

TOP TIPS

For TEACHERS supporting children & young people experiencing Family Law Proceedings



Every child or young person is different and they each have unique experiences of family. For those who are in family law proceedings it can be a very worrying time. The members of the FJYPB have each been involved in family law proceedings either as Public Law Care Proceedings or as Private Law Parental Separation.

They have devised these TOP TIPS for teachers based on what they found useful or wished that their teachers had done for them during and after their proceedings.



1

Educate yourself (and your team) about family law proceedings, especially the difference between public and private Law. Check out the Cafcass website.

2

Get to know the basic's on what is going on for me and my family, try to understand what my lived experience is and how that might be affecting me; my mental health, my physical health, my behaviour and my ability to stay focused at school.

3

Check in with me (be discreet) to see if my circumstances have changed – I may need help.

4

Be understanding, if I live between my two parents (who don't communicate) it can be hard for me to always remember what I need from each home.

5

Recognise subtle changes in my behaviour – I may have witnessed something difficult and don't know how to talk about it.

6

I might not be able to concentrate as well in class when I am worried about things going on at home or in court.

7

If I have an appointment to meet with my Social Worker or Cafcass worker, I may be worried about it. I may have to talk about some really difficult things. Think about how that may affect me in the classroom, perhaps I could have some time after my meeting before I go back to class.

8

I may not have told my friends about what is going on at home, so I may need your help to find reasons for me missing school to attend meetings or court.

9

I can often feel alone, so it may be helpful for you to signpost me to support services that could help me.

10

It would be good to have time in class to talk about more real life issues such as family life, mental health and how to become resilient.



You can find out more about the FJYPB at: www.cafcass/fjypb

Cafcass have a great source of useful information for children and young people and their families involved in family law proceedings. You can find them at: <https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/family-justice-young->