Every Day Matters

What is the Virtual School?

- The Virtual School champions the educational needs of Looked After Children (LAC), improves their life chances and raises awareness of corporate parenting responsibilities.

- It maintains a school roll of all Reading looked after children including those out of authority, monitors Personal Education Plans, admissions, attendance and exclusions, and has a duty to promote the educational achievement of all LAC.

- Training, support and guidance are provided for Social Workers, Foster Carers, Designated Teachers and Schools.

What are our aims?

- To discharge the statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of Looked after Children.

- To deliver the Reading Pledge which is our promise to support Looked after Children the support and encouragement they need to achieve their potential.

- Monitoring the effectiveness of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for quality and timeliness, hitting 95% target completion rates.

- Working with schools to create bespoke support packages to improve behaviour, attendance and reduce exclusions.

- Ensuring that, there is an informed discussion about the choice of school that best meets the needs of LAC. Where appropriate, Looked after Children are placed in good or outstanding provisions.

- Providing strong advocacy to support placement stability with a particular focus for children on the edge of education.

We achieve these aims by:

- Providing training and advice to Designated Teachers, Social Workers and Foster Carers and work in partnership with all services to offer Looked after Children the support and encouragement they need to achieve their potential.

How are Looked After Children supported?

- Through the Personal Education Plan (PEP) initiated within 10 working days of a child becoming Looked After and if they move schools. It is then reviewed after 3 months, and thereafter every 6 months.

- By ensuring that this is a ‘living, evolving, comprehensive and enduring record of a child’s experience, progress and achievement’ throughout their education career.

- By promoting a culture that takes account of young people’s views, and helps professionals working with LAC, especially IROs, social workers, carers and teachers to understand how this is achieved through the PEP process.

- By ensuring that Designated Teachers in schools are supported in their role of promoting the achievement of LAC.

- By ensuring that PEPs and any Statement of Special Education Need/EHCP work in harmony.
**Pupil Premium Plus (PPS)**

- PPS is received from the government and managed by the Head of the Virtual School for LAC. It provides additional support for all of our children from Early Years to the end of KS4 (Year 11).

- PPS is currently £1200 (per annum), with up to £1900 or more available depending on the individual need of each child.

- Priorities are discussed at PEP meetings. These focus on raising attainment and narrowing the attainment gap between LAC and their peers.

- A PPS Audit form is completed by schools detailing PPS spending, interventions and impact.

- Post 16 students receive a LAC Bursary of £1200. This supports education. It is discussed at the Year 11 transition PEP meeting and subsequent PEP/Pathway Plan meetings.

- PPS is spent on a range of interventions designed to remove barriers to learning. For example: one-to-one tuition, training, mentoring support, equine therapy, music lessons, and additional resources.

- The funding is *additional* to support from other services. It does not replace funding associated with; a Statement/EHCP, fostering allowances, residential fees, general funding received by schools to deliver the curriculum, provide basic equipment or school uniform.

---

**Contact us at Reading Virtual School**

Clare Houlton - The Headteacher of Reading Virtual School for Looked After Children:

- Telephone: 0118 937 3504
- Mobile: 07803 760667
- Email: clare.houlton@reading.gov.uk

John Edgar - Education Adviser
- Telephone: 0118 937 6022
- Mobile: 07811 810378
- Email: john.edgar@reading.gov.uk

Lisa Palmer - Education Support Worker
- Telephone: 0118 937 0221
- Mobile: 0784 3217800
- Email: lisa.palmer@reading.gov.uk

Larraine Linstead - Business Administrator - Pupil Premium
- Telephone: 0118 937 6834
- Email: laraine.linstead@reading.gov.uk

Jade Hunt - Assistant Performance Analyst
- Telephone: 0118 937 4271
- Email: jade.hunt@reading.gov.uk

---

The Reading Virtual School for Looked After Children

---

Every Day Matters