

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School for children in care

Accessing funding to improve educational outcomes of children and young people previously in care (PLAC)

These questions are based on the most frequent queries received by the Virtual School and will be updated annually

Frequently asked questions: Parents

What are the Virtual School's statutory duties towards children post/previously looked after?

Virtual Schools have a statutory duty (from September 2018) to provide advice, guidance and information to schools, parents and a range of professionals around improving the educational outcomes of children previously looked after. They are not corporate parents for this group of children.

My school does not seem to understand the needs of my Post LAC child. What can I do?

School staff are very welcome to contact the Virtual School for advice and support. There are various training opportunities available to them through our DT Network meetings.

Parents are also welcome to email the Virtual School if they need advice or guidance on school matters.

How do I support my child with transition to primary or secondary school?

We would recommend that parents discuss their child's specific needs with the school staff before they start a new school. There should be a good transition plan in place with plenty of opportunity for the child to make visits and connections with staff in the new school. Pre-school staff and school staff should liaise with parents around supporting the transition.

Most primary and secondary schools have transition arrangements in place to support the move from primary school to secondary school. This will usually include opportunities for the summer term for the child to spend time at the secondary school, and have additional visits to get to know other students, and be introduced to key members of staff. If you feel further support is needed, speak to the child's primary school about how they can help and also make contact with the secondary school to explain your concerns and how to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Please consider using the Hampshire Transition Partnership Agreement for any school transition.

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/childrenandyoungpeople/educational-psychology/heptransition.htm>

You may also find these leaflets helpful

<https://www.pac-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Key-Questions-for-Primary-Schools-V1.2-1.pdf>

<https://www.pac-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Key-Questions-for-Secondary-Schools-V1.2-1.pdf>

Some parts of the curriculum can be very traumatic for my child- how can I work with the school to ensure this does not happen?

If you feel a child may be affected by particular areas of the school curriculum, it may be useful at the beginning of each academic year to talk to the class teacher or Head of Year to discuss any potentially difficult areas of the curriculum.

Some common areas that Adopters highlight include topic work on families, family trees, WW2 evacuation, writing personal biographies, and any subject that includes an element of grief or loss.

I have heard of the EPAC, where do I get a copy?

The EPAC documents are available on this part of the Virtual School website. There is one for each Key Stage.

Do the Post Adoption Support Team know how to use the EPAC?

Yes, the PAS Team have all had training on how to use the EPAC.

