

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



Issue 34

Term 2
2022/23



Welcome to the 34th 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 the [updated webpage](#) to support your work with Previously Cared For Children. If you have any questions/requests for content of upcoming issues, contact clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk

CONTACT US

Website:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/virtualschool

Direct Line: 01865 328550

Email:

virtualschool.lac@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Training Programme 2022/23

[Click here](#) for details

Upcoming training:

Weds 16th November
Attachment Theory

Wed 23rd November
Designated Teachers for Year 11

Weds 7th December
Speech, Language and Communications
Needs and Challenging Behaviour

Tues 24th January
PACE for School Staff

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. Refer to DfE guidance for details – [click here](#).

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 £2,410 per Previously Cared For Child per annum.

[2022 to 2023 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. An example [letter \(docx format, 14Kb\)](#) settings can be sent out regarding Previously Cared For status.

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 the discussion in the PEP meeting 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.

Preventing suspensions and exclusions is incredibly important. The Virtual School are able to support settings with alternatives so please contact us to discuss any risks to suspensions / exclusions before they happen. 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.

Guidance on how to use the SDQ is linked [here](#).

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.

It is also a key family time and so be sensitive to those children who are living away from their families and missing the way their community celebrates.

Online Safety

Refer to the pdfs uploaded to the website to access information that relates to the social media sites "Snapchat", "Discord" and "Reddit" which many of our children may use at home. Please share these resources with parents/carers to promote safe use of these sites and applications.

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 Carers.

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

Thank you.