



Virtual School News

News and key info
for Designated Teachers

MKCC Virtual School

From everyone at MKCC Virtual School we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Thank you for all your support as we get to the end of this incredibly busy Autumn term and as always, thank you for everything that you do.

Pupil Premium Plus Additional Payments

The Milton Keynes Virtual School wrote to Designated Teachers in November with a reminder that settings could apply for up to £600 per Milton Keynes looked after child. We received over 50 applications which have now been reviewed and processed. If your application was successful, you will have a confirmation email in your inbox before the beginning of next term and the payments will reach you in January. It was incredibly heart-warming to see the wide range of experiences and resources you have reached out to secure for the children and young people in your care.

Pupil Premium Plus Allocations for 23/24

We remain keen to ensure that all Pupil Premium Plus funding allocated to MKCC children looked after is allocated and utilised by settings. In early January we will be writing to you in your role as Designated Teacher, as well as writing to Headteachers also, to outline the amount that the Virtual School has allocated to your setting and how much is available to be utilised by the end of February 2024. The funding will need to be agreed and processed by the end of February 2024. For most settings, this will be discussed and agreed in your spring PEPs however we are aware that some PEPs are scheduled for after the finance deadline therefore to access this funding you will need to work with your Virtual School Officer outside of the PEP process. Your Virtual School Officer will be appraised of the PEP allocations available and will be ready to support in the new year. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in contact with them.

Previously Looked After Children

The Virtual School has a duty to offer advice and information to parents, guardians and carers of children who have left care in England and Wales through an Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement/Residence Order or who were adopted from state care outside England or Wales. In the course of our discussions we often signpost to the following document 'Education Advice for Parents, Guardians and Carers of Children who have left Care through a Permanency Order' which can be found on our website: [Children who were Previously Looked After | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/children-who-were-previously-looked-after). Please do feel free to share this resource with any parents, guardians and carers in your own settings.

Designated Teacher Forum

On Thursday 14th December, Jenny Cooledge (Deputy Virtual School Head) and Louise Cooper (Lead Officer for Vulnerable Children) delivered a session based on Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) with a focus on children looked after. The session provided some great research and opportunities for reflection. It was held online and again it was great to see so many people there, including designated teachers from outside of Milton Keynes local authority.

The next DT Forum is planned for Thursday 8th February 2024 at 15:45-17:00, and further information about the agenda will follow in the new year.

If you have any suggestions or request for content for future DT Forum sessions, please do contact Jenny – Jenny.Cooledge@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Training and Resources

BBC Teach have partnered with Adoption UK to produce some resources to represent care experience in the classroom. These include:

- Teacher training videos – three teacher training videos exploring what it means to educate and support care-experienced young people through a trauma-informed approach.
- Real testimonies from care-experienced young people – three short animated films exploring stories of care-experienced and adopted young people, told by the young people themselves.

Full guidance and explanatory information can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teacher-support/supporting-care-experienced-children/z7pmnk7>

