

PAC-UK Education Service: **Becoming an Adoption-Friendly School**

This new, six session course is provided by PAC-UK, the country's largest independent adoption support agency. PAC-UK's Education Service has expertise in understanding and supporting the educational needs of adopted and permanently placed children who have experienced trauma in their early lives.

The course covers:

- A road map for effecting whole-school change
- Identifying the needs of adopted children
- Supporting staff
- How to prioritise relationships
- Rethinking behaviour management
- True partnership with parents
- Effective information sharing
- Reflecting and including adoptive families
- Embedding and sustaining change



Delegates will receive:

- Six high quality training days between September 2017 and March 2018.
- A copy of the book 'Becoming an adoption friendly school', with access to the online toolkit.
- Between-session access to telephone support from the trainers, to help them to implement the changes in their school.
- Access to an online network of delegates, for ongoing peer support and discussion.
- A rich set of resources to use within school.

There is a limited number of **funded places** available to schools in the London and Tees Valley regions, through a Department for Education grant to PAC-UK. To apply for a funded place, please email Lisa O'Callaghan at lisao@pac-uk.org with a completed application form.

Schools are asked to commit to:

- (1) Identifying two people who can attend all the dates. This can be either two members of staff, or a member of staff and an adoptive parent from within the school community.
- (2) Working with the two course delegates to set up an action group within school which will work through the whole-school changes highlighted on the course.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is this course just about adopted children?

In the words of one adoptive parent: 'What's good for our children is good for all children.' The course focuses specifically on adopted children because this vulnerable group is often assumed to be 'ok', now that they have permanent loving families. Adopted children, like some other groups, have experienced considerable trauma and loss, which has an impact on them in different ways throughout their school journeys. While some issues (e.g. reflecting adoptive families, and effective use of the pupil premium plus) are more specific to adopted pupils, many of the changes you'll be asked to make will benefit all pupils and staff.

Why should we send two people on the course?

Effecting change in a complex system like a school is hard! In our experience, delegates are much more likely to be able to implement the changes when they have back-up and team work from someone else who shares their knowledge, vision and drive.

Why are the dates spread across two terms?

The purpose of this course is to lead delegates on a journey of whole-school change. Delegates will leave each day with an action plan to implement with the working group in their school. At the next session, they will feedback on their progress, and we will troubleshoot any difficulties. Change takes time, and we want to be alongside you for each step of the journey.

What's unique about the course?

The course supports you to take an action-focused approach to addressing whole school systems and practices. It is not a primer on attachment, trauma and loss. Instead, it builds on participants' knowledge in these areas to develop whole-school approaches that meet the needs of children with difficult early life experiences.

Will we be accredited at the end of the course?

We provide CPD certificates for individual delegates, and a certificate of participation for the school. 'Adoption-friendly school' status is not protected or accredited. Instead, we give you the tools and resources to demonstrate- on your website, in your policies and procedures, and in the day to day life of the school- your adoption-friendly approach. We will be working to the Adoption-friendly schools charter (Gore Langton & Boy, 2017).

For more information on PAC-UK's Education service please visit www.pac-uk.org/education or email education@pac-uk.org

You can also call our Education Advice Line on **020 7284 5879** every Wednesday and Thursday between 10am and 12noon (Excluding half term and school holidays).