

Welcoming a previously looked after child into your school

Guiding Principles

Parents/Guardians want:

- Good communication links with school
- Schools to have an awareness of how attachment difficulties may affect their child's development
- Advice about how to share information with staff about their child's life story
- School to use their broader understanding of the challenges faced by PLAC children and their understanding of a child's individual circumstances to inform planning and provision

PLAC want schools to:

- Treat them like other children in school
- Respect the confidentiality of their status and not share it without consent
- Find private opportunities to discuss concerns that may relate to being PLAC and not bring them in front of the whole class
- Think about how curriculum content might affect the child and talk about the child privately about how they feel about participating in that lesson. Give the young person options and involve them in the decision making
- Remember that experiences before permanence continue to affect the child or young person for many years
- Remember that children who have been previously looked after may have anxieties about belonging and being moved on that can be triggered by being in trouble, so handle discipline with care
- Try to see past challenging behaviour and understand where it comes from
- Be patient and listen to them
- Make sure that they are not bullied for 'being different'
- Help them make friends
- Recognise when learning needs to be differentiated

www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/adoptables