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| **Sutton Virtual School** | |
| Educational support: A booklet for Adoptive and SGO families | |
| Visit our [website](https://cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/)  Follow us on Twitter @SuttonVS\_CLA | |

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| **COntents**   * Previously Looked-After Children – an introduction * Adoption * Special Guardianship / Supervision Orders * Pupil Premium funding and eligibility * Care Leavers |
| **Parents playing with children**  **Sutton Virtual School**  Sutton Virtual School acts as a local authority champion to promote the progress and educational attainment of Children Looked After (CLA), Previously Looked After (PCLA) and children with a social worker so they achieve the best educational outcomes.  Sutton Virtual School is available to provide educational advice and guidance to the parents of adopted children and children of Special Guardianship / Child Arrangement Orders. Our contact details are maintained on the [Sutton Virtual School website](https://www.cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/about-us/).  Mother and daughter reading book on bed  Sutton Virtual School works with schools in Sutton to help them meet the needs of the children we work with. If you have any queries relating to education or have any concerns related to your child’s educational journey then please contact us and we will help you as best as we can.  You may wish to request for support in the following areas:   * Attendance * Behaviour * Exclusion * Inclusion * SEND * Use of pupil premium plus funding * Educational legislation * Admissions   We will endeavour to respond to your request promptly and provide you with the support you require.  A school does not have a statutory duty to do a Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting for an SGO or adopted child, like they do for a Child Looked After, however we do encourage you to maintain strong lines of communication with the school throughout the child’s education. We provide a [PEP template on our website](https://www.cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/schools/children-previously-looked-after/) if you wish to use it with the school to replicate a PEP meeting.  **The role of the Designated Teacher**  Each school must have a Statutory Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After. This should be a senior teacher who holds a position that would enable them to effectively influence change and policy within the school.  **We recommend strongly that new adoptive and SGO parents make contact with the Designated Teacher at their child’s school** and regularly meet with them to ensure the school fully understands the needs of the child.  We also have a [website page to support parents in their conversations with schools](https://www.cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/families/children-previously-looked-after/working-with-schools/), with examples of questions you may wish to ask in order to find out how your child is progressing and identify any additional needs.  Full details around the duties and expectations of the Designated Teacher can be found on [the DfE website](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf).  **Pupil premium funds for Previously Looked-After Children**  When a child is previously looked after, parents can apply for the school to receive [pupil premium funds for the duration of their Statutory schooling](https://www.cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/families/children-previously-looked-after/pupil-premium-plus-funding/). We encourage families to do this, so that the school has these important funds. Children who have moved directly from birth family to SGO or adoption without coming into care, are not classified as Children Previously Looked After and therefore Pupil Premium Plus can not be claimed for these children.  Unlike pupil premium funds for children who are in care, it is the school and not the Virtual School who are responsible for ensuring that pupil premium plus funding for previously looked-after children is spent within the Government conditions of the grant and importantly. This funding is not ring-fenced for the specific individual use of that child and therefore the school does not have to ensure it is spend directly on your child, however through development of a strong relationship with the Designated Teacher and clear identification of the child’s needs, spending of PPP on an individual child is most likely to be achieved.  Person raising hand  The purpose of pupil premium for previously looked-after children is to raise educational attainment and close the gap between them and their peers. It can be spent by the school either on the child, on wider educational support mechanisms, or non-academic outcomes or activities that will help the school to increasingly meet the needs of all previously looked after children at the school.  If you have a query or concern about your child’s learning and development, or the use of PPP funds, we suggest contacting the school’s Designated Teacher in the first instance to discuss this. |

**Adopted children**

When a child is adopted, they will no longer be a child looked-after but known as a child previously looked-after.

If you are adopting a child, you can request funding through the Adoption Support Fund. Adopt London South (ALS) is a Regional Adoption Agency partnership of 9 local authorities – Croydon, Kingston, Richmond, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Southwark, Sutton and Wandsworth. Their specialist adoption staff find families for children, recruit adopters and offer post adoption support to children, families, birth parents and adopted adults.



You can find lots of information about post-adoption support on their website at: <https://adoptlondon.org.uk/adoption-support/>

If you’re looking for peer support from other adopters, these links take you to some useful organisations:

* <https://wearefamilyadoption.org.uk/>
* <https://www.first4adoption.org.uk/adoption-support/>
* [https://www.adoptionuk.org/support](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.adoptionuk.org%2Fsupport&data=04%7C01%7Csara.martin%40cognus.org.uk%7C88a179cacd404f59da3108d96d546dcf%7Ca383de7d7d37405685d905076fba603f%7C0%7C0%7C637661031658861161%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PELkRGAMhNgJtiv5EIriBONB7ztKODthqZtvia9nllc%3D&reserved=0)
* [https://newfamilysocial.org.uk/-](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnewfamilysocial.org.uk%2F-&data=04%7C01%7Csara.martin%40cognus.org.uk%7C88a179cacd404f59da3108d96d546dcf%7Ca383de7d7d37405685d905076fba603f%7C0%7C0%7C637661031658871115%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FZ01UOw18xa3ncNOx0toEeCRSdIyyMMGwjTwK08ADrU%3D&reserved=0) for LGBT adoptive families

There is a useful adoption guide for grandparents

<http://www.innerworldwork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/An-Adoption-Guide-for-Grandparents.pdf>



The [National Association of Therapeutic Parents (NATP)](https://adoptlondon.org.uk/news/free-membership-to-natp-for-adopt-london-families-during-covid19/) offers a range of support group services, peer support online, a members hotline for 1-2-1 consultation, listening circles,  plus training and advice to families. You can contact them on 01453 519000 to discuss membership and its benefits.

**Special Guardianship/ Supervision Orders**

When a child moves from care to a Special Guardianship Order, they are Children Previously Looked After. A child may also become SGO without coming into care.

Sutton has a post SGO service, which can offer additional support, including:

* advice and counselling
* help dealing with other organisations such as schools and healthcare
* accessing therapeutic services
* training and support groups