakes we make.

We believe it is important to provide good information and to use **clear and simple processes** that everyone can understand and to **use those consistently**. We want those processes to support the help we provide to children, young people, families, carers and learners.

We want to offer services that are high quality and efficient for everyone. We aspire to **manage our performance carefully**, making sure that we understand our business and **hold ourselves properly to account** for the quality and delivery of care, education, help and support.

Our leaders and managers are expected to provide **good support to staff** and to each other and to **respond quickly and effectively** to improve things when they are going wrong.

It's the relationships that make change possible



Listening to you, working for you

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