

## How can I access advice and information from the Virtual School?

Cambridgeshire Virtual School Head Teacher have appointed an advisor specifically to fulfil this role.

If you require educational advice or information and your child attends a Cambridgeshire

Education setting, please contact

Clare Hawking.

[clare.hawking@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:clare.hawking@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Clare will endeavour to respond to enquiries within 5 working days.**

- If your query is non-child specific, this can be discussed via the phone or email.
- If you wish to discuss an individual child, parental permission must be sought.
- Cambridgeshire Virtual School has a 'request for advice and information form' which is available on their website. This must be completed before any discussion can take place around an individual child.

## Other useful links and websites

### Cambridgeshire Adoption SGO Support Services

01480 379670

[AdoptionandSGO.SupportDuty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:AdoptionandSGO.SupportDuty@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

[www.cpadoption.co.uk](http://www.cpadoption.co.uk)

### Adoption UK

[www.adoptionuk.org](http://www.adoptionuk.org)

### Kinship

[www.kinship.org.uk](http://www.kinship.org.uk)

### PAC UK

[www.pac-uk.org](http://www.pac-uk.org)

### SENDIASS Cambridgeshire

01223 699214

### Statutory Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

## Children Previously in Care & Children

### Living in Kinship Care:

### The Role of the Virtual School

In 2018, the remit of the Virtual Schools was extended to include offering advice and information for Children Previously in Care.

This includes children who are the subject of:

- an Adoption order
- a Special Guardianship Order (SGO)
- a Child Arrangement Order (CAO)

or who were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

This remit was further extended in September 2024 to include Children Living in Kinship Care.

The duty is placed on the local authority where the child attends school. Therefore if you are a Cambridgeshire education setting, or your child attends one, we can help!

## What is the role for Children Previously in Care and Children Living in Kinship Care

The Virtual School is a source of advice and information to help their parents, guardians and carers to advocate for them as effectively as possible. Virtual Schools are not acting as part of the corporate parent role in these circumstances, but are there to promote the educational achievement of these children through the provision of advice and information to relevant parties.

These parties include:

- Parents, Guardians and Carers
- Staff within education settings
- Social workers from the Adoption and SGO Support Team
- Other Local Authority teams e.g. SEND services

### How is this different to a child who is in care?

For children in care, the Virtual School needs to be the educational advocate that parents, guardians and carers are for children previously in care and children living in kinship care.

## What is the offer for Cambridgeshire?

For children aged 2-16 Virtual Schools must:

- Respond to parental, guardian and carers requests for advice and information regarding education. This may include signposting to other services that can offer advice and support.
- Respond to requests for advice and information from providers of early education, designated teachers in maintained schools and academies and providers of alternative provision in the area in respect of individual children supported by the local authority.
- Make general advice and information available to early years settings and schools to improve awareness of the vulnerability and needs of children previously in care, including attachment and trauma.
- Provide advice on the use of Pupil Premium Plus to support children previously in care.
- Promote the role of the Virtual School with key partners.
- Provide training for parents, guardians, carers and education settings.

**DfE (February 2018) *Promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after children; Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities***

## Training

Training opportunities are available for parents, guardians, carers and professionals. Please see the virtual school website for details.



## Contact Details

**Office number:** 01223 699883

**Office email:**  
virtualschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



### Website:

[https://  
www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/  
school-improvement/cambridgeshire-  
virtual-school-for-looked-after-children/](https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/school-improvement/cambridgeshire-virtual-school-for-looked-after-children/)

**Twitter:** Cambridgeshire Virtual  
School@Cambridgeshir19