

Contact us to find out more - we are here to help:

For further information please visit www.kinshipcarersliverpool.co.uk where you will find a range of further guidance, information leaflets and resources related to:

- Local Legal Advice Services including free Law Clinics & specialist legal advisers in Liverpool.
- Our Activities Programme for Kinship Carers, Kids & Families
- Information & Links about Legal Orders related to Kinship Care
- Money & Benefits Advice & Links
- Early Help & Wellbeing Information
- Schools and Learning Resources & Links
- Signposting to national Kinship Websites & Guidance

Contact Details

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Kinship Carers Liverpool

Schools & Learning - A Guide for Kinship Carers

August 2018

Q. How can I best support my kin child at school?

A. The Family Rights Group (www.frg.org.uk) provides valuable guidance about how to work with your kin child's school to make sure he or she is properly supported on a day to day basis. It advises the following:

- **Explain to the school the circumstances** of the child you are raising: you should, if possible, discuss this with the head teacher and your child's class teacher or head of year.
- **Agree about confidential information:** you could ask them to ensure that the child's personal information will not be shared around without good reason or without your consent, **but that it is passed on to those who do need to know, such as new class teachers or the SENCO**, so that you don't have to keep repeating the child's story.
- **The child's legal arrangement:** explain to them the legal arrangement for your kin child whilst they are living with you and what that means for the school in terms of levels of parental involvement.
- **Make sure you are clear if your kin child is a 'looked after child' or not** and let the school know if he or she is – see our website for more info or contact us.
- **Contact and Child Protection:** if child's parents' contact with the child is restricted or prohibited, due to a legal order such as a Child Arrangement Order, or there is a protection plan restricting the parents' contact, you should talk to the school to ensure they are aware of it so they are able to put in place appropriate measures to manage contact.
- **Emotional and/or Behavioural Difficulties:** discuss your kin child's behaviour, the background to it, and things you think work in managing his/her behaviour and feelings. It may help to point out that many kin children experience similar problems to those in the care system, so may be traumatised by past experiences, or may have attachment difficulties.

Q. Does the school have to provide extra help for children with special needs or disabilities?

A. Yes, they should. Find out more by going to Liverpool City Council's Early Help Directory on the council's website and search for SEN and Disability Local Offer at www.liverpool.gov.uk. Or download the Liverpool Local Offer app to your mobile phone.

Q. Can children who were previously 'Looked After' (LAC) & now under a Residence Order/Special Guardianship - get extra help at school?

A. Yes, they should. Find out more by going to Liverpool City Council's Early Help Directory on the council's website and search for SEN and Disability Local Offer at www.liverpool.gov.uk. Or download the Liverpool Local Offer app to your mobile phone.

We can help you - Contact us directly

- Kinship Carers Liverpool can help you with any concerns you may have about your kin child at school.
- We can discuss this with you and signpost you to further information and guidance and specialist advice agencies in the city – just call or email us on the contact links below.
- Where required we can also accompany you to meetings at the school.