

# FAQs

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

Yes, the Virtual School has a remit to support, monitor and act as corporate parent for looked after children (children in care). It also manages and distributes the Pupil Premium for Looked After Children.

## 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 duty to promote educational achievement through the provision of information and advice, for previously looked after children.

## Does the Virtual School have Pupil Premium for Previously Looked After Children?

No, the Pupil Premium for Previously Looked After Children goes direct to schools based on the number of children it records on its January school census. Please see our leaflet on Pupil Premium for PLAC for more details.

## Any further questions?

If you have any further questions or would like support please contact the Virtual School  
[virtual.school@iow.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@iow.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 and previously looked after children - LA guidance Feb 2018

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

# What is?



# Virtual School

## Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School for Previously Looked After Children

Since September 2018 the Virtual School has had a duty to promote the educational achievement of **Previously Looked After Children** (PLAC). That is those children who are no longer looked after by a local authority because they are subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement order.

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

The role of the Virtual School for PLAC is to promote their educational achievement by providing information and advice to their parents/guardians, educators and others who the Virtual School considers necessary.

This duty is for children who are educated in Hampshire and Isle of Wight

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 PLAC children.

## Our Vision

*All vulnerable young people will enter adulthood not as vulnerable adults but as confident citizens with the tools, self confidence and resilience to lead worthwhile and fulfilling lives*

# Core Functions

**In partnership with School Staff, Social Workers and a wide range of other professionals; the virtual school for children previously looked after aims to:**

- Remove barriers and inequalities in educational achievement for previously looked after children
- Support to ensure that there is suitable education in place for all children
- Support to ensure each child receives the help and support they need to be a successful learner
- Provide information and advice on school places for children in need of a new school place
- Challenge low expectations, stereotypes and misconceptions around children and young people who are previously looked after

**The role of the Virtual School for PLAC children is to promote their educational achievement through the provision of information and advice.**

What might providing information and advice look like?

- Providing advice and information to frequently asked questions online
- Providing advice to individual parents/ carers and schools where they have a query
- Advising schools on how they can support previously looked after children to improve behaviour to help avoid exclusion becoming necessary
- Advising schools on how to best use Pupil Premium to support previously looked-after children

**Please note the Virtual School is not a corporate parent for PLAC children and as such does not monitor progress and achievement and is not held to account for their educational achievement.**

# What this means to you...

## High Quality School Places

- We will offer you information and advice for you to seek the best school place to meet your child's needs

## Professional Development and Support

- We will support, advise and train Designated Teachers in school
- We will support school staff to be attachment and trauma aware
- We will provide information and advice to schools and other professionals to support and develop effective practice

## Education Plans for Adopted Children (EPAC)

- We promote use of Education Plans for Adopted Children to ensure each child has a high quality plan to support their individual needs and enable them to achieve their full potential.

## Partnerships

Working with a number of key professional partners

- Social Care Teams
- Island/Hampshire Futures Teams
- Virtual College for Children in Care / Care Leavers
- Education Psychology Service
- Early Years Advisory Service
- Education Inclusion Service



### Education Plan for Adopted Children

The EPAC is intended to be a working document to highlight the strengths and needs of the child or young person; to create a targeted plan to enhance their education, and identify good use of the Pupil Premium funding.

It is hoped that the coming together of parent(s), school staff, social worker, and any other professionals with current involvement, will create a child focussed education plan that will allow the child to reach their maximum potential.