



CCS Adoption

Building a positive future for children

The Adopters' Charter

Children come first:

- Adoption is first and foremost a service for children who cannot live with their birth family. Children should be helped to understand what adoption means and supported throughout the adoption journey and beyond.
- Adoption is a life-changing decision that affects the child, and his or her birth and adoptive families. It must be made with the child's best interests, wishes, feelings and needs at its heart and on the basis of sound evidence and high quality assessments

CCS Adoption will:

- Ensure that children are placed, with siblings wherever possible, within a timescale that is best for them and without unnecessary delay. CCS Adoption specialises in the placement of large sibling groups.
- Ensure that adopters are treated with openness, fairness and respect.
- Ensure that the first contact with the Agency is informative and welcoming. CCS Adoption offers a duty social worker every day who will be available from 1 pm to 5 pm Mon – Thurs and 1 pm until 4.30 pm on Fridays.
- Discuss adoption with anyone who feels they have something to offer the children who wait. The Agency's recruitment policy is one of inclusiveness and no-one will be automatically excluded.
- Recruit adopters who can meet all or most of the needs of children who wait. If for any reason CCS Adoption feels unable to accept an application from prospective adopters, the Agency will explain its reasons honestly and, if appropriate, direct you to another Adoption Agency in your area.
- Explain to prospective adopters the needs and profiles of the children waiting to be adopted.



- Provide preparation and training for prospective adopters and ensure that the adoption assessment and the approval process are explained in detail and proceed efficiently.
- Provide a regular review process throughout the assessment.
- Ensure that progress on matching is reviewed regularly with prospective adopters and information about the Adoption Register and South West Adoption Consortium (SWAC) is readily available.
- Provide adopters and prospective adopters with information, counselling and support, as and when needed, throughout the adoption journey and beyond.
- Work in partnership with other Agencies and the Courts to ensure that all decisions are timely and “joined up”.
- Provide prospective adopters with information about the Independent Review Mechanism.

Adoptive Parents must:

- Be aware that adoption often brings challenges as well as joy, be realistic about the needs of children awaiting adoption, and accept that with support they may be able to consider adopting a child with a different profile to the child they originally envisaged adopting.
- Make the most of opportunities to develop their parenting skills, and seek support when needed at the earliest stage.
- Do all they can to enable their adopted child to feel loved and secure, and to reach their potential.