




**Fostering
Friendly**

The Fostering Network

Become a Fostering Friendly employer

- Benefit children in your community.
 - Support your employees.
 - Strengthen your business.
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Children need foster families in their local communities

Today there are over 70,000 children living with foster families across the UK and the numbers are rising. Every 20 minutes another child comes into care.

Foster families give children who cannot live with their birth family the care and stability they need. For many of these children, foster care is their first positive experience of family life.

What they need most is stability and the chance to maintain important relationships. But a shortage of foster carers across the UK means too often children are placed far from their community. And too often they are moved many times. We know this harms their wellbeing.

Recruiting more foster carers and supporting the foster carers we have means more children will be able to stay connected with the people and places that matter most to them. By becoming a Fostering Friendly employer, your company can be part of the solution.



Fostering Friendly

Fostering Friendly employers commit to supporting employees who foster, and helping to promote and celebrate fostering.

Employers who understand foster carers' commitments and offer a flexible approach are helping them provide the best possible care for a child or young person.

The scheme is simple and free to join for organisations of any size. It offers your company and employees expert support from The Fostering Network, the UK's leading fostering charity.

All you need to do is agree a flexible working policy, offering foster carers and those preparing to foster a minimum of five days paid leave for their fostering commitments such as training or settling a new child into their home.

We will provide everything you need to develop this policy and to take part in celebrating Foster Care Fortnight™, the UK's biggest fostering awareness campaign.



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Health and wellbeing is at the heart of our employee offer, and it made complete sense to sign up to the scheme. It also resonates with two of our strategic priorities: to celebrate children and young people, and be innovative and pioneering.

Louise Court, Director of HR, Church of England Diocese

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Benefits of joining the scheme

- Build on your brand and demonstrate your commitment to caring for staff and your local community
- Better understand and support your employees' needs and improve staff wellbeing
- Be an attractive employer for foster carers, who are resilient, committed and skilled professionals
- Play a vital role in recruiting and supporting foster carers, with a huge impact for children in your local community
- Engage and inspire staff with learning and awareness raising events and activities
- Benefit from on-hand expertise from the UK's leading fostering charity
- Be a part of the national celebration of foster care and its amazing stories.



Ready to join our Fostering Friendly community?

Get in touch with our team at **FosteringFriendly@fostering.net** – we are here to help you all the way.

1. We will send you a template policy and help you develop your own
2. We will approve your new policy and help promote your new status
3. Our team will support you to take part in Foster Care Fortnight
4. We can help to engage, inform, and inspire your employees

Becoming Fostering Friendly is the beginning of a partnership. We will work with you to find simple ways we can meet our shared goals together.

Contact us today, or visit **thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/fosteringfriendly** for more information, including frequently asked questions.



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We recognised that the impact for us as a company is relatively small, but the impact for any potential child being fostered could be significant and so we were delighted to be able to support our children and local communities by launching our Fostering Friendly policy across both organisations.

Karin O'Connell, Deputy Head of People Solutions,
Port Vale FC and Synectics Solutions

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About The Fostering Network

As the UK's leading fostering charity, we are the essential network for fostering and we bring together everyone who is involved in the lives of fostered children. We work to ensure that all children and young people in foster care experience stable family life and we are passionate about the difference foster care makes.

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