



ADOPTTEENS



PAC-UK
Adoption and Permanency Support

top tips for schools

Informed Professionals- We want to have and to know a professional within school that is fully informed about adoption and will have an understanding of an adopted person's needs. We know there are designated teachers, but often that information is not passed on to us!

Pupil passports - If you are going to go to the effort of making one please use it.

We would also like an active role in what is written in the passport information and we would like a copy of it and to know which teachers have access to it.

Consistency- We want provision to be consistent. If it isn't consistent it leaves us feeling unheard and it breaks our trust.

Lessons on family - The topic of family is discussed in various lessons within school. We want adoption & fostering to be included within these discussions as this is one of the many family make ups within 21st century. When this isn't included it can make you feel isolated. Family trees are also difficult - it leaves us wondering 'what do we do here' we often don't want to ignore the fact that we have a birth family as well as an adoptive family.

Foreign language lessons - Talking about family and what they look like can be very complex. When a teacher is asking you about your family and what they look like, it can make us think about birth family and we often don't know the answers to these questions and we don't want to make them up. It needs to be considered as just presuming a child will talk about adoptive parents and not birth isn't ok.

Using walkie talkies in school - Using walkie talkies to talk to other staff about a pupil brings a lot of attention with it. Even when a persons initials are used over the radio, most other pupils can work out who this is. It can be very embarrassing and shaming.

Treating adoption as a protected characteristic - We feel like adoption/ family circumstance should be treated the same as other protected characteristics. If someone in school is caught using racial slurs or bullying because of LGBTQI+ issues then it is treated as discrimination. We feel that when we are bullied or taunted because of our family circumstance then we are also being discriminated against, yet it is often not treated this way.

Compulsory training on needs of care experienced children- We think that it is compulsory for all teachers have specialist training in the needs of adopted and looked after children and for this training to be treated with the same importance as safeguarding training.

Take bullying about adoption seriously - Our fear in talking about our adoption is that we are adding fuel or ammunition for people to use against us. Whilst we would love to be more open about it, when a school does not take this seriously or tackle bullying surrounding adoption then it leaves us feeling vulnerable.

Trust is key - We need to be able to trust that school will support us, without trust in the school professionals then we struggle to open up about how we feel and our experiences.

And finally, please do not underestimate the power of a hello and a smile. Being seen and acknowledged everyday is powerful and can mean a lot.



PAC-UK
Adoption and Permanency Support