

For secondary schools

Consider all of the above, plus:

How does the school support the Year 6 to Year 7 transition?

For example, extra visits for vulnerable children; opportunities to see the school both empty and busy; maps and photographs; summer club to get used to the school and key staff?

How does the school provide structure and consistency?

For example, Year 7 in permanent base; lockers for children's belongings; vertical form tutor; advance warning of timetable changes; timetable on website so parents can prepare child at home.

How does the school share the information you give them about your child's background and needs?

For example, systems; meetings; policies... if 'need to know' basis, how is this decided and clarified with everyone including parents.

Useful contacts

Special Guardianship Duty Team Enfield

The Special Guardianship Team can provide a range of support to Special Guardians, including access to other services.

Tel: 020 8379 8490

Email: specialguardians@enfield.gov.uk

Adopt London North

Adoptive families in Enfield can access support from Adopt London North. They provide a variety of support, including access to the Adoption Support Fund which helps to financially enable families access to a variety of therapeutic support.

Tel: 020 7527 4777
(select Option Two)

Website: adoptlondon.org.uk/adopt-london-north-support/



Kinship

Kinship provides emotional, practical support and advice for any friend or family member raising a child full-time because their parents are unable to look after them – kinship carers – regardless of their legal order.

Website: kinship.org.uk/for-kinship-carers/contact-our-advice-service/

PAC-UK London Education Advice Line

For adoptive parents, special guardians, school staff and social workers, to talk through any school or educational concerns regarding adopted or special guardianship children, and receive advice and support.

Tel: 020 7284 5879 (Thursdays in term time, 12pm-2pm)

CORAM

Website: www.coram.org.uk/what-we-do/education

Who can help?

Jane Manning is Enfield's PLAC Officer and can offer advice and guidance on educational issues.

Tel: 020 4526 7039

Email: jane.manning@enfield.gov.uk
(Working days: Monday to Wednesday)

Please contact Jane:

- if you have any concerns about how to support your child's education.
- if you have questions about Pupil Premium Plus.
- if your child has additional needs and you would like support in understanding and navigating the SEND processes.
- if you are considering home- educating your child.
- if you are worried your child may be at risk of permanent exclusion or has already received suspensions.

Every school has a Designated Teacher for PLAC and LAC, please speak to them about any concerns you may have about your child's education.



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IN ENFIELD

Advice for parents and carers



www.enfield.gov.uk

What support is available?

- Previously looked after children benefit from priority admission to schools. This means that even if the school is over-subscribed, they will still be awarded a place.
- Schools are entitled to claim Pupil Premium Plus (currently £2,410 per year for Reception to Year 11 age children and £342 per year for 3 and 4 year-olds in Early Years provision).
- Enfield Virtual School will provide advice, guidance and information to schools, parents and a range of professionals around improving the educational outcomes of children who are previously looked after.

Why do previously looked after children need support, and how do we access it?

Many care experienced children have experienced grief, separation and loss or will have had traumatic early life experiences. Many may have entered care due to abuse or neglect. Their needs do not change overnight, and they do not stop being vulnerable just because they are in a loving home. Their early life experiences will have a lasting effect emotionally, socially, and academically. The purpose of the Pupil Premium Plus and other support available to previously looked after children is to raise educational attainment and close the gap between previously LAC students and their peers.

Internationally Adopted Previously Looked After Children (IAPLAC)

Since July 2021, children adopted from abroad are also entitled to priority school admission, and their adoptive parents can access support from Adoption London North. Schools, however, are not entitled to claim Pupil Premium Plus for IAPLAC children.



FAQs

Are all PLAC children entitled to Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)?

Schools can only claim PP+ for children who have been in Local Authority Care prior to Adoption, Special Guardianship (SGO) and Child Arrangement (CAO) Orders being granted. Children who have a private family arrangement and children who return home to live with their parents or relatives (outside Adoption, Special Guardianship (SGO) and Child Arrangement (CAO) Orders) do not qualify for previously looked after pupil premium plus.

Why do I have to show the school proof of the court order?

Schools will not know which children were previously looked after. When your child changes school you will need to inform the new school.

When does Pupil Premium Plus funding start and finish?

3 and 4 year-olds in Early Years provisions will be entitled to claim Early Years Pupil Premium (currently 60p per hour for a maximum of 15 hours a week, 570 hours per year).

Any child attending school from the start of Reception Year to the end of Year 11 is eligible to receive PP+. Children who are electively home educated, who attend an independent school/setting or are post-16 students are currently not eligible for the funding.

Should the Pupil Premium Plus be used for school trips and outings?

It is expected that a parent will provide the financial support for additional curricular activities, wherever possible. However, it is worth discussing with the school if this is difficult, as it may be possible with school agreement, to part fund some trips.

Must the school do what I suggest with the Pupil Premium Plus?

The PP+ is not a personal budget. Schools should look at the needs of previously looked after children in their school as a group and ensure the PP+ is spent in the best interests of those children, with involvement from parents and guardians.

Can the Pupil Premium Plus funding be used for the child to join out of school clubs?

If you can identify how this will benefit the child's academic progress and attainment this might be possible, but would need to be discussed with school. It cannot be used to fund childcare.

Changing schools or starting school

When looking at schools please speak to the Designated Teacher for looked after and previously looked after children. It may be worth considering the following points:

- Have staff received training on attachment and the impact of early trauma and loss?
- How does the school provide consistent key relationships for children with attachment needs? (e.g. named members of staff as key workers for children, with quality 1:1 time scheduled into the child's day or week, with particular attention to the times when the child is most vulnerable?)
- Is there a safe base for your child to go to if they need to calm down or self-regulate?
- What support is in place for children who find unstructured times difficult? (e.g. Is there an indoor lunch club for more vulnerable children, where they can develop their social skills, or calm down and relax? Do the midday supervisors organise structured games on the playground? Are there systems for children who want to play with friends e.g. a buddy system or a friendship bench?)
- How does the school support children who find it difficult to manage their feelings? (e.g. nurture group; calm boxes; a calming zone within the school; emotion regulation skills), teaching and coaching; anger management training; empathy from all staff; social skills groups.
- Is the Pupil Premium Plus used for social and emotional interventions as well as learning?
- How does the school manage curriculum hotspots i.e. issues which might trigger your child (e.g. liaise with parents about baby photos and family trees; cards for mothers' and fathers' day; subjects such as evacuees in WW2 in English and History; NSPCC and Children in Needs assemblies...)