



Frequently Asked Questions about Education Plans for Adopted Children (EPAC)

“This is like a light bulb being switched on... we needed something like this in Primary School. There was nothing proactive in place like this; we had to repeat our story every year” Parent of an adopted secondary pupil.

“It’s a time to sit down, reflect and think” Parent of an adopted primary pupil.

So what is an EPAC?

Kent’s Virtual School is using the EPAC to help adopted children achieve the best they can. The EPAC form is completed at an EPAC meeting with school/early year provision, parents and others that parents choose to invite.

Why was it devised?

- It was developed by an Educational Psychology Service (EPS) in collaboration with Adoptive Parents.
- The purpose of the EPAC is to encourage positive collaboration and communication between home and school/early year provision, and to raise awareness of the needs and issues faced by adopted children and their parents.
- The majority of adopted children were neglected and/or suffered trauma in their birth families. It helps schools and other education settings to be aware that adopted children continue to have many of the same needs as Children in Care (CiC)

How can I ask for an EPAC meeting with my child’s school/early year provision?

The EPAC can be initiated by either school/early year provision or parents. The EPAC forms explain how to structure the EPAC meeting. After the first meeting, parents and school/early year provision set a review date to see how the plans made at the EPAC meeting are going.

Who organises the EPAC Meeting?

Early Years Provision - The meeting will be chaired and minuted by the Early Years Advisor who is linked to the setting.

Schools - Parents and school decide together who will chair the meeting and who else to invite.

How do school/early year provision or I get the EPAC forms?

They are available from Virtual School Kent on the following website address:

<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk-resources/education-plan-for-adopted-children>

Or you can ask your Post Adoption Support Worker ASGST@kent.gov.uk

Does my child have to have an EPAC? Their school/early year provision don't know they are adopted.

Parents have emphasised that confidentiality is vital. The EPAC will **only** be used:

- If parents choose to identify their children as adopted
- And if parents wish an EPAC to be implemented.

The Adoptive Parents Consultation Group's experience is that it is extremely beneficial for schools/early year provisions to be aware.

I'm worried about having an EPAC because information may be shared unnecessarily – What can I do?

Please discuss your concerns with the Head Teacher/Nursery Head (and your Post Adoption Support Worker). Confidentiality regarding where records are kept will be discussed as part of the EPAC meeting.

Does the school/early years provision have to arrange an EPAC meeting if I ask them to?

It is not statutory; however current evaluations indicate that it is good practice and that schools/early years provisions value them. The EPAC draws from the pro-active nature of the CiC Personal Education Plan, to ensure relevant information is available and effective communication routes are established.

My child already has an Individual Education Plan or a Pastoral Support Programme (IEP or PSP). Do we still have to have an EPAC?

This is for you and school/early years provision to decide in discussion. Parents and schools/early years provisions have found that EPACs provide different information which is valuable in understanding the pupil's strengths and needs.