



THE FOUNTAINS HIGH SCHOOL

Private Fostering

Private fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or 18 if they have a disability) is looked after for 28 days or more by someone who is not a close relative, guardian or person with parental responsibility. Close relatives include parents, step-parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

It is not private fostering if the arrangement was made by a social worker at Staffordshire County Council or if the person looking after the child is an approved foster carer.

People become private foster carers for all sorts of reasons. Private foster carers can be a friend of the child's family, or be someone who is willing to care for the child of a family they do not know.

Common situations may be:

- children and young people living apart from their families
- children sent to this country for education and health care by their parents
- children whose parents work or study involves unsociable hours
- children living with another family as a result of separation or divorce
- teenagers living with the family of a boyfriend or girlfriend
- children on holiday exchange.

What Actions Need to be Taken by Schools?

Professionals should ensure that Staffordshire County Council know about all private fostering arrangements.

This includes a wide range of people who come in contact with children including teachers, religious leaders, doctors and health visitors. Professionals should also encourage the child's parent or carer to notify Families First.

You will not be breaching confidentiality by notifying Staffordshire Children's Advice and Support (SCAS), but you will be helping safeguard a child.

Next steps

If you think a child is being privately fostered please call SCAS on 0300 111 8007.