

PLAC - FAQs for Schools

What does 'previously looked after' mean?

A child is classified as being previously looked after (PLAC) if they were under the care of a local authority for one day or more prior to adoption, special guardianship order (SGO) or child arrangement order (CAO, previously a residency order) as a new 'order of permanence'. If a child who was previously LAC is reunified with birth parents, they are not classified as PLAC.

How can we find out if a child is PLAC?

Information should only be shared with the consent of the parent/carer, and it is important to be mindful of GDPR and confidentiality. The best way to know whether a child is PLAC is to request this information from parents.

How can we be 'satisfied' that a child meets the criteria as PLAC?

A child's new order of permanence (adoption, SGO or CAO) will state that, prior to the order being granted, the child was in the care of a named local authority and is therefore PLAC.

What if a parent doesn't want to share their child's PLAC status?

That's their choice. Schools can't access PP+ or offer PLAC targeted support unless the parent or carer chooses to disclose the child's status.

Are pupils who are PLAC entitled to additional funding or support?

Yes, PLAC are eligible for pupil premium plus (PP+) to support academic progress, emotional wellbeing and social development to improve educational outcomes. Pupils who are PLAC will benefit from trauma-informed and attachment-aware approaches in school, alongside tailored support for any additional learning or SEMH needs. Schools must have an appropriately qualified Designated Teacher (DT) to promote the education of the school's PLAC cohort. PLAC also have priority for in-school admissions.

How much is Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) and is it a personal budget?

For 2025 to 2026, schools receive £2630 for each eligible PLAC - but only if a pupil's **PLAC status is recorded in the school's autumn (October) census**. PP+ is not a personal budget. It is funding allocated to the school to support and improve educational outcomes (academic and pastoral) for its cohort of eligible pupils.

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Can PP+ for PLAC be backdated if PLAC status is not recorded on the autumn census?

No, if PLAC status is not recorded on the autumn census then PP+ cannot be backdated. Schools should record the pupil's PLAC status on subsequent census returns but this will not generate PP+ funding for that academic year.

Can all schools claim PP+ for PLAC?

State funded schools in England are eligible to claim PP+ for PLAC, this includes local authority maintained schools (mainstream and special schools), academies and free schools, alternative provision academies / education centres and certain FE colleges with 14-16 provision. Independent schools are generally not eligible to receive PP+ funding directly unless the SEN Service have commissioned a full-time place for a pupil with an EHCP. Further information can be found in the DfE [Pupil premium 2025 to 2026: technical note - GOV.UK](#)

Can a child receive PP+ as PLAC and PP for free school meals or service premium?

A child cannot receive both PP (FSM Ever 6) and PP+. If a child qualifies for both, only PP+ is awarded, as it is the higher rate. The child still receives FSM if eligible, but the school does not receive the FSM/Ever 6 PP funding in addition to PP+. Pupils with a parent serving in the armed forces can receive the Service Pupil Premium in addition to PP or PP+, as it serves a different purpose — supporting pastoral needs rather than academic attainment.

Should pupils who are PLAC have a PEP or personal plan?

There is no requirement for PLAC to have a PEP. These are a statutory requirement for LAC as part of their care plan. However, it is good practice for schools and parents to consider creating an Education Support Plan (ESP) — previously known as an Education Plan for Adopted Children (EPAC). The ESP is intended to identify and address the specific educational needs of PLAC, recognising the impact of their early experiences of trauma and loss (including in-utero). An ESP should be a collaborative plan, ideally established in the autumn term, or when a child starts at your setting, and reviewed termly. Pupil voice is especially important when creating an ESP.

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Is the Designated Teacher responsible for PLAC as well as LAC?

Yes. The DT has a statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of both LAC and PLAC, including those adopted from care or those with special guardianship or child arrangement orders.

What kind of support should the DT coordinate for pupils who are PLAC?

The DT should ensure that staff understand the impact of early trauma and attachment issues, promoting high expectations and inclusive practices. They should coordinate access to interventions funded by PP+, liaise with parents/carers and contact the Virtual School for advice and support as needed.

Does the DT need specific training to support pupils who are PLAC?

The DT should undertake regular training to understand the unique needs of PLAC and LAC pupils, including trauma-informed and attachment-aware approaches, and keep up to date with relevant legislation and guidance to be able to share this knowledge across the school.

What is the role of the Virtual School for PLAC?

Since September 2018, virtual schools have had a statutory duty to provide advice, guidance and information to schools, parents and a range of professionals, working to improve the educational outcomes of previously looked after children. Virtual schools do not act as corporate parents for PLAC and, as such, do not case-hold or work directly with individual children. For PLAC attending Hampshire education settings, Hampshire Virtual School's Extended Duties team provide advice, guidance and information in relation to PLAC .

If a child has an SGO, does that automatically mean that they are PLAC?

No. A child with an SGO is only considered PLAC if they were previously looked after by a local authority before the order was made. SGOs awarded or applied for when a child is placed with extended family through a private agreement, without care proceedings (possibly following CIN or CP planning), or if a child comes from abroad to guardians in the UK but was not looked after by a UK local authority, do not hold PLAC status. You can find more information in our Kinship Carers section.

Any further questions?

If you have any further questions or would like support, please contact the Virtual School Extended Duties team:
VSExtendedDuties@hants.gov.uk