

# Kinship carers: Understanding your child's rights to additional support for learning



## What is Kinship care?

Kinship care is when a child lives full-time or most of the time with a relative or friend who isn't their parent, usually because their parents are not able to look after the child themselves.

There are different types of kinship care arrangements:

- Where a child is placed with a kinship carer by the local authority or by the Children's Hearing system and is considered a 'looked after' child.
- Where a kinship carer has been to court and got a residence/kinship care order (Section 11 Order) and where the child is considered a 'non looked after' child.
- Where the child is cared for by kinship carers with no local authority involvement or no court order in place in agreement with the child's parents and is a 'non looked after' child.

More information and advice for kinship carers can be found on the Kinship Care Advice Service for Scotland website. [www.kinship.scot](http://www.kinship.scot)



## Children's rights to support for learning support: What kinship carers need to know

Under Scottish education law:

- ➔ All children have the rights to an education and to extra support with their learning if they have been identified as having additional support needs. This applies to all children living in a kinship care arrangement whether they are classed as a 'looked after' or 'non looked after' child.
- ➔ Looked after children are automatically presumed to have additional support needs (unless they are assessed by the local authority to say they do not need extra support).
- ➔ When it comes to additional support for learning, kinship carers can have the same rights as parents to be involved in decisions and help make sure their child gets the support they need.

Download our 'Additional support for learning and care experienced pupils' factsheet.



Find out more your rights in our guide  
Additional support for learning: A guide for parents and carers  
Order your free copy from our website  
[www.enquire.org.uk/publications](http://www.enquire.org.uk/publications)

## Next steps if you are a kinship carer and are worried about your child's learning

**1** The first step is to talk to the school or nursery about your concerns. Arrange a time to talk to the class or guidance teacher and explain why you are worried.

**2** If you feel the school has not identified your child's needs, you can speak to them about whether input from other professionals, like educational psychology, might help. You also have the right to ask the local authority to formally assess your child's needs.

**Enquire can explain how to do this. Get in touch with the helpline on 0345 123 2303 or download our 'Assessment' factsheet.**

**3** It can be useful when you are talking to the class or guidance teacher to share any changes or issues at home that might be impacting on your child's learning. The school might want to look at the support they are providing if things have or are changing at home. This could include reviewing their learning support or care plan if they have one. If they do not have a written plan, you could ask if one could be put in place.

**4** It can also be helpful to let the school know about any significant events or anniversaries so they know that your child may be upset or need additional support on those days.

### More information:

For advice and information about additional support for learning contact Enquire on 0345 123 2303 or visit our website: [www.enquire.org.uk](http://www.enquire.org.uk)

**ENQUIRE**



This infographic was created in partnership with Adoption UK Scotland Kinship Care service.  
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 **Kinship Care**  
Advice service for Scotland