

10 things you should know about previously looked after children



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Previously looked after children are those children who were looked after by an English or Welsh local authority immediately before being adopted, or who left local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).





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The role of the Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) for previously looked-after children is to promote their educational achievement through the provision of information and advice to their parents, educators and others ([statutory guidance February 2018](#)).

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Providing information and guidance might be:

- providing advice and information online
- signposting to useful websites and organisations such as [PAC UK](#) and [Adoption UK](#)
- providing advice to individual parents/ carers and schools when they have a query
- advising schools on how they can support previously looked after children to improve behaviour to help avoid exclusion
- advising schools on how to best use Pupil Premium Plus to support previously looked-after children.
- resources to promote the emotional health and wellbeing of previously looked after children.

4	The local authority is not the corporate parent of previously looked after children. VSHs are not expected to monitor the educational progress of individual children or be held to account for their educational attainment.
5	Previously looked after children are not required to have a PEP (Personal Education Plan). Schools might put in place a learning support plan however, depending on the needs of the individual child.
6	Previously looked after children are eligible for Pupil Premium Plus funding. If parents or guardians have given the school permission to identify their child as previously looked after, then the school will record this on their school census and receive £2300 for every eligible child directly from the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency).
7	Parents and guardians will be asked by schools to provide evidence that their child is previously looked after. This might be an Adoption Order or other legal document, or the school might consult the VSH and use their professional discretion.
8	Individual schools are responsible for the educational outcomes of previously looked after children and are best placed to decide how to use the funding to support those pupils. Schools should discuss the use of the funding with parents.
9	Every school has a Designated Teacher for looked after and previously looked after children (statutory guidance February 2018).
10	<p>Designated Teachers have a responsibility for ensuring school staff understand the things which can affect how looked after and previously looked after children learn and achieve. Staff should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have high expectations and set targets to accelerate progress • be aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation – attachment awareness • see looked-after and previously looked-after children as individuals and show sensitivity • involve parents or guardians.
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