

# Support for Previously Looked After Children



Virtual School for  
Looked After and Previously  
Looked After Children

Where a child or young person has **left local authority care** within England or Wales **by Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order**, the child or young person and their families are **entitled to information and advice** from us. For children adopted outside England and Wales, the child must have been looked after by a public authority, a religious organisation, or other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society.

## What is the role of Virtual School in supporting previously looked after children?

We support the education achievement of this group of children and young people by **providing information and advice to families and educators** of previously looked after children as well as other professionals, such as social workers, working to support them.

Within Norfolk, the Virtual School for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children has an adviser for previously looked after children to offer advice, guidance and signposting.

We offer information and advice from the time a child becomes eligible for free early education until they have completed compulsory education, from **2 – 18 years old**.

## Our offer of support includes:

### Contact for advice and guidance:

- Contactable by education settings (including early years) for general queries around supporting this cohort such as information about Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) and how to use it.
- Contactable by families to ask for advice such as admissions, school choices or signposting to other services for support.
- **Where permission has been given by the parent or guardian**, schools can complete a referral form for specific advice regarding an individual pupil.
- Families and social workers are also able to complete a referral for specific advice regarding supporting a child or young person's education.
- We work in partnership with teams across Children's Services to promote the educational achievement of individual pupils as needed.

### Information and Training

- We regularly provide advice and information through contact with Designated Teachers, our website and social media to improve awareness of the vulnerability and needs of previously looked-after children, including promoting good practice on identifying and meeting their needs.
- We offer training opportunities to those supporting Previously Looked After Children in education.
- Parents and guardians can also sign up to receive a termly newsletter to share information and advice. Schools and settings are welcome to sign up also so they have information available to share with families.

## How can I access support?

### Queries/Referral Form

If you have a general query or would like a referral form, please contact:

**Harriet Tunnicliff, Adviser for Previously Looked After Children**

[harriet.tunnicliff@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:harriet.tunnicliff@norfolk.gov.uk)

### Termly Newsletter Mailing List

To be included on the mailing list for a termly newsletter for families of previously looked after children, please email the above address with the subject 'newsletter'. Your email will not be used for any other purposes other than to send this information and will not be shared. We also share this with our Designated Teachers, Adoption Hub and Kinship Hub.

## Where can I find further information?

Our website contains information for schools and settings on support for previously looked after children:

<https://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/teaching-and-learning/virtual-school-for-looked-after-children/support-for-previously-looked-after-children>

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