Fostering in Oxfordshire

Dear all,

It was a pleasure speaking with you at the Information Sharing with All Schools, FE & Maintained Nurseries meeting on 11th February 2025. We would be delighted to visit your school community to discuss fostering, whether at staff meetings, summer fetes, conferences, or other events.

Here in Oxfordshire, we have an incredible network of local foster carers, but we need more so that we can keep Oxfordshire children local. It’s common sense that they’ll do better if they’re close to schools, friends and family, even if they’re no longer in the same town.

Being a foster carer is rewarding but we will be honest it’s not always easy. Our children have often been through a lot and can need plenty of support. But every day we see the impact that support has, seeing them grow in confidence – well nothing beats that. Foster caring is about providing stability, positivity and reassurance when a child needs it most. And you won’t be alone, we will be supporting you all the way.

What do our carers say? Lucy told us “Fostering is a collaborative effort – you are not parenting on your own, but as part of a team. You spend a lot of time talking with social workers, school staff, GPs, mental health workers and a whole array of other professionals.

My one piece of advice would be don’t pretend you’re ok when you’re not. You’re not alone, and there’s always help available – you just have to ask for it".

We are a fostering friendly employer

As an employee of Oxfordshire County Council this means you receive additional planned leave, up to five days, for fostering duties. [This is supported by the fostering friendly HR policies](https://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/carers-planned-leave-1) which can be found on the intranet. Please check if your organisation is a fostering friendly employer if do not work for OCC.

We fit around you. You may be single, work full time or have kids, foster carers come in all shapes and sizes and that’s why we keep things personal. Even if it’s early days and you just want a chat to find out more, we work at your pace, so that when you’re ready, we’re ready, whenever that may be.

Even if fostering is not something you are able to do, then please help us by spreading the word and encouraging others to find out more about fostering with Oxfordshire County Council.

Start your conversation:

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Oxfordshire.gov.uk/fostering