

# FAQs

## Does the Virtual School Support other groups of vulnerable children ?

Yes, since September 2018 the Virtual School has a remit to support post looked after children, those adopted or now under guardianship/residency orders. This remit is around proving information and advice. *(Please see Virtual School PLAC leaflet)*. From September 2021 the Virtual School has a remit to act strategically to raise the profile and educational outcomes for all children with a social worker.

## Does the Virtual School actually accommodate and teach children?

No, all children are placed on the roll of Dfe registered schools. The Virtual School has a monitoring and oversight role of those Children in Care in ensuring the best possible education outcomes are achieved.

## Does the Virtual School cover pre school aged children and those in post 16 education?

The Virtual School has a remit to cover all children (0-18) in care and can offer support, advice and guidance to all ages.

### Any further questions?

If you have any further questions or would like support please contact the Virtual School  
[virtualschool@hants.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@hants.gov.uk)

### Additional Information and Guidance

Virtual School Websites

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/virtual-school>

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

Guidance on duties and roles designated teacher in schools Feb 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

Promoting the education of looked after children - LA guidance Feb 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

# Virtual School



## Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School for Children in Care

Since 2014 all local authorities are required to appoint an officer to promote the educational achievement of looked after children.

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School comprises a number of education advisors, officers, caseworkers, admin staff and partner colleagues. They are all led by the Executive Headteacher.

The role of the Virtual School Head Teacher is focused on raising attainment and ensuring progression of all looked-after children. They work strategically across their authority and with schools to monitor and support the educational achievement of looked-after children.

The Virtual School recognises that working holistically with the wider children's workforce is crucial in terms of improving education outcomes.

Section 20 of the Children and Young Person Act 2008 stipulates that school governing bodies designate a senior member of staff (the designated teacher) as having the responsibility to promote the educational achievement of looked-after children.

### Our Vision

Working in partnership, all children we care for will have high quality education and support so they are prepared for life.

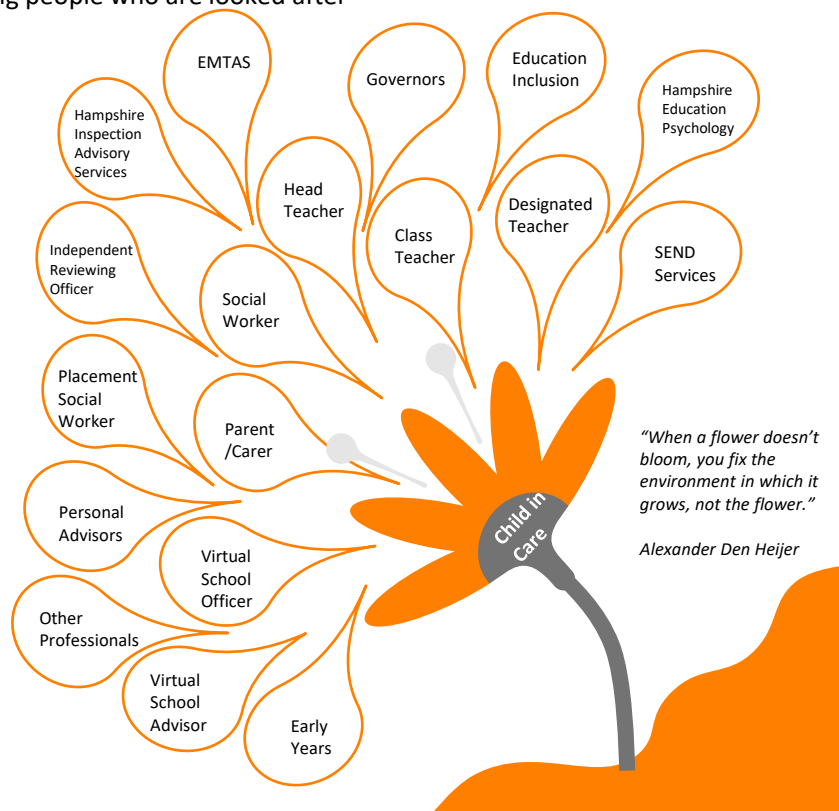
The Virtual School promotes a culture of high aspirations, progress and achievements for all our vulnerable children and young people.

### Our Purpose

# Core Functions

In partnership with School Staff, Social Workers and a wide range of other professionals; the Virtual School for children in care aims to:

- Remove barriers and inequalities in educational achievement for all children in care
- Ensure that there is suitable education in place for all children
- Make sure each child receives the help and support they need to be a successful learner
- Prioritise schools judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' for looked after children in need of a new school place
- Ensure that there is effective and timely communication between all professional particularly in relation to possible education placement changes, admissions and exclusions
- Challenge low expectations, stereotypes and misconceptions around children and young people who are looked after



# What we do...

## High Quality School Places

- We will try and find you the best school place to meet your needs

## Professional Development and Support

- We will support, advise and train Designated Teachers in school
- We will support and monitor personal education plans
- We will support school staff to be attachment and trauma aware
- We will carry out Corporate Parenting visits to schools to support and develop effective practice

## Personal Education Plans (PEP)

- We will monitor and support personal education plans to ensure each child in care has a high quality plan to support their individual needs and enable them to achieve their full potential.
- We will monitor plans to ensure pupils premium is supporting progress and achievement in school

## Partnerships

Working with a number of key professional partners

- Social Care Teams
- Hampshire Futures Education and Participation Team
- Education Psychology Service
- Early Years Advisory Service
- Education Inclusion Service

## Pupil Premium

The Virtual School has responsibility for managing and distributing Pupil Premium for Children in Care / Looked after Children. This is in accordance with national guidance and in a process agreed through School Forum.