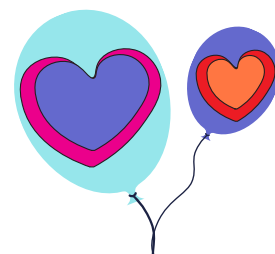




For family or friends who
step up to raise a child.



Kinship Care Week

5-11 October 2026

Kinship Care Week 2026: Guide for local authorities and virtual schools

What is Kinship Care Week?

Kinship Care Week (5 – 11 October 2026) is a time to shine a light on the vital role of kinship carers – relatives and friends who step up to raise a child when their parents are unable to.

Across England and Wales, more than 141,000 children are being raised in kinship care, growing up in loving and stable homes that keep them connected to their families, roots and community

This Kinship Care Week, we're celebrating the unbreakable bonds at the heart of kinship families – and the communities they build to support one another - while highlighting the realities of stepping up to care for a child who has had a difficult start in life.

This year we also mark a major milestone: our 10th anniversary of Kinship Care Week.

Over the past decade kinship care has moved from being often overlooked to being increasingly recognised and understood.

Because kinship families should be recognised, valued and supported – and **Kinship Care Week is a key opportunity to come together to celebrate all that they do every single day.**

We are Kinship. The leading kinship care charity in England and Wales. We support, advise and inform kinship carers.

Who is a kinship carer? A kinship carer can have a legal order like a special guardianship order or child arrangements order, be a kinship foster carer (also known as family and friends or connected foster carers), or be an informal kinship carer with no legal order.

Kinship Care Week digital toolkit - what's inside



This guide for
making your
Kinship Care Week
2026 a success



Kinship Care Week
poster and social
media flyers/assets
to promote Kinship
Care Week



Copy to promote
Kinship Care Week
via your email
newsletter/intranet

Get involved in Kinship Care Week

Local authorities and virtual schools have a really important role to play in Kinship Care Week. It's a chance to build awareness and understanding among professionals who may support or come into contact with kinship carers, to **signpost support for kinship carers in your area**, and to **listen to and amplify local kinship carers' voices**.



1. Raise awareness and visibility

- Promote Kinship support services by displaying posters from the **Kinship digital toolkit** in public spaces such as libraries and community centres.
- Promote the free support that Kinship provides to kinship carers from **free training workshops, to expert advice and peer support groups**.
- Use local media, social media and council newsletters to raise awareness of kinship care and signpost available support.
- Share stories of kinship carers in your area (with permission) to help bring lived experiences to life.
- Follow and share content from Kinship's social media channels during #KinshipCareWeek.



2. Engage and inform staff and partners

- Share Kinship Care Week communications internally using the **Kinship digital toolkit** so staff across all teams understand the importance of kinship care.
- Highlight best practice and practical insights in supporting kinship families across your workforce.
- Encourage colleagues, including social workers and frontline staff, to join the **Kinship Professionals Network** to stay informed and share learning.
- Work with local community organisations and partners to improve awareness and ensure consistent signposting to support - and create links to your **kinship local offer**.



3. Celebrate and listen to kinship carers

- Host a Kinship Care Week tea party or similar local event to bring kinship carers and families together.
- Encourage local leaders to publicly recognise kinship carers through statements or short videos.
- Organise listening sessions where kinship carers can share their experiences directly with decision-makers.
- Involve kinship carers in helping to develop or review your Kinship Local Offer. Kinship can help you to organise this.

If you have any questions,
please contact
comms@kinship.org.uk

Ensure you're ready
for Kinship Care Week 2025 by
following Kinship's social media.



@Kinshipcarecharity



@kinship_charity



Kinship



kinship.org.uk