

St CHRISTOPHER'S CREATING BRIGHTER FUTURES

Fostering with St Christopher's



As a foster carer you will be supporting and nurturing young people in care to create happy memories and achieve their full potential.

As a charity, you can be confident that children are at the heart of everything we do. We are fully not for profit. We don't have shareholders so our priority is always providing the best care to young people and supporting you every step of the way.

What is fostering?

Fostering is when a child or young person in care comes to live with you. You look after them and provide a safe and caring home to meet their needs. Alongside the support of a social worker and other professionals, you will enable them to thrive and create a brighter future.

Types of fostering at St Christopher's

- **Long-term:** Providing a home until a child is ready to move to independence typically at 18
- **Short-term:** Providing a short term home whilst plans or decisions are being made for a child
- **Respite:** Providing a home for a short break for a child in care
- **Parent & Child:** Providing a home for a young family typically for a limited period of 3-6 months
- **Specialist:** Long term support for young people with specific health or wellbeing needs

What do you need to become a foster carer with us?

- ✓ The time, commitment and energy to make a difference to a child's life
- ✓ One or more spare bedrooms
- ✓ Capacity to travel
- ✓ Some experience with children
- ✓ Commitment to attend training and support groups
- ✓ UK resident or leave to remain status
- ✓ To be aged 21 or older
- ✓ Preferably a driving licence

Why St Christopher's?

How our carers and children feel

“ It is the best thing we ever did and we like their ethos ”

Current Foster Carer

“ Safe, happy, supported and part of the family ”

Fostered Young Person

Please turn over to see answers to other frequently asked questions about fostering with us and to find out more about the key steps in the journey to get you started

FAQ's about fostering with St Christopher's

Is there an age limit for carers to foster?

No, but you must be over 21.

Is the charity religious or affiliated to a religious organisation?

No.

I am not married can I apply?

You do not need to be in a relationship and can be a lone carer.

Can I foster as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community?

Absolutely. We welcome all individuals keen to make a difference for children in need.

I already have children, is that ok?

We carefully match all fostering families and many have their own children already.

Can I foster if already working?

There are different ways to flexibly foster, which may fit into your current lifestyle.

I don't have children can I apply?

Yes. Our training and support will help you on your fostering journey.

I am disabled, can I foster?

Yes. We welcome all applicants. As part of the assessments all carers undertake to prepare for fostering, you will complete a full medical to confirm they are physically able to care for children without risking their health. We will also build in extra support as needed.

I rent my home, can I foster?

Yes. As long as you have a spare room and references.

Good to know

- The fostering allowance you receive varies depending on the support the young person in your care needs and also factors in the likes of holidays, gifts and even pocket money.
- We provide extensive support and training to prepare you for fostering and whilst you are caring for children - and are with you every step of the way.
- We are always on call if you need us 24/7.
- You will be allocated your own dedicated social worker.
- We connect our carers and have a thriving community you can network with.

The process

There are three distinct stages to becoming approved as a foster carer and it usually takes around **six to eight months** to complete the process. We will visit you in your home and guide you through the paperwork and necessary checks to be completed, as well as training, so that you are ready to open up your home to a child.

Application



Assessment

Approval

Contact our friendly team and enquire today

We support foster families in the following territories: **Eastern Region** - Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and extensively throughout the **West Midlands**.

 www.stchris.org.uk  fostering@stchris.org.uk **Or scan our QR code below.**

 **Eastern Region Team:** 01245 392102 / 01438 572257  **West Midlands Team:** 0121 525 3738

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FUTURES

Caring for children and young people since 1870

