

**Protocol to secure the school admission of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) of school age within statutory 20 working days of coming into care
These children are exempt from the Fair Access Protocol**

Principles of this policy

- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (“UASCs”) have usually fled their families and country because of terrible and dangerous conditions
- Their journey to the UK will have been long and traumatic, many children arrive in a state of very poor physical and mental health, suffering from psychological trauma and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).
- These children are very vulnerable to traffickers and other predatory adults and find themselves immersed in a strange country in which they usually have very little English.
- For their own wellbeing and safeguarding, it is imperative that they are educated safely within a school as soon as possible.

Good Practice

Where children were admitted in less 20 days the following aspects were common factors:

- Child referred on entry to care to the Orientation and Induction Programme.
- Social worker applied for place within a few days of child coming into care after communication with Virtual School.
- Good understanding by school of what risk constitutes and by social worker of information required.
- Quick responses by school and other parties in terms of communications about meetings.
- PEP occurs between starting OIP and school admission and school present where possible.
- Time between school place being offered and child being admitted is as short as practicable- assessments occur once the child is attending school and not before as this delays entry.

Jargon Buster:

IYFAP:

In Year Fair Access Panel. This panel allocates vulnerable admissions to schools. LAC are outside of this panel but the Virtual School works closely with these schools in this process

ERO:

Exclusion and Reintegration Officer. Run the IYFAP process in the north/west, central and south.

OIP:

The Orientation and Induction Program. A 4 weeks course funded by the Virtual School for UASCs to teach them basic English and introduce them to life in the UK.

PEP:

Personal Education Plan. A statutory document for all LAC, held within 20 school days of coming into care or changing school placement. Thereafter held 3 times per year.

PMO:

Pupils Missing Out. A record of children in Oxfordshire who are Not On Roll at any school.

UASC:

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Contact details:

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County Admissions Team:

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