



We wish you all the best at the end of this busy half term and as always we hope you get a chance to rest and enjoy the autumnal weather. Thank you for everything you do.

Pupil Premium Plus Payments Financial Year 23/24

The Milton Keynes Virtual School is currently predicting an underspend of Pupil Premium Plus funding in the 2023/24 financial year and we are keen to ensure that this funding is utilised by education settings to support the looked after children they support. As ever, the funding must be used in line with the Pupil Premium Plus grant conditions but may be requested for initiatives/projects which will take place later in the 23/24 academic year. For clarity, this funding is **in addition** to the funding available as part of the Core PEP process (£950 per Core PEP twice per year).

The Virtual School are welcoming applications for **additional** funding and will seek to prioritise applications for children in Years 2, 6, 10 and 11. Applications should directly relate to the following criteria for MK looked after children:

- Promoting academic outcomes
- Developing enrichment and engagement opportunities
- Supporting wellbeing

Settings can apply for up to £600 per Milton Keynes looked after child on their roll (in Years R-11 only). The deadline for applications is 1st December 2023 and all applications must be submitted via MS Forms: <https://forms.office.com/e/GPnDiiqMMX>. The final decision on whether the application is approved will be made by the Virtual School Head.

Please do speak to your Virtual School Officer if you want further information or to discuss an application before submission.

Designated Teacher Forum

On Thursday 19th October, Jenny Cooledge (Deputy Virtual School Head) relaunched the DT Forum for this academic year. It was great to see so many of you there in person!

In response to requests from schools, there was a spotlight on the use of pupil premium plus funding including some great examples of practice, as well as a presentation from PACT regarding the CATCH resources available for settings and an opportunity to discuss Virtual School processes.

As outlined in the DT Handbook (available on the MKCC Virtual School webpage), we have planned a mix of forum and training sessions this year. The next session will be a training session and will take place 3:45-5pm on Thursday 14th December. More information about the content and delivery of this training session will follow.

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

Suspension Notifications

A polite reminder that any suspensions for MK looked after children in your settings must be shared with the Virtual School as soon as possible. This is outlined in the following DfE guidance - [Suspension and permanent exclusion guidance September 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1181122/suspension-and-permanent-exclusion-guidance-september-2023.pdf).

Specifically, paragraph 78 specifies the following:

78. Whenever a headteacher suspends or permanently excludes a pupil they must, without delay, after their decision, also notify the social worker, if a pupil has one, and the VSH, if the pupil is a LAC47, of the period of the suspension or permanent exclusion and the reason(s) for it.

Please do remind your colleagues of this duty where appropriate.

Training and Resources

The Virtual School continue to offer training and are always happy to discuss the bespoke needs of your setting, especially as you consider your plans for INSET days and twilights next academic year. We have a range of online and in-person opportunities delivered by the team or trusted external agencies and continue to offer courses through AC Education to Designated Teachers to aid their CPD at no charge currently however we ask that you only sign up for one course at a time. Please email katy.enser@milton-keynes.gov.uk to sign up.

You can learn more about the Virtual School and the many courses available here:

[Training and support | Milton Keynes City Council \(milton-keynes.gov.uk\)](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/training-and-support/)

Radio and television

Helping Our Teens BBC 2 – started 7 September 2023 *Two-part documentary following behavioural expert Marie Gentles working with young people at Beacon Hill Academy in the West Midlands.* Available via iPlayer

A different class: excluded kids lured into crime BBC File on 4 – 29 August 2023 *BBC File on 4 has released a new episode on school exclusions and child criminal exploitation.* Available on BBC Sounds or the Radio 4 website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001q0tv>

