

## **Education Offer For Previously Looked After Children**

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## Virtual School - Previously looked after children:

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### What we mean by children who were previously looked after

Those children previously looked after in England and Wales but who left care through:

- an Adoption Order (AO)
- Special Guardianship Order (SGO)
- Child Arrangements Order (CAO)
- or has been adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales

CAOs were formerly known as Residence Orders. The Orders must still be current.

### Statutory duty and guidance

Virtual Schools have a duty to give advice and guidance to the person with parental responsibility for the previously looked after child and the Designated Teacher when requested. In summary Staffordshire Virtual School will, provided the child is on roll to an education setting in Staffordshire:

Respond to parental requests for advice and information for example, advice on school admissions in their area. They can also signpost parents/carers to other services that can offer advice and support.

Respond to requests for advice and information from providers of early education, designated teachers in maintained schools and academies, and providers of alternative provision in their area in respect of individual children supported by the local authority.

Make general advice and information available to early years settings and schools to improve awareness of the vulnerability and needs of previously looked-after children. This should include promoting good practice on identifying and meeting their needs, and guidance on effective use of the Pupil Premium Plus.

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Schools and education settings have a statutory duty to support previously looked after children. The statutory duty applies to children from aged two in a funded education place up to post 16 who are educated in a maintained school or academy.

**Designated Teacher:** Maintained schools and academies must have a Designated Teacher responsible for previously looked after children. Designated Teachers should help raise awareness in the parents or guardians of previously looked after children of the importance of making the school aware so that they can offer the enhanced support they are entitled to.

Other responsibilities include:

Promote a whole school culture where the personalised learning needs of previously-LAC are met.

Take lead responsibility for ensuring school staff understand what can affect how Previously -LAC learn and achieve regarding:

- special educational needs (including speech, language and communication needs), which the SENCO can also help support;
- attendance and exclusions;
- homework;
- choosing GCSE options;
- understanding and managing any challenging behaviour;
- promoting positive educational and recreational activities, and supporting looked-after and previously looked-after children to be aspirational for their future education;
- understanding the link between emotional wellbeing and being able to make educational progress; and
- training and employment and career planning.

Do direct and day-to-day work to promote the educational achievement of Previously – LAC.

Developing and reviewing whole school policies and procedures

have a leadership role in promoting the educational achievement of every Previously - LAC, by:

- being a source of advice for teachers
- working directly with Previously LAC and their carers/parents
- While the PP+ for previously-LAC is not a personal budget, schools should consider building trust with parent/carers by discussing how they are deploying the PP+ for previously - LAC.

The Designated Teacher may seek the advice of the Virtual School about meeting the needs of individual children with the agreement of the child's parents or guardians. It is, therefore, important that the designated teacher establishes a good working relationship with the Virtual School for their area.

[Designated teacher for looked after and previously looked-after children on GOV.UK](#)

[Promoting the education of looked after and previously looked-after children on GOV.UK](#)

## **Pupil Premium Plus**

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Previously looked after children in Reception to Year 11 are entitled to Pupil Premium Plus. This is extra funding of £2,300. Adopted children are only entitled to Pupil Premium Plus funding if, on leaving care, they were adopted from an English or Welsh local authority.

### **Who is eligible for Pupil Premium Plus?**

Pupil Premium Plus is available to pupils from reception age to Year 11 in state-funded education in England who:

- Are in local authority care in England.
- Have been adopted from care in England or Wales.
- Left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).
- Left care under a Child Arrangements Order (formerly known as a Residence Order).

In respect of children adopted from care, the Pupil Premium Plus was initially restricted to children adopted on or after 30 December 2005 but in the summer of 2014 was extended to all children adopted from care.

Pupils must be attending either:

- An early year's provider. This includes any organisation offering education for children aged under 5, including nurseries, school nurseries and childminders.
- A local authority-maintained school or maintained special school.
- An academy or free school.
- A non-maintained special school, an independent school and other alternative provision (e.g. home education) where the place or provision is funded by the local authority.

Children who are educated at home or attend private schools are not currently eligible unless these placements are funded by the local authority.

### **How is funding accessed?**

For schools to access the funding, parents and guardians must declare their child's adoptive, SGO or CAO status directly to the school before the school completes the January census.

Parents and guardians must provide evidence, for example, a copy of the legal order, or a confirmation letter from the local authority which placed their child. Parents should not need to declare their child's status again until the child changes school.

With regards to the early years funding, Children do not have to take up the full 570 hours of early education. Providers will receive EYPP funding that is proportionate to the number of hours that a child is taking up. Early Years Pupil Premium is £300 per academic year. The child is eligible for the funding the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

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Do schools have to spend the additional funding they receive on the individual child adopted from care?

