



Promoting the education of previously looked after children



All our advice to parents, guardians, educational settings, young people and other agencies is based around our 6 principles of nurture. Our nurturing culture enables us to support educational settings, to enhance their teaching and learning and promote healthy outcomes for children

and young people We encourage educational settings, parents and guardians to focus on the children and young people's emotional needs and development as well as their academic learning.

For more information contact:

VSKPLAC@kent.gov.uk

virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk



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Who are Virtual School Kent?

The Virtual School Kent's Previously Looked After Children team (PLAC) is an advisory service. It is our aim to advise and provide information to parents and guardians, educational settings and all other relevant professionals who are involved in supporting these children to promote their educational achievement and engagement.

Previously looked after children are those children who:

Are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order; or

Were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales. 'State care' is care provided by a public authority, a religious organisation, or any other organisation whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society.

VSK are here to empower parents and guardians to advocate for their children as effectively as possible, providing information and guidance as well as signposting them to other services that can also offer advice and support. Designated Teachers in schools have a responsibility to ensure that previously looked after children are given the support they need to reach their full educational potential and VSK can provide advice around addressing these needs effectively.

The VSK website is packed with information and advice on education for parents, guardians and schools:

- Information for parents, guardians and schools
- School resources
- Information on EPPLAC meetings
- Pupil Premium for previously looked after children explained
- Frequently Asked Questions

www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/plac/

How can the VSKPLAC team help you?

We can advise on anything to do with education, for example:

- Concerns with any special educational need you feel your child may have.
- Transition planning for moving to primary, secondary or Post 16 provisions.
- Understanding the educational system, curriculum requirements and which interventions or strategies may support your child more effectively.
- Understanding the EHCP process and what this means for your child.
- What to ask schools and provisions when deciding where to send your child.

(Please note we can not recommend schools but can guide you in what to look for and who to speak to at the school so that you can make a more informed decision.)

- Explaining what the interventions are, that your child may be receiving.
- Explaining Pupil Premium+ Grant for previously looked after children.
- Explaining the role of the Designated Teacher within your school and what this means for your child.



Phone Consultation

VSKPLAC can offer advice over the phone to parents and guardians and will suggest next steps for you to follow to ensure that your child is getting the right support. This may include signposting you to other services, websites, explaining educational processes etc. If you are also being supported by the Post Adoption service, Early Help or other social service departments in KCC, we have a duty to share the information discussed. (Please refer to the Privacy Notice available on our website.)

Please email **VSKPLAC@kent.gov.uk** to request a phone consultation. Please provide your name and indicate which part of Kent you are based, so that the most appropriate Educational Support Officer can contact you to arrange a suitable time for the phone consultation.

EPPLAC Meetings

Education Plans for Previously Looked After Children (EPPLAC) help educational settings to understand your child's needs and issues, not just how they may present during the school hours. The meetings encourage positive collaboration between home and school. The child centred approach to the meetings ensures that the strengths and needs of your child are regularly reviewed.

Please refer to our website for more guidance on EPPLAC Meetings www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/plac/education-plan-for-plac

We would always advise schools to have regular meetings with each of the families with previously looked after children. VSK can attend EPPLAC meetings if you request us to. If you would like us to attend or wish to discuss anything prior to the meeting, please arrange a phone consultation by emailing **VSKPLAC@kent.gov.uk**

Please speak to the Designated Teacher at your child's school and ask them to contact us for more information, or visit our website for more details.

Advising Schools

VSK advise schools and educational settings who contact us. We will never discuss individual children, unless we have received consent from you first.

Every school has a Designated Teacher. Designated Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that previously looked after children are given the support they need to reach their full educational potential.

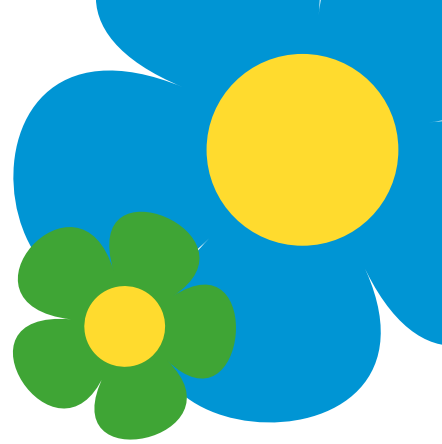
By advising Designated Teachers, we can ensure that they and the school are meeting the needs of their cohort of previously looked after children.

We offer general advice, training opportunities and other initiatives to Designated Teachers, SENCOs and key staff working with previously looked after children.







Please contact the Designated Teacher at your child's school and pass on our details to them if they would like any advice. Our website has links to additional resources, information and training that they may find very useful.

www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/plac





The 6 principles of Nurture

-  **Whatever changes you face we are here to guide you**
-  **No matter what age, everyone is at a different stage**
-  **VSK can help you find your voice**
-  **How you behave tells us how you feel**
-  **VSK can be your safe space**
-  **Nurture helps you feel happy and healthy**

“VSK is a name that I had heard of but was unsure of what they do. It was only when Post Adoption suggested that they become involved that I realised how fortunate we (those with adopted or previously looked after children) are to have a service like them. Having someone to talk to about my child gave me the confidence to ask school the questions I needed to ask.”

Parent of an adopted child.

“I am so gratefully appreciative of their meaningful intervention delivered in such a supportive, individualistic and friendly manner. THANK YOU!”

Parent of an adopted child.