

ESSEX VIRTUAL SCHOOL / ADOPTION SERVICE EDUCATION PROTOCOL

Children in care have often experienced trauma, abuse, multiple loss and neglect in their early childhood. They may have the emotional needs of a much younger child and need to make up for what they missed out on during their early years to help them develop more secure attachments. It is recognised that children to be placed for adoption may require a high level of support to assist them through the adoption process; hence transition to their new school needs to be managed and carefully planned for. The Virtual School and the Adoption Service have together developed processes which enable a structured and supportive approach to this.

<p>Education Planning Meeting (to take place between Matching Panel and formal ‘introductions’. The prospective parents will have identified a school (and will have had access to advice and guidance through the Virtual School to support with this)</p>	<p>The Adoption Social Worker will organise the Education Planning Meeting, to which will be invited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child’s Social Worker • Foster Carer • Foster Carer’s Supervising Social Worker • Virtual School Inclusion Officer (for the child’s Social Care quadrant) • Representative from current school / Nursery • Prospective adoptive parents • Adoptive parents’ Supervising Social Worker • Adoption Support Service Manager / Family Finders Adoption Team Manager (who will chair the meeting) <p>The meeting will consider the child’s current academic, emotional and social levels and look at existing support systems in place in school for him / her. It will look at current and anticipated needs and how these will be met in the new school. The ‘goodbye’ to the current school will be agreed so this is undertaken in a planned</p>
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	<p>way. A timetable for admission to the new school will be agreed. The suggested timescales for this are for a gradual integration to begin after the two week 'introduction' period, extending this gradually to increase hours, introduce breaks and lunchtimes, with a view to the child accessing full-time provision 2-3 weeks after the introduction period. The arranged timetable can be reviewed and adapted in response to the needs of the child once he / she starts at the school.</p>
<p>Introduction Period (Week 1 and 2)</p>	<p>During the 'introductions' period, the Adoption Service provides the adoptive parents with a programme to follow at home to support the 'settling' period. Following this period, the parents can undertake work with the child if appropriate (school can also support if this was agreed at the Education Planning Meeting)</p>
<p>First PEP meeting / review of arrangements</p>	<p>The first PEP meeting will have been arranged at the Education Planning Meeting. There is a requirement for the PEP to be held within 20 days of a child beginning a new education provision and this meeting can also serve as a review of arrangements. The discussion should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Pupil Premium Grant • How parents can support learning at home • Allocation of 1:1 tuition • Progress of child since starting at new school • Identification of particular needs and how these will be addressed • Date of next PEP meeting (can be arranged for sooner than 6 months if required)

