

## Private Fostering

Most children and young people spend some time away from their home staying with relatives and friends. In cases where children/young people may stay for longer periods of time special procedures may apply.

If a child or young person is under 16 (or if disabled under 18) and living with a family member or friend for longer than 28 days this is then seen as Private Fostering. This does not have to be continuous; if a child/young person is staying with family members or friends that add up to 28 days or longer in any period of time this may then be seen as Private Fostering.

Private Fostering is an arrangement made by the parent with the carer who has agreed to look after the child/young person on their behalf. They are not arranged by the local authority. In some circumstances the parents may not have agreed. In some circumstances the young person may not have agreed or the circumstances of their living arrangements raises health, welfare and safety concerns for the child/young person.

Private fostering arrangements can be a positive response from within the community to difficulties experienced by families. Privately fostered children remain a diverse and potentially vulnerable group.

## Our responsibilities

Springwell Community College fully recognises its responsibilities regarding Private Fostering ensuring staff are fully aware on how to identify a child/young person and the circumstances around Private Fostering. This includes a duty to report any possible arrangements/instances to the Local Authority if it is believed the child/young person is possibly living in a Private Fostering arrangement.

This policy should be read in conjunction with “How to Identify a Privately Fostered Child” Appendix A, found at the end of this policy, more information/guidance can be found by following this link: [Derbyshire County Council website](#). Furthermore, we will follow the procedures as set out by [the Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, section 1.6.8.](#) and provide information to any parent/carers where it is believed the child is in a private fostering arrangement.

Private Fostering Information, click link below.

<https://www.springwell.ttct.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/06/private-fostering-information-pack.pdf>