

Hillingdon Virtual School



What is the Virtual School?

- The core purpose of a VS is to narrow the gap in outcomes for LAC and their non-LAC peers.
- The main mechanism for narrowing the gap is the Personal Education Plan (PEP).
- Every Local Authority has one, but they can look very different.
- HVS is relatively unique in that all LAC aged 2-17 have an allocated VS Officer.
- The VSO takes responsibility for arranging, chairing and recording all PEP meetings.



What does the Virtual School do?

- We work to ensure children can access appropriate education and to advocate for their needs in their setting.
- We promote high aspirations for our young people.
- We provide information, advice and guidance for Previously Looked After Children and Care Leavers. This includes children on an SGO and those who are adopted.
- Virtual Schools have a duty to train other professionals in matters relating to the education of LAC.
- The VSH is provided with funds from the DfE to support attainment and progression for LAC. This is called Pupil Premium Plus.

Pupil Premium Plus

- Each Looked After Child receives £2345 PPP funding.
- HVS will release some funding directly to schools and some funds will be kept centrally.
- The amount released is based on the needs of the child as detailed in their PEP.
- We typically release two payments per year, one in Autumn term and one in Spring term.
- Both payments are subject to an evaluation process.

HVS - Who's who

Headteacher - Kathryn Angelini

Senior Practitioners - Georgia Watson-Polack, Beverley O'Dwyer

Lead Practitioners - Louise Stanley, Natasha Byfield, Nicola Kelly, Lisa Steel, Andrew Philipson

Officers - Charlie May Flaherty, Gowri Balakrishnan, Alice Jerrom, Regina Kafler

Behaviour Consultant - Scott Osborne (1 day per week)

Careers Advisor - Melanie Adkins (1 day per week)

What's changing?

- In July 2021, the DfE announced an extension to the VSH's remit to include all children with a social worker.
- This cohort has been identified as a group of children who face significant barriers to education as a result of experiences of adversity and trauma, most commonly abuse and neglect.
- It covers all children who were assessed as needing a social worker at any time due to safeguarding and/or welfare reasons, which includes all those subject to a Child in Need plan (CiN) or a Child Protection (CP) plan.



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What is in scope?

- The VSH will become the strategic leader who champion the educational attendance, attainment and progress of children with a social worker.
- The VSH will help to make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker can experience, enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities to help all agencies hold high aspirations for these children.
- The VSH will assist in levelling up children's outcomes and narrowing the attainment gap so every child can reach their potential.
- The VSH will identify the needs of the cohort and address barriers to poor educational outcomes and ensure pupils make educational progress.
- The VSH will offer advice and support to key professionals to help children make progress.

What is not in expected?

- The VSH will not work with individual children and their families - including tracking and monitoring educational progress of individual children.
- The VSH will not provide academic or other interventions or providing funding for this to schools.
- The VSH will not respond to requests from parents or carers to offer advice, intervention and support in relation to individual children with a social worker.
- The VSH will not take responsibility for children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) who do not require or need a social worker.

Upcoming Training

- **12th November 2021:** Presley the Pug (for children who struggle with confidence)
- **26th-28th January 2022:** Relational and developmental trauma, abuse, and neglect- including ACE's/ thinking about the impact of relational and developmental trauma on children's bodies, brains, behaviours, emotions, sensory worlds, and relationships.
- **30th & 31st March 2022:** Binnie the Baboon (for children who struggle with anxiety and stress)
- **10th May 2022:** Gilly the Giraffe (for children who struggle with self-esteem)
- **7th & 8th June 2022:** Cleo the Crocodile (for children who are afraid to get close)
- **7th July 2022:** Presley the Pug (for children who struggle with confidence)



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