

Children Previously Looked After (Children aged 5 – 16)

Key Action points:

- Children Previously Looked After may be adopted, subject to a Special Guardianship (SGO) or Child Arrangement Order (CAO). The Virtual School can support the education of these children/young people through the provision of advice and guidance. Contact can be made via thevirtualschool@somerset.gov.uk or directly with the Virtual School Advisory Teacher linked to the child's school.
- Children Previously Looked After do not require a Personal Education Plan (PEP) but it can be useful to bring together school, parents/carers and Children's Social Care to plan to support Children Previously Looked After and there is a document to scaffold this meeting (Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children Key Stages 1 – 4 including Reception) available to download from our website www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk. The Virtual School would not routinely attend these meetings but could provide advice and guidance before or after the meeting.
- All education settings are required to have a Designated Teacher (DT) in place who must maintain an overview of the Previously Looked After cohort as well as any Children Looked After on roll at the school. This DT should be the first point of contact for school-based enquiries about Children Previously Looked After and would usually be the member of school staff to support an education planning meeting.
- Pupil Premium Grant for Children Previously Looked After is managed completely separately from the PPG for CLA. It is not managed by the Virtual School. Post LAC pupil premium funding is only available for those children and young people who were in care in England or Wales immediately prior to the adoption/SG/CA order being granted. This must be declared on the school census and on this basis the funding will be released directly to the school. A guidance document (Pupil premium and children adopted from care or who have left care in Somerset) is available on our website at www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk
- Schools should be aware that Children Previously Looked After may well experience many of the same issues as CLA and will need thoughtful support and encouragement. Successful adoption or moving into a SGO/CAO will not erase earlier experiences which may communicate themselves in behaviours at school.