

DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILDREN WE CARE FOR AND PREVIOUSLY CARED FOR CHILDREN UPDATE



Issue 40

Term 2
2023/24



Welcome to the 40th edition of the Designated Teacher update which is published termly. The aim of this publication is to provide some information updates, contacts, useful strategies and ideas to support the work you do with our pupils. Watch out for each edition and do pass on, print and display. The more we can raise awareness, the better equipped schools are to do their best for our children. Please also take time to look at our webpages – [click here](#). If you have any questions/requests for content of upcoming issues, contact clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk

CONTACT US

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Training Programme 2023/24

– [BOOK HERE](#)

Upcoming training for Term 2:

Weds 8th/15th/22nd November
Healing Classrooms Programme

Tues 14th November
Attachment Theory

Thurs 16th November
What is shame-reducing practise?

Weds 22nd November
Designated Teachers for Year 11

Weds 17th January
Planning interventions for complex children:
where to start and how to go on

Funding for Previously Cared For Children

School funding is based on census data, so it's vital to ensure that information about your Previously Cared For Children cohort is up to date. Previously Cared For Children - referred to by the Department for Education (DfE) as Previously Looked After Children or PLAC - are children no longer in local authority care because they are the subject of an Adoption, Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order. Children who have gone back to live at home with no Child Arrangement Order are not eligible for this funding. From 1st April 2023, Pupil Premium funding is also available for pupils who have been adopted from care or have left care from outside of England and Wales.

Pupil Premium Grant funding is paid at the start of the financial year as a single indicative amount. Following data verification by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), an adjustment is made for actual funded numbers later in the summer term. For the financial year 2022 to 2023, the Pupil Premium Grant equates to £2,530 per Previously Cared For Child per annum.

2023 to 2024 census dates

To secure the Pupil Premium Grant, it is the responsibility of the educational setting to prompt parents and guardians who will have needed to inform the setting about their child's circumstances **in time for the setting to record the child's status on the January census**. We suggest that you include a question regarding previously in care status both on your admissions form and at regular intervals when requesting information regarding Ever 6 FSM eligibility. A letter can be sent out regarding Previously Cared For status – to preview an editable example letter, [click here](#) and look within the 'Pupil Premium Grant' tab.

For more information about the Pupil Premium Grant for Previously Cared For Children, visit [Previously cared for children | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

What is the SDQ for?

The strengths and difficulties questionnaire is an important tool to help professionals identify emotional and behaviour concerns and to flag up the need for further assessment. It supports discussion in PEP meetings and enables professionals to see specific areas which may need targeted intervention. Tracking SDQ data is important as unmet SEMH needs are one of the key reasons for educational underachievement in Children We Care For and Previously Cared For Children. For more on strategies to support in meeting SEMH needs in your setting, view the [SEND Ordinarily available toolkit \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Preventing suspensions and exclusions is critical. The Virtual School can support settings with alternatives - please contact us as soon as you have concerns. The SDQ can be part of the identification of needs, as often this is missed. **Vulnerable and SEN pupils are more likely to be excluded** and there is an understanding that more compassionate schooling is needed. See this thought-provoking trailer '[Excluded](#)'.

All local authorities are required to provide information on the emotional and behavioural health of Children We Care For. This data is collected through the SDQ and a summary score for each child issued for tracking the emotional and behavioural difficulties of Children We Care For at a national level.

[Click here](#) to access a copy of the SDQ and for guidance on how to use it.

Post 16 Transition

Remember that some of your Year 11s may need additional support with the process of applying to colleges.

Ideas to support Children We Care For:

- Phone call home to carer to explain the process (especially for carers who have not had a Year 11 before).
- Time in school researching courses, talking to ex-students and support with application form.
- Flag up open events and identify a member of staff to meet them at college to facilitate the visit.
- Ask college course leader to come in and talk to a group in school.

Remember, Remember...

Bonfire night and fireworks are a big part of November. Please be aware that for some children who have experienced trauma, fireworks can be a cause of distress.

Christmas time can also be a difficult time with lots of feelings flying around. [Click here](#) for a Beacon House resource which explores how to **use PACE at Christmas time**.

Looked After Call

When a PEP has been held, remember to log back in and complete the relevant ePEP sections and submit for review by your Virtual School case worker.

Please check email addresses of key adults in Section 1 of the ePEP:

- DT email
- Social Worker email
- Carer email
- Finance contact email

We use these emails to contact settings with information about Pupil Premium Plus payments and to circulate information such as our updates to DTs and Parents/Carers.

Reminder that it is DTs who circulate completed the PEP to carers.

Thank you.

Anti Bullying Week 2023: *Make A Noise About Bullying*

Anti-Bullying Week will take place from **Monday 13th to Friday 17th November**. The week kicks off with Odd Socks Day on Monday 13th November. For more information and resources, [click here](#).

Research tells us that **care-experienced children are twice as likely to get bullied compared to their peers**. For more information on how to safeguarding care-experienced children from bullying and from being bullies, [click here](#).



Lisa Cherry

Rees Centre



Oxfordshire Virtual School presents:

2024 Annual Conference

'Nurturing a strong sense of identity and belonging in care-experienced children'



Join Oxfordshire Virtual School and contributors for our 2024 Annual Conference - a day of connection, learning and sharing of best practice.

The day will consist of keynotes, a choice of 3 workshops, an opportunity to network and a panel Q&A.

For more information and to book your free place, [click here](#).

**** SPECIAL ONE-OFF WEBINAR ****

What is shame-reducing practise?

Delivered by Betsy de Thierry

Thursday 16th November, 1-4pm



Following our 2022/23 annual conference, there was a huge demand for more input on shame. Therefore, this online event is likely to be very popular – we wouldn't want you to miss out.

Shame reducing environments are healthier for everyone and a part of a trauma-informed practice. In this session, Betsy will explore how to motivate a child without using shame, which whilst it may have quick results in the short term, we know can cause long term damage to a child's nervous system, learning, relationships, emotions and mental health.

For more information and book on, go to: [Oxfordshire | Education Services](#)