

Worcestershire Virtual School News Issue 1 – 2021/2022

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Welcome Back

We hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing Summer break and have returned with your usual vigour. Following what can only be described as a challenging academic year last year, we are all keeping our fingers crossed for a more settled year of uninterrupted learning for our children. Once again, the Virtual School would like to thank you for your continued support for and commitment to our most vulnerable learners.

Welcome also to our new Virtual School Learning Advocates Becky James (YR) and Mary Williams (Y1-Y11). Becky and Mary have now started in their new roles and are looking forward working with you.

Virtual School Interventions

Thank you all for updating your CLA's attainment and progress data in the PEP. Many of you also used the narrative box in Welfare Call to add context to the numerical grading. This was incredibly helpful and informed our pupil progress meetings. As a result of the data analysis the VS has planned the following interventions:

- ✓ 'Cracking Stuff' – school staff and separate foster carer training for Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 – more details to follow via Learning Advocates
- ✓ 'Readiness to Learn' workshops followed by making pupil's learning experiences - Meaningful, Memorable, Motivational and Manageable. Sessions for school staff (Years 3-6). More details to follow via Learning Advocates
- ✓ Trauma Informed Schools Level 5 (11 day) diploma (new cohort starting this term).

- ✓ Writing intervention for class/subject teachers, on an individual basis, where any aspect of writing is a cause for concern.
- ✓ We have increased our Service Level Agreement with the Education Psychology service and will be writing to you with more detail about this support/guidance shortly.
- ✓ We are continuing to monitor rates of attendance and exclusions – should you need any support for our CLA please contact your Learning Advocate in the first instance.

- ✓ We have a Service Level Agreement with WCF's Learning Support team. They are available to help schools and settings enhance their capacity to meet the needs of children and young people with a range of learning needs through specialist advice, interventions, assessment and training. This support is available where schools have utilised notional SEN budgets and any SEN Top Up funding to support the child/young person effectively. Should you need any support please contact your Learning Advocate in the first instance.
- ✓ We know that the identification and setting of wider educational targets, which is part of all PEPs, within school/setting impacts positively on our children/young people. Our evidence shows that many of our CLA are benefitting from focusing 1-1 support (some of this has been through the National Tutoring Programme which gives excellent value for money).

Autumn Term DT Training

The next DT Training will be being held virtually on Tuesday, 9th of November at 12.30pm and again at 3.30pm, each session will last 1 hour.

Topics covered in the Autumn Term training will be:

- Attendance and SEMH support
- Post 16 process
- e PEP - SEND information completion
- e- PEP – Pupil voice completion

If you have any specific questions or indeed successful strategies to share about the above items, please forward them to pheffield@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or spurser@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to ensure they are covered within the training.

Places for training can be booked via email to CLAurentus-George@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk by Friday, 22nd Oct, with your name/role, school, email address and session time.

If you are new to role and would like specific 1:1 training, please let your VS Learning Advocate know and they will facilitate this for you.

PLAC – Census Reminder and Resources

Additional financial support for Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) is available for schools through the Pupil Premium Grant of £2,345. This is paid directly to schools if the eligible child is entered on the October Census. Previously looked-after pupils are those no longer looked after in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order, or were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales.

Schools need to be pro-active in ensuring parents are aware of the funding available, allowing parents and guardians to declare their child's adoptive, SGO or CAO status directly to the school before the school completes the October census.

Parents and guardians must provide evidence, for example, a copy of the legal order, or a confirmation letter from the local council which placed their child. Parents should not need to declare their child's status again until the child changes school and parents are not obliged to declare this information. This additional funding is to be used to improve the attainment of PLAC and close the attainment gap between this group and their peers, reflecting the significant additional barriers faced by these children.

A new school year can be a daunting time for any child, for children who have been adopted, there can be many additional layers of complexity.

These short guides give an overview of some issues facing adopted children and their families. They provide practical strategies for education settings and families to work together, to enable an adopted child to settle in and to thrive.

[adoption-uk-info-sheet-welcoming-adopted-child-primary.pdf \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

[adoption-uk-info-sheet-welcoming-adopted-child-nursery.pdf \(gloucestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

If you require any support, please contact Jade Busby (Previously Looked After Children Advisor): jbusby@worschildrenfirst.org.uk 01905 846125

Mental Health & Wellbeing Calendar

The Anna Freud: National centre for children and families, have created a calendar of curriculum themes and occasions linked to mental health for the 2021 autumn term, with activity ideas and free resources for each theme.

[Mental health and wellbeing calendar: autumn term 2021 : Mentally Healthy Schools](#)

Early Years Outdoor Learning Grant

What do bird boxes, bee hotels and nature experts all have in common?
We'll tell you

They are all available free to schools and early years settings as part of Learning through Landscapes Local School Nature Grants Programme, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

This outdoor learning grant fund has two elements – a fully funded outdoor learning training for your staff and £500 of equipment for outdoor learning.

The grants are available in England, Wales and Scotland only. They are available to all schools. Early years providers must have at least 5 staff and a building – either stand alone or part of a school.

Find out more below.

[Outdoor learning grant | Learning through Landscapes \(ltl.org.uk\)](#)

We are here to support you and our children looked after/previously looked after. Please call or email, using the details below or visit our website.

Virtual School Helpline 01905 844913
virtualschool@worschildrenfirst.org.uk

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/virtualschool>