



Working Together to Support Adoptive Families in Schools

PAC-UK&AUK
DfE Project
2016 - 2018

BUILDING A SYSTEMIC PROGRAMME TO TRANSFORM SUPPORT FOR ADOPTED & PERMANENTLY PLACED CHILDREN

About The Project

The Department for Education is increasingly recognising the long term impact of trauma and loss for children who live in adoptive or special guardianship families. As part of their investment in supporting adoptive families, the DfE has awarded a grant to PAC-UK and Adoption UK to develop and implement strategies with school staff, virtual schools, local authorities and adoptive families to improve the adoptive family's school experience and therefore increase their child's academic and personal success.

"We believe that teachers and schools have a vital role to play in supporting [adopted] children; socially, emotionally, and academically, to raise their attainment and address their wider needs."

Department for Education 2014



adoptionuk
for every adoptive family

Attachment & Trauma in children

Adopted and permanently placed children may experience a range of difficulties at school, including problems coping with change and transitions, relationship difficulties with adults and other children, and difficulties managing their emotions and behaviours. All of this can have an impact on their learning and emotional wellbeing.

What Does This Mean For You?

By improving communication, understanding and shared planning, children, parents and staff will benefit from a more productive learning environment.

Early years settings, schools, virtual schools and local authorities will have the opportunity to enable sharing of best practice and collaborative partnership working which will support the needs of children who have been adopted or permanently placed.



Adopters

We hope that families will feel an increased level of confidence in the knowledge that their child's early years practitioners and teachers have been trained in the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to meet the educational, emotional, social and behavioural needs of their adopted children.

PAC-UK will work towards co-ordinating the team around the child in order to deliver joined up support. Experience tells us that when all professionals work together it can be more effective in supporting children's social and educational needs; helping to reduce stress, frustration and duplication. This can in turn lead to an increased sense of belonging for your child in school.

Initial Teachers & Early Years / CPD

The project allows PAC-UK to provide free training to trainee and qualified teachers and Early Year Practitioners regarding the impact that early childhood trauma, attachment and loss have on learning, and how teachers are able to actively improve educational engagement with these students.

The trainings which are provided in person and/or via e-learning, aim to educate teachers and school staff in understanding the experience of the traumatised child, apply strategies in the classroom, talk more comfortably about adoption and identify self-care options.

Virtual Schools

We enter this project with the understanding that Virtual Schools will soon maintain a level of responsibility for children who have moved from care to adoption.

This project allows us to assist Virtual Schools in feeling equipped to support adopted families, schools and social workers through: organising community forums where Virtual School staff, educators and adoptive parents together develop ways of working and increase understanding; providing training on the impact of early childhood trauma and attachment issues, and connecting with Virtual Schools to identify their needs in order to sign post with service providers.

Local Authorities

Through participation in this project Local Authorities will gain the opportunity to increase their impact in supporting adoptive families and schools. Community building sessions with school staff and adoptive parents will help to strengthen the ties between the three groups moving towards solutions of identified common obstacles; PAC-UK's attachment trauma and loss training can be offered to LAs during the project (through agreement with PAC-UK) to schools in order to support them in working towards becoming adoption friendly.

"These children do what they do from experience, and from what has been learned. Not because they feel like they are being naughty or mean."

PAC-UK

PAC-UK exists to improve the lives of families and individuals affected by adoption and other forms of permanence by providing access to a range of individually tailored services and appropriate support depending on need. Please visit our website for more information

www.pac-uk.org

Adoption UK

Adoption UK provides support, awareness & understanding for those parenting or supporting children who cannot live with their birth parents. Offering hope & understanding by providing vital support, training, community & voice to all involved in the adoption process. **For More Information contact** Noelle@pac-uk.org

