

Worcestershire Virtual School Policy for Children Looked After & Previously Looked After Children

The Virtual School believes that all Children Looked After (CLA) and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) should have equitable access to excellent educational provision and be able to achieve at a similar level to all Worcestershire children.

We recognise that nationally there is considerable educational underachievement of children looked after in residential and foster care, when compared with their peers.

Supporting CLA & PLAC

Inclusion

- The Virtual School, with its professional partners, will promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for children and young people looked after and previously looked after.
- The VS will strive to ensure all CLA/PLAC receive a full-time education in an appropriate setting and that gaps in education are minimised.
- The Virtual School will work with educational settings, social workers, other professionals and carers to improve attendance and minimise or reduce exclusions so that CLA/PLAC have access to all learning opportunities and have the best chance of success. This also includes appropriate training and employment opportunities for Post 16 CLA/PLAC
(see Appendix 1)

Advocacy

- The Virtual School will promote a culture that takes account of the child or young person's views according to age and understanding, identifying and meeting their educational needs.
- The VS will ensure there is a Designated Teacher for all CLA/PLAC at all settings.
- The VS will ensure there is a Designated Teacher or equivalent for all Post 16 CLA/PLAC at all settings.
(see Appendix 1)

Admissions

- The Virtual School will provide advice and support to social workers to ensure they understand the admissions process and the Early Years Funding processes.
- The Virtual School will work with all professionals to ensure an educational setting is identified that is well placed to meet the child's needs.
(see Appendices 1, 2 & 3)

The Personal Education Plan (PEP)

- The Virtual School will produce a Personal Education Plan (PEP) or Personal Progression Plan (PPP) for all CLA (pre-school to age 18), within 10 school days of being notified of becoming Looked After, a minimum of once a term and each time there is an educational setting change.
- The PEP/PPP will reflect the importance of a personalised approach to learning that meets the child/young person's identified educational/training/employment needs, raises aspirations and improves life chances.

(see Appendix 1)

Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) and Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

- The PP+ is ring fenced funding and will be used to enhance learning opportunities to improve educational outcomes for CLA.
- PP+ funding for PLAC is allocated directly to and managed by the school. (see Appendix 4)
- Early Years Pupil Premium for all 3 and 4 year old CLA is allocated directly to and managed by the Preschool provider and used to enhance learning opportunities to improve educational outcomes.
- The VS will encourage all professionals involved with Post 16 CLA/PLAC who are applying for further education or training, are made aware of the 16-19 Bursary Fund and the application process.

(see Appendix 6)

Transitions

- The Virtual School will support with all transitions; Care Placement Moves, In Year educational setting moves and all natural transitions, including Preschool to Reception, and Post 16 moves to Further Education, Apprenticeships or Employment.
- A PEP/PPP will be initiated for all CLA transitioning to a new education, training or employment setting within 20 school days of the move (after receiving notification of the move).

(see Appendix 1)

Joined up Working

- The VS will take a proactive approach and develop strong partnerships with relevant professionals with regard to the education of our CLA, ensuring improved outcomes
- The VS will promote positive collaboration between all the professionals engaged in supporting the child/young person.

Training

- The Virtual School will offer regular, high quality training to Designated Teachers, Social Care, Foster Carers, SENCOs and other partner agencies.

Safeguarding

- The VS will be vigilant and proactive in identifying and reporting safeguarding concerns to the relevant professionals.

(see Appendix 5)

Appendix

1. [DfE Statutory Guidance 2018 - Promoting the education of looked after and previously looked after children](#)
2. [DfE School admissions code September 2021](#)
3. WCF Virtual School Admissions Policy - September 2021
[Virtual School information library - Virtual School, Policies and Guidance](#)
4. Worcestershire Virtual School Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) Policy (September 2021)
[Virtual School funding | Virtual School funding | Worcestershire County Council](#)
5. Worcestershire Virtual School Safeguarding Policy 2021
[The Virtual School | Worcestershire County Council](#)
6. [16 to 19 Bursary Fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Additional Essential Reading & Guidance:

[DfE Statutory Guidance 2018 - The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children](#)

[DfE Statutory Guidance 2021 - Keeping children safe in education 2021](#)