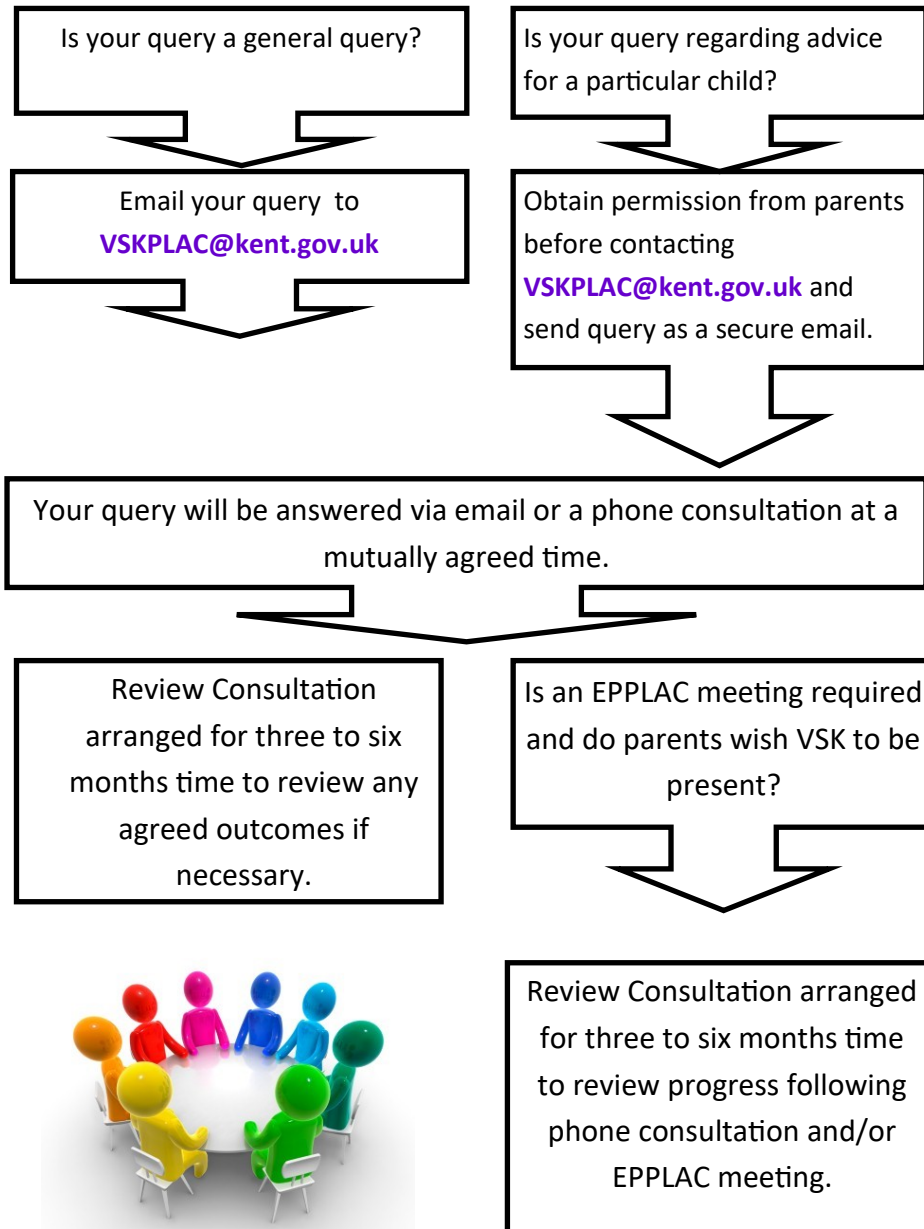


## How to contact VSKPLAC

Email: [VSKPLAC@kent.gov.uk](mailto:VSKPLAC@kent.gov.uk)



## Promoting the Education of Previously Looked After Children



A Quick Reference Guide for Designated Teachers and Head Teachers.



*“ Having somewhere to go to for advice and to bounce ideas off, really helped my confidence in my plans to support all areas of the child's development. “*

**Primary School Designated Teacher**



Virtual School Kent acts as a Local Authority champion to promote the progress and educational attainment of Children in Care. We have excellent working relationships with schools across Kent and many of you will already have regular contact with us. VSK staff have expertise in educational issues, Special Educational Needs and a good understanding of the emotional and developmental impact and the associated trauma with being taken into care.

Previously Looked After children are those children who have been in care and are now adopted, under Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Orders.

The aim of the Department of Education's February 2018 Statutory Guidance is for Designated Teachers to give specific support to Previously Looked After Children (and Looked After Children) because they are highly likely to have had disrupted learning, may have missed extended periods of school and many of them have special educational needs (SEN). The gaps in their learning and, in many cases the emotional impact of their experiences, are likely to have become significant barriers to their progress.



## Designated Teacher

The governing body of a maintained school and the proprietor of an academy must ensure that an appropriately qualified and experienced member of staff (Designated Teacher) undertakes the responsibilities within the school to promote the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after children on the school's roll. They must also ensure that the Designated Teacher undertakes training that is appropriate to carrying out this duty. For more information, please refer to:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children)

## Virtual School Kent

The role of Virtual School Kent is to promote the educational achievement of Previously Looked After Children through the provision of information and advice to their parents, educators and others where necessary.

### VSK can offer:

- Advice to parents and schools via phone consultation, EPPLAC meeting or email.
- Support schools through consultations, Designated Teacher Training, Attachment Training and other training opportunities where necessary.
- Support schools and parents via the Virtual School Website which is constantly being updated with relevant information and resources. The aim of this website is to be the 'Go To' site for all Kent parents and schools for information and advice for Previously Looked After Children.

[www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk](http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk)

We welcome your feedback and any other information that you feel would be appropriate for this site.