

Ethically Approved Research - Summary Report

This is a Summary Report provided by the researcher to Tusla, Child and Family Agency. The study pertaining to this report was approved by the National Research Office, Research Ethics Review Group. This report will be stored within the Tusla Research Register which will be accessed by National Research Office staff. Please indicate whether or not you give permission for your report to be made available to other staff of the Child and Family Agency and the wider public on the Research Register within the electronic Tusla Research Centre (on the Tusla Child and Family Agency website).

When completing this Summary Report, please adhere to the headings provided. Research studies vary in size; however the completion of this report should not exceed 3,000 words. Please complete, sign and return to recadmin@tusla.ie

Full Title of Research Study:	Take Care Guidance for Schools					
Name of Researcher/Researchers: Surname: First Name: Existing post-nominal Letters: Contact email address:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Madden</td></tr> <tr><td>Tara</td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td>taramadden@epiconline.ie</td></tr> </table>	Madden	Tara			taramadden@epiconline.ie
Madden						
Tara						
taramadden@epiconline.ie						

Student Research

If research was undertaken for an academic award please state:

Official title of the course:	n/a
--------------------------------------	-----

Abstract:

The Take Care Guidance is designed to help schools better understand and support children and young people in care. Developed with care-experienced children and young people, this guide provides insight into their school experiences and the challenges they face.

The guidance consists of a youth-centred resource and an accompanying school guide. It is intended to empower the whole school community – leaders, teachers, and non-teaching staff – by providing the tools to uphold the rights of care-experienced students and ensure they have the support they need to succeed in education.

In 2021, EPIC hosted a webinar with care-experienced children and young people about their experiences in education. A key recommendation that emerged was the need for greater awareness among teachers about the care system and the impact it has on students' lives. Many young people felt their school experiences could have been improved if teachers had a better understanding of their needs.

The Tusla Education Support Service (TESS) provided funding for the project and EPIC worked with Kids' Own to host a series of creative workshops with care-experienced young people aged 14 to 26. Through art and storytelling, they shared their personal experiences of school to create this resource, making it an authentic and practical guide.

[Take-Care Resource.pdf](#)

[Take-Care School Guide.pdf](#)

Reference list:

Irish Foster Care Association journal Foster 5; Schools, partners in care, releasing potential (McCluskey, 2018)

<https://ifca.ie/foster/>

Webinar on the educational experiences of people who are in or have been through the care system

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQzsHGV5hGI>

VOYPIC #SeeMe videos

<https://www.voypic.org/seeme>

CSO Frontier Series Output: Educational Attendance and Attainment of Children in Care, 2018 – 2024

[School Attendance of Children in Care and All Children Educational Attendance and Attainment of Children in Care, 2018 - 2024 - Central Statistics Office](#)

The Education of Children in Care in Ireland: An Exploratory Study (2013)

https://www.oco.ie/app/uploads/2013/05/11873_Education_Care_SP1.pdf

Care Experiences: Journeys through the Irish care system

[Care Experiences: Journeys through the Irish care system](#)

Language that cares: Changing the way professionals talk about Children in Care

https://tactfostering.org.uk/content/uploads/2019/03/TACT-Language-that-cares-2019_online.pdf

Changing Futures Information about Tusla and what it does, directly from young people with experience of Tusla services, for teachers who may be trying to understand a situation: <https://changingfutures.ie/>

EPIC's Advocacy Service

<https://www.epiconline.ie/request-an-advocate/>

Care Day

<https://www.epiconline.ie/care-day-epic/>

Permission Box

I give permission for this report to be made available on the Tusla Electronic Research Centre website; it may be viewed by those internal and/or external to Tusla.

Yes



Researcher Signature:

Date: 29/10/25

I give permission for my personal details including name, email address and title of qualification to be made available on the Tusla Electronic Research Centre website; it may be viewed by those internal and/or external to Tusla.

Yes



Researcher Signature:

Date: 29/10/25