

- How does the school manage curriculum hotspots i.e. issues which might trigger your child (e.g. liaise with parents about baby photos and family trees; cards for mothers' and fathers' day; subjects such as evacuees in WW2 in English and History; NSPCC and Children in Needs assemblies...)
- How will school communicate with you?

For secondary schools

Consider all of the above, plus:

How does the school support the Year 6 to Year 7 transition?

For example, extra visits for vulnerable children; opportunities to see the school both empty and busy; maps and photographs; summer club to get used to the school and key staff?

How does the school provide structure and consistency?

For example, Year 7 in permanent base; lockers for children's belongings; advance warning of timetable changes; timetable on website so parents can prepare child at home.

How does the school share the information you give them about your child's background and needs?

For example, systems, meetings, policies... if 'need to know' basis, how is this decided and clarified with everyone including parents.

Useful contacts

Kinship

Kinship provides emotional, practical support and advice for any friend or family member raising a child full-time because their parents are unable to look after them – regardless of their legal order. They also run a local Enfield group (see website for details).

Website: kinship.org.uk

Kinship advice line: 0300 123 7015

Monday to Friday, 9.30am-2pm



PAC-UK London Education Advice Line

For special guardians, carers, school staff and social workers, to talk through any school or educational concerns regarding adopted or special guardianship children, and receive advice and support.

Tel: 020 7284 5879 (Thursdays in term time, 12pm-2pm)

Enfield Special Guardianship Duty Team

The SG team can provide a range of support to Special Guardians including access to other services.

Available Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10am-3.30pm.

Tel: 020 8379 8490

Email: specialguardians@enfield.gov.uk

CORAM Child Law Advice

Website: childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/family-and-friends-care

Who can help?

Jane Manning is Enfield's PLAC Officer and can offer advice and guidance on educational issues.

Tel: 020 4526 7039

Email: jane.manning@enfield.gov.uk
(Working days: Monday to Wednesday)

Please contact Jane:

- if you have any concerns about how to support your child's education.
- if you have questions about Pupil Premium Plus.
- if your child has additional needs and you would like support in understanding and navigating the SEND processes.
- if you are considering home-educating your child.
- if you are worried your child may be at risk of permanent exclusion or has already received suspensions.

Every school has a Designated Teacher for PLAC and LAC, please speak to them about any concerns you may have about your child's education.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN KINSHIP CARE IN ENFIELD

Advice for carers



What is kinship care?

Kinship care is when a child lives most of the time, or full-time, with a relative or friend who isn't their parent, usually because their parents aren't able to care for them.

There are many different types of kinship care, including:

- Informal arrangements made by parents.
- Special Guardianship Orders or Child Arrangement Orders (formerly called Residence Orders), made by the court.
- Children who are 'looked after' by the Local Authority and placed with kinship foster carers.
- Children fostered privately where the Local Authority has assessed and approved the arrangement.

Often the carers are grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins, but can be friends or anyone who the child has some connection with.

What support is available?

Enfield Virtual School provide advice and guidance information to carers, guardians, schools and a range of professionals, around improving the educational outcomes of children who are living with kinship carers.

Why do children living with kinship carers need support?

Many children living with kinship carers have experienced grief, separation and loss or may have had traumatic early life experiences. Some may have entered care due to abuse or neglect. Their needs do not change overnight, and they do not stop being vulnerable just because they are in a loving home. Their early life experiences can have a lasting effect emotionally, socially, and academically.

As a result of this, many of these children have Special Educational Needs (SEN), and may require additional support.



Differing Systems

Although the Government now recognises the needs of this group of children, the types of support available are different, depending whether or not your child has ever been 'looked after' by the Local Authority, even if only for 24 hours.

If your child has been 'looked after', and has moved to live with family or friends as a result of a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order, then they will be entitled to Priority school admission, and the school can claim Pupil Premium Plus (PP+). For further information regarding this please see the Enfield Educational Support for Previously Looked After Children advice leaflet.

However, if your child is living in a kinship care placement but was never 'looked after' they will **not** be entitled to Priority school admission **or** Pupil Premium Plus, **even if** they have a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order.

All kinship carers, regardless of any 'previously looked after child' status, are entitled to educational advice and guidance from Jane Manning, Enfield's PLAC Officer, who works for Enfield's Virtual School.

Children living in kinship care which has been arranged informally with parents are not entitled to the above support.

Are all children in kinship care entitled to Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)?

No. Schools can only claim PP+ for children who have been in Local Authority Care in England and Wales prior to Adoption, Special Guardianship (SGO) and Child Arrangement (CAO) Orders being granted. Children who have a private family arrangement and children who return home to live with their parents or relatives (outside Adoption, Special Guardianship (SGO) and Child Arrangement (CAO) Orders) do not qualify for previously looked after PP+. For more information on PP+ see Enfield Educational Support for Previously Looked After Children advice leaflet.

Early Years provisions are entitled to claim Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP).



Why should I tell the school about our family arrangements?

You don't have to tell the school anything you feel uncomfortable with. However, it may be that your child has certain needs that it would be helpful to share with the school, or certain topics that they feel sensitive about. If you do tell the school, then they are more able to build up a better picture of your child, and understand them better.

All schools have a Designated teacher for children who are looked after or previously looked after (LAC and PLAC). This person would be a good person to talk to about the needs of your child.

Changing schools or starting school

Many children who no longer live with their parents find change difficult. As a result of this, it may be helpful to look around prospective schools, when they are starting or changing schools and consider the following points:

- Have staff received training on attachment and the impact of early trauma and loss?
- How does the school provide consistent key relationships for children with attachment needs? (e.g. named members of staff as key workers for children, with quality 1:1 time scheduled into the child's day or week, with particular attention to the times when the child is most vulnerable?)
- Is there a safe base for your child to go to if they need to calm down or self-regulate?
- What support is in place for children who find unstructured times difficult? (e.g. Is there an indoor lunch club for more vulnerable children, where they can develop their social skills, or calm down and relax? Do the midday supervisors organise structured games on the playground? Are there systems for children who want to play with friends, e.g. a buddy system or a friendship bench?)
- How does the school support children who find it difficult to manage their feelings? (e.g. nurture group; calm boxes; a calming zone within the school; emotion regulation skills), teaching and coaching; anger management training; empathy from all staff; social skills groups.