Unlike Looked After Children's Pupil Premium, the answer to this is No. The DfE states: "The pupil premium is additional funding given to schools to improve the educational and personal outcomes for pupils who have been adopted from care, including (but not limited to) their attainment. It is not intended that the additional funding should be used to back-fill the general school budget nor is it the policy intention that the funding should be used to support other groups of pupils, such as (for example) those with special educational needs or who are low attaining. The funding is not ring-fenced and is not for individual children – so the Department would not necessarily expect the school to spend £2300 on every child adopted from care on roll at the school. This is partially because a child may have left the school and new pupils may have joined but also because a school is best placed to determine how the additional funding can be deployed to have the maximum impact. For example, a school may decide to train their staff in recognising and responding to attachment-related issues; or that a particular adopted child needs tailored support that is in excess of the £2300 the school has received."

### **Who is accountable for the use of Previously Looked After Pupil Premium?**

Ofsted inspections look closely at the progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils and the gap between them and their peers. At the end of each academic year, there is a legal requirement for schools to publish information online about their PP funding allocation, how it has been used and the impact this funding has had on disadvantaged pupils. The Virtual School does not currently have accountability for any post LAC PP.

### **What role do parents and guardians have in the spending of Previously Looked After Pupil Premium?**

The DfE takes the view that: "The role of parents and guardians in their child's education is crucial and we expect schools will want to engage with them about the education of the pupils on their roll, irrespective of whether they attract the pupil premium. However, we would hope that schools would want to take particular advantage of this relationship with regards to formerly looked after children as the school may have only become aware of the child's status when they are told this by the child's parent ahead of the School Census. They may be unfamiliar with the detail of any barriers to learning individual children may be facing as a result of their history. Schools should, of course, be mindful of the sensitivities that may exist around the child's history and ways in which their experiences prior to leaving care are affecting the child currently." It is important to reiterate that Staffordshire Virtual School have no responsibility over how post-LAC PP is spent, but parents are welcome to contact Staffordshire Virtual School if they wish to seek advice or further information on this.

**Wales Pupil Premium:** There is no pupil premium in Wales. The Welsh Authority support children who have experienced care through the Pupil Development Grant. The grant is made payable regionally with schools making a claim for the funding. The grant can be used for to provide bespoke interventions based on the need of the learning. A small proportion of the grant can also be used to provide individual bursary's for bespoke education needs of learners.

Eligibility: learners aged 3-15 who are:

- 1) Currently Looked After
- 2) Formerly Looked after that includes - Adoption Order / Special Guardianship Order/Child Arrangement Order/Residence Order

### **Scotland Pupil Premium: Pupil Equity Funding**

Pupil Equity Funding is allocated directly to schools on the basis of the estimated number of children and young people in P1-S3 registered for free school meals under the national eligibility criteria. If the child is registered to a school in Scotland, eligible and registered for free school meals the school would be allocated funding for this child.

There is also a Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund, where funding is paid through the Attainment Scotland Fund to every local authority in Scotland. The fund is used to improve the educational outcomes of care experienced children and young people aged 0-26. The allocations are based on the number of looked after children in each authority aged 5-15 years. The funding is used at the discretion of Local Authorities, who all use the funding differently, [Scottish Attainment Policy Challenge Unit](#) recommend that you get in touch with the local authority where the child would be based and they will be able to advise on their approach for administering this funding.

Below are the links to both the Pupil Equity Fund and Care Experienced Children and Young People operational guidance.

[Pupil Equity Funding](#)

[Care Experienced Children and Young People Fund Operational Guidance](#)

### **Unique Pupil Number**

It is standard practice for children adopted from care to be issued with a new Unique Pupil Number (UPN) to break the link between the pre-adoption and post-adoption record. [Page 13 of the Unique Pupil Numbers guidance on GOV.UK](#) gives guidance about a new UPN for adopted children.

### **How you promote educational achievement**

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You may find the following publications a helpful starting point. There is a guide for parent/cares and School:

[Meeting the needs of adopted and permanently placed children: A guide for school staff on PAC UK](#)

[Meeting the needs of adopted and permanently placed children: A guide for Parents/carers PAC UK](#)



## Personal Education Plans (PEP)

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There's no statutory requirement for a PEP for previously looked after children. However, you should have regular meetings with the child and their parents, guardians or carers to:

- discuss the child's educational strengths and needs
- record all agreed actions

Meetings with parents, guardians and carers of previously looked after children could be recorded on these forms:

- [Education plan for adopted children \(word doc, 23KB\) \(opens new window\)](#)
- [Education plan for child who has left care \(SGO or CAO\) \(word doc, 23KB\) \(opens new window\)](#)

## Other advice and information

### Special Educational Needs/SEND:

Staffordshire [Local Offer](#) provides information in one place for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), their parents/carers and professionals.

