

Kinship care is when a child is looked after by a relative or close family friend if their parent is unable to provide care due to a range of causes such as loss or instability in the family home.

## Types of kinship care:

### Informal arrangements

The carer does not have parental responsibility and the child is not in the care of children's services.

### Special Guardianship Orders

The carer can make nearly all major decisions about the child without parental permission.

### Child Arrangement Orders

The carer can make day-to-day decisions but parents must be consulted on big decisions about the child.

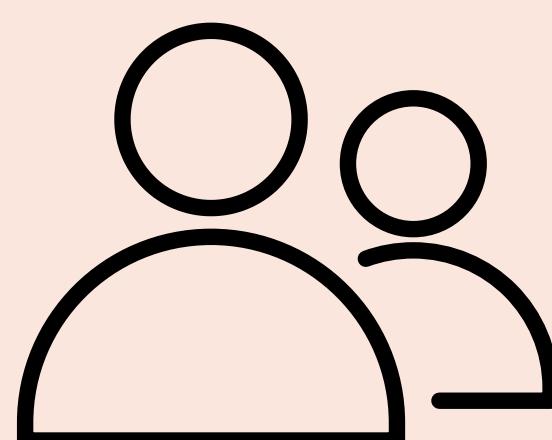
## Did you know?

A third of kinship care households had no adults in employment.

Approximately 160,000 children and young people are in kinship care in England and Wales.

Some areas of Gloucestershire have a higher than average percentage of households with kinship care arrangements.

## Feedback from Kinship Carers



"You don't have the support adopters do."

"It was hard to adjust to the changes in family-life initially, now we know each other much better."

"They've undergone trauma in their early years, which is what led them to the decisions being taken..."

"We weren't geared up for it... I had to go and buy stuff."

## What schools and staff can do to help:

### Raise awareness of kinship care with staff

- Understand each circumstance is different; recognise potential strengths and needs for these young people.
- Use inclusive language to reflect diversity of families in the school.
- Adults should use age-appropriate language with the young person.

### Supporting kinship carer families

- Signpost carers to support if helpful, such as peer support groups and any financial support they may be entitled to.
- Respond flexibly and/or support families with any financial challenges, such as uniform or equipment.

### Use relational and trauma-informed approaches

- Provide nurturing, stable relationships with trusted adults who pupils can speak to about concerns.
- Apply trauma-informed practice and relational approaches, such as PACE (Dan Hughes) or nurture-based approaches.
- Use of consistent routines to support a feeling of safety.

### Advice

- Schools can seek advice from The Virtual School, ATS and the EPS.
- Schools to be aware of pupil premium plus to support pupil needs.

## For more information:

