

# SUPPORTING ADOPTED TEENAGERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL



## WHAT IS ADOPTION?



Adoption is when a child or young person is legally taken into the care of a new family. In adoption, all legal rights and responsibilities regarding the young person are permanently moved from the young person's birth family to their adoptive family.



## THERE ARE TWO BROAD CATEGORIES OF ADOPTION:

### INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

When a young person is adopted into Ireland from a different country.



### DOMESTIC ADOPTION

When a young person is both born and adopted within Ireland. This can involve step-parent adoption, adoption by someone outside of the family, and adoption from long-term foster care.



## ADOLESCENT YEARS



During the teenage years, young people begin to form their identities. For adopted teenagers, this can be challenging because of their history. Some might start to think more about their adoption and their biological family, while others might not. Each person who has experienced adoption can have different views, thoughts, and feelings.



## ADOPTION FRIENDLY LANGUAGE



It's good practice to take the lead on language from the adopted young person. Here are some adoption-positive terms/concepts:

- Birth parent/mother/father
- Biological/genetic parent
- A young person adopted from another country into Ireland has had an "intercountry" or "international" adoption
- Birth parents "made an adoption plan"



## EACH ADOPTION STORY IS UNIQUE

Some young people may be very open about their adoption, while others might be more sensitive about it. Young people who are adopted may benefit from being able to talk about their adoption in a safe and supportive space. If a young person is adopted from abroad, do not assume that they are aware of the customs and languages of the country they were born in.



Scan this QR code to learn more information about adoption in Ireland



ÚDARÁS UCHTÁLA na hÉIREANN  
THE ADOPTION AUTHORITY of IRELAND

### AAI Mission Statement

"To ensure the provision of the highest possible standards of adoption related services, throughout the lifelong adoption process, with the best interests of children as the first and paramount objective."