The Local Offer includes information on local services to help children, young people, parents and carers make choices about the support they receive.

- Information about the education options for children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs. [Staffordshire Connects](#)
- [The graduated response](#) - special educational needs support in schools

**SEND Support:** SENDIASS in Staffordshire support parent/carers with all aspects of SEND and the process.

### SENDIASS - Staffordshire Family Partnership

**Phone:** 01785 356 921

**Email:** [sfps@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sfps@staffordshire.gov.uk)

**Website:** [SENDIASS - Staffordshire Family Partnership](#)

### Free School Meals:

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Parents/carers claiming some benefits can claim free school meals for any of their children who are registered at a Staffordshire school and who would normally be at school at lunch time. The entitlement criteria from 1 April 2018 is -

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance

- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- eligible for Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income (as used by HMRC to assess tax credits) is not more than £16,190. Please note: anyone eligible for Working Tax Credit, or if you have a partner and they receive it, regardless of Income, you will not qualify
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- In receipt of the 4 week run on of working tax credit (this is where someone becomes unemployed or reduces their hours and so is no longer entitled to working tax credit but will continue to receive it for a further 4 weeks and is entitled to free meals during that time)
- Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned household income of no more than £7,400 as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods). Your net earned income is your household income after taxes and deductions and does not include income from Universal Credit or any other benefits you may receive.

### **Free school meals for reception, year 1 and 2 children**

From September 2014, if you have an infant age child (those in reception, year 1 or year 2) they can receive free school meals even if you don't meet the entitlement criteria and without completing an application for them. For more information contact your school.



## Think2 Funding

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Think2 funding is an entitlement for 15 hours nursery funding from the term date following the child's 2nd birthday. Funded places should be taken at a good or outstanding Ofsted rated setting to ensure the best care and learning opportunities for your child.

Two year olds are also eligible if they:

Have a current statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC)

Attract Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

They are Looked after by their Local Authority

Have left care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order

When will my child be eligible? If your child is born between:

- 1 January - 31 March, funded places can start in the summer term (from 1 April)
- 1 April - 31 August, funded places can start in the autumn term (from 1 September)
- 1 September - 31 December, funded places can start in the spring term (from 1 January)

From September 2017 eligible 3 and 4-year-old children could receive an additional 15 hours of funded early education a week, on top of the current entitlement of 15 hours for all 3/ 4 year olds. (term following 3rd birthday) for more information and eligibility visit:

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/30hour](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/30hour)

## **School Admissions:**

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Staffordshire's local authority has a Schools Admissions department and they are responsible for ensuring a child gets a school place. Since September 2013, Looked After Children (LAC) and children who left UK care on an Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order (formerly Residence Order) have the highest priority.

The admissions code states:

All schools must have oversubscription criteria for each 'relevant age group' and the highest priority must be given, unless otherwise provided in this Code, to looked after children and all previously looked after children. Previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order) immediately following having been looked after. Oversubscription criteria must then be applied to all other applicants in the order set out in the arrangements.

For more information, you can contact the School Admissions and Transport Service by:

Email: [admissions](#)

Telephone: [0300 111 8007](#) (select the option for 'School Admissions & Transport')

## **Ofsted**

[Ofsted](#) is the inspectorate for children and learners in England. It is their job to contribute to the provision of better education and care through effective inspection and regulation. This link takes you to the area of the Ofsted website where you can search for copies of school inspection reports.

## **Schools Guide**

The [schools guide](#) gives you lots of information to help you choose a school.

## Wellbeing and mental health

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- [Kate Cairns Associates](#): training and consultancy on trauma and attachment issues for education settings from Early Years upwards
- [Theraplay](#): child and family therapy to develop attachment, self-esteem and trust. Schools may want to advise parents/guardians/carers on how to find a Theraplay practitioner or attend Theraplay training.
- [Young Minds](#) – national organisation focussing on children's and young people's mental health. Offers workshops, training and resources for schools
- [Inner World Work](#) : free resources for schools and adults involved with children living with trauma
- [Beacon House](#): Specialist trauma and attachment service for children and adults. Runs training and events for professionals and has some free resources online
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

## Adoption support

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- [Staffordshire's Adoption Support Team](#) The team will be able to provide you answers to many questions. They operate a duty line where you can speak to an experienced member of the team.
- [Adoption UK](#): national charity providing support and information for adoptive families and resources for schools
- [Coram BAAF](#): organisation providing information, resources and training to agencies, individuals and professionals on matters relating to adoption. Some services are for members only.
- [Adoption Support Centre](#): runs workshops and training for professionals, therapy and support
- [PAC UK](#): information and advice about previously looked after children for education settings

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