

Distribution:

Designated Safeguarding Leads  
Chair of Governors  
Head teachers  
Heads of Year  
Heads of House  
Pastoral Support Workers  
Family Support Workers  
Attendance Officers



Dear Colleagues

## **REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY OF PRIVATE FOSTERING ARRANGEMENTS**

Private fostering describes a situation where a parent makes arrangements for their child under 16 (or 18 if the child has a disability) to live with an adult who is not related to them to provide day-to-day care on their behalf for 28 days or more.

It is a legal requirement<sup>1</sup> to report such arrangements to the local authority as children's services have a duty to assess the child's wellbeing and ensure that carers are suitably supported to provide care.

Examples might include: a teenager living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend; a child living with a family friend due to problems at home; a child living with a sponsor in the UK for education or health care and the parents are overseas; or where a parent leaves their child with a friend as they cannot provide consistent care because of difficult circumstances such as illness, unsociable work hours or financial difficulties.

Note that private fostering does not apply if the person is a grandparent, step-parent, uncle or aunt, sibling, half-relative or step-relative. It also does not apply if the child is a child looked after and in the care of a foster carer.

### **Next steps**

To notify us of a private fostering arrangement, contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub by using your usual link to the online portal:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/keeping-adults-and-children-safe/protecting-children/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>

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<sup>1</sup> Children Act 1989

In school, we would also be grateful if you could:

- Double check records at census time
- Raise awareness at staff meetings
- Be mindful at school drop off and collections

Promote the issue through your school and online networks:

- Share the Facebook post on your social media:
  - <https://tinyurl.com/bdfspu74>
- Display the attached poster in your offices, noticeboards, school drop-off points and publish on your website
- Hold a copy of the Private Fostering guides on file and in public areas (to be sent separately by post)
- Follow, like and share posts about Private Fostering at [www.facebook.com/BFFostering](http://www.facebook.com/BFFostering)

More detailed information can be found at: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/private-fostering](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/private-fostering).

Yours faithfully



Peter Hodges  
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