



Worcestershire Virtual School Annual Report 2020 -2021

What is the Virtual School?

The Virtual School provides an advocacy role for Children Looked After. We aim to promote high aspirations for all of you, to ensure that you are all given the opportunity to succeed and develop to your full potential.

You may have met your Learning Advocates within your PEP meetings. We work with your school, social worker and carers to make sure that you can access the education you deserve. We always take your views into account. Last year we ensured that a PEP meeting took place each term to discuss your progress and well-being.

As a result, many of you benefitted from extra tuition/support in school or provision that the school arranged for you to receive in addition to your school curriculum. For example, 1-1 tuition, mentoring support and well-being projects.

During Summer 2021, we appointed 2 new post 16 advocates. The aim is for them to support you via Personal Progression Plans (PPPs) until you leave year 13.

Attainment/Progress

Year 11's were unable to sit GCSE exams last year but moderated assessments by schools were used and many of you achieved passes in accredited courses and were able to progress to your chosen 16 options.

85% of you made good progress with your schoolwork.

Three quarters of you were able to remain well motivated 'most of the time' even during the disruption due to school closures and bubbles collapsing at schools. You adapted to flexible study time and continued to show a readiness for learning.

The PEP

The PEP provides information on your

- attendance
- school achievements
- pastoral well-being
- alternative curriculum provision
- your views
- future targets

Every young person who is looked after had a PEP meeting each term last year, 100%.

This is what it looks like:



Figure 1: This is what the front cover of a PEP looks like

Overall attendance for the academic year 2020-2021.

Despite all of the Covid restrictions last year and the combination of school and home learning, overall attendance was 92%.

Our aim is 95% attendance. We now have an attendance Monitoring Officer tracks those who have attendance below 90%

Achievements

School looked very different during Autumn 20/ Spring 21, and many of you completed your studies from home. We would like to say how well you've all done during this challenging time! From 8th March 2021, all pupils were expected to attend school.

Some of you joined the 'Redgate' and 'Be You' programmes and we have some great feedback to say you enjoyed the activities and that it helped raise your confidence and self-esteem.

July 2021, we worked in collaboration with the West Midlands VS Sports Co-ordinator to offer a team building activities at Lakeside Activity Centre. Many children attended and embraced the activities, working creatively together and showing a willingness to try new things.

The Virtual School were unable to hold the annual celebration event at West Midlands Safari Park, instead, we were able to provide gift cards to those that were nominated by schools and social workers.

Next Steps

- ✚ Improve attendance and reduce exclusions
- ✚ Improving educational outcomes for children in care
- ✚ Engagement in sports, arts and outdoor learning projects to improve leadership skills, teamwork, self-confidence and resilience
- ✚ Develop shared communication and working practices with Social Care

