



Education Support for Looked After and Adopted Children

PAC-UK Education Service

www.pac-uk.org/education

Are you supporting a child who is adopted, permanently placed or has had an otherwise difficult start in life? Are you struggling to support them to achieve or stay in school? Have you tried various strategies but not sure what else could help?

Children and young people with a history of early life trauma often experience attachment and other difficulties which can then present with a range of challenges in education. It is likely you will notice that no child presents the same as another but you might find that some of the behaviours below are familiar to you.

Some children:

- Continually talk, ask questions or make 'silly' noises
- Fidget or are restless
- Hurt themselves, other children, and adults
- Appear settled at school but are disruptive at home
- Struggle to make and maintain friendships
- Are quiet and withdrawn
- Tell lies
- Try to control situations
- Have outbursts of frustration or anger
- Struggle to engage with learning

Attainment Data

	KS2	KS4
Non-looked after	61%	58.9%
Looked after	32%	17.5%
Previously looked after	38%	32.8%

This table shows the percentage of children achieving age related expectations at KS2 in reading writing and maths and achieving a grade 4 or above in English and maths at KS4.

Department for Education, 2018

PAC-UK is the largest independent Adoption Support Agency in England. Our specialist Education team offer a range of services to enable education professionals, parents, guardians and carers to support and include the looked after, adopted or otherwise permanently placed children and young people in their care.

By commissioning PAC-UK's services you are investing in the opportunity to develop positive changes. Below are some of the outcomes of PAC-UK's work you may observe in:

Children

- Children making strides towards independent learning
- Children feeling happier at education
- Children feeling safer in their environment and therefore are better able to engage with learning

Education provision

- Increase in staff confidence in managing a range of difficult behaviours
- Reduction in the perceived need for behaviour led sanctions
- Reduction in time spent on managing behaviour
- Fewer incidents of classroom disruption
- Increase in wellbeing of staff
- Improved learning environment

Adopted children are 20 times more likely to be excluded than the general pupil population.

Adoption UK Survey, 2017

We offer a range of services:

Training (Please note, all prices listed below are exclusive of travel and VAT)

E-learning: THE online training on attachment: a self-guided route to becoming an adoption friendly school. This training is relevant for everyone who works in or alongside schools, early years and further education settings and can be carried out on a range of mobile devices for your convenience. Price: £35pp with discounts available for multiple license purchases.

Attachment, Trauma and Loss: our foundation training helps to increase understanding of attachment issues and subsequent behaviour as communication, as well as providing a range of strategies to try in the classroom. Available in a range of lengths to meet staff CPD needs, prices start from just £300 for whole staff training. Individual places can also be purchased for training hosted by PAC-UK on this and a range of other specialist areas.

Pupil Premium Plus, Spending it Wisely: explore ideas on how to spend pupil premium plus in order to best meet the needs of looked after and permanently placed children. This half-day training is for Senior Leadership and bursars.

Tricky Transitions: looking at what transitions mean and why they are particularly difficult for permanently placed children. This is a full day training.

Key worker training: support for those working closely with dysregulated children, building effective relationships and developing trust. This training is a half-day training.

Designated Teacher Training: looking at what the 2017 Children and Social work Act means for designated teacher and how they can effectively implement changes to their role.

Adopted Child in School: training for parents looking at increasing understanding of the education system how you can support your child throughout their educational journey.

Prices: £75pp for half-day training or £140pp for full days. Trainings held at PAC-UK offices.

Consultation & Assessment

Adoption friendly schools consultations and reviews: our specialist advisers will guide senior leaders and key staff in school to develop whole-school good practice. Focussing on the school's needs you will explore systemic change to support children who have experienced abuse, trauma and loss in their early lives. This involves in depth reflection and action planning on key areas including: supporting staff experiencing secondary trauma; providing key attachment relationships and managing behaviour with attachment in mind. A full write-up of a bespoke action plan will be provided and reviewed in a follow-up second session. Price £450 for an initial 1.5 hour consultation and a 1 hour review. Additional 1 hour reviews can be purchased at a cost of £200.

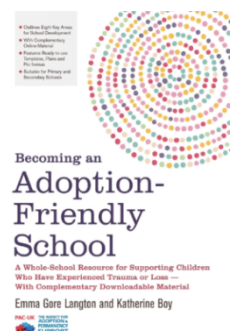
Child focused consultations: where an individual child is causing concern and struggling with school, it can be helpful to hold a consultation focused on that child. Key staff and parents will review the child's strengths and areas of difficulty during their school day and at home. Collaboratively a clear and achievable action plan will be created with a review date within the next half term. PAC-UK provides a written summary of the action plan. At the review meeting (1 hour), we will review the child's progress and the impact of the support in place. Together we will outline any areas that may need revising, and identify new targets. Price £450 or for £700 we can include an observation of the child as part of the process. Additional 1 hour reviews can be purchased at a cost of £200.

Advice line: an opportunity to talk through any school or educational concerns regarding adopted or special guardianship children and receive advice and support. This advice line is available to parents, carers, social workers, school staff and other education professionals.

Intervention

Adoption Friendly Schools course: Dr Emma Gore Langton (Education Psychologist specialising in adoption related issues) has developed her book '*Becoming an 'Adoption Friendly School'*' into a six day course to be delivered across the academic year, available only through PAC-UK.

Designed to be attended by two members of senior leadership or one member of senior leadership along with an adoptive parent from your school, the course will guide you through the steps towards becoming



more adoption friendly by implementing whole school change, offering opportunities to share good practice with a wider school network and receive support in your journey from our Education Advisers. Price £3,995 per school.

Therapeutic work: we can work with small groups or deliver one to one therapeutic support which works towards increased emotional regulation, awareness of executive functioning and self-reflectivity. Our therapy aims to improve the experience of the child in education and will therefore include feedback and review sessions with the staff and parent/carers, including therapeutic recommendations, see our website for full details. Price – currently on offer at £475 per child for group work based on 4 children or at £675 for one to one work.

Staff reflective practice sessions: we provide facilitation of a safe space to guide staff in sharing reflections, thoughts and strategies around the needs of a particular child, a group of children or a whole class. An initial 1.5 hour consultation is followed by a one hour review approximately 4-6 weeks later (£450). Regular groups can also be commissioned, please email lisao@pac-uk.org for more information.



Parent support groups: opportunities for schools to work with and support the parents of permanently placed children. Bridging home and school is an effective way to bring consistency, safety and care for children who need additional support. Ideally these are co-facilitated by a member PAC-UK Education team and a member of staff, though PAC-UK can facilitate independently if needed. Price 6x 1.5 hour sessions £1,500. One off, education focused facilitation of an existing support group can be commissioned, email lisao@pac-uk.org for more information.



Intensive case work: in depth and intensive work can be commissioned to support the needs of a child in school. These will be costed on a case by case basis after establishing the needs of the child through consultation with the key adults working to support the child, and the child where appropriate.

For more information please visit our website or contact Helen McConnell
phone [0113 264 6837](tel:01132646837) | email education@pac-uk.org | web www.pac-uk.org/education

About PAC-UK

PAC-UK is the country's largest independent Adoption Support Agency. PAC-UK's **specialist Education Service** offers a range of services to enable schools, parents and guardians and education and social care professionals to meet the needs of children who have experienced difficult starts in life.

PAC-UK was **rated Outstanding by Ofsted** in 2017, and was selected **as overall winner in the King's Fund/GSK Impact Awards 2017**, for 'Supporting Excellence in Community Health Care'.

