

DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILDREN WE CARE FOR AND PREVIOUSLY CAREED FOR CHILDREN UPDATE



Issue 36

Term 4
2022/23



Welcome to the 35th edition of the Designated Teacher update which is published termly. The aim of this publication is to provide some information updates, contacts, useful strategies and ideas to support the work you do with our pupils. Watch out for each edition and do pass on, print and display. The more we can raise awareness, the better equipped schools are to do their best for our children. Please also take time to look at the [updated webpage](#) to support your work with Previously Cared For Children. If you have any questions/requests for content of upcoming issues, contact clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk

CONTACT US

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Training Programme 2022/23

[Click here](#) for details

Upcoming training:

Mon 6th March

Designated Teacher Network Meeting

Tues 21st March

PACE for School Staff

Thurs 20th April

Introduction to Brain Development and Trauma

Thurs 27th April

Thinking Differently About Behaviour Conference

Year 6 to 7 Transition

Secondary school allocations for Year 7 Sept 2023 entry are due to be announced (1st Mar 2023) for Children We Care For currently in Year 6 (where Social Worker/Carers made an 'on time' application to the relevant LA by the 31st Oct 2022 deadline). We are mindful that times of change can be more unsettling for care experienced young people who have already experienced difficult transitions in their life. It is really helpful if you can check-in with foster families during the first week of March to ensure that school are aware of the secondary place allocated and hold the correct information to be able to support with our pupils. Please remind foster carers to liaise with the child's Oxfordshire Social Worker to ensure that secondary school places are formally accepted within the necessary timescales along with any offers of transport. Please note that CWCF with an EHCP should have already had confirmation of their secondary school place which is allocated by the relevant LA SEN Team usually by 15th Feb 2023.

Virtual School Caseworkers are available to support with any problems, e.g. CWCF not being allocated their first preference school. Also, just a friendly reminder to contact the Designated Teacher for CWCF of the receiving secondary school to invite them to any Y6 PEP meetings, between now and the end of the academic year, so that we can work together to ensure a smooth transition to the new school. The My Transition Page of the Oxfordshire e-PEP can be used for planning. In a few cases, where there is an anticipated change of living address, it may not yet be possible to confirm the new secondary school allocated. Virtual School thank you, as always, for your enhanced level of pastoral support for our children currently living with uncertainty.

Year 10s

For those with Children We Care For in Year 10, especially those with EHCPs, it is a good idea to encourage them to attend Open Events to start getting an idea about their preferred destination. Those with EHCPs should have their Annual Review at the end of Year 10 or very early in Year 11 to enable those early consultations to take place.

Post-16 students

Please build in time to support applications to Sixth Forms, universities, colleges and apprenticeships. Carers and social workers are not always as informed about options as school staff so will need support. Try to take a copy of college applications that young people make, and ensure they put their social worker down as one of the key contacts. It makes following up applications much easier – i.e. have they actually applied, have they missed phone calls asking them to interview, etc.

Remember our Year 11 mentor Izzi Crowther is available to support this process, email: Isabel.Crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk Alternatively, you can contact our Post-16 Team by emailing the phase lead: mark.walker@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Thinking Differently About Behaviour Conference 2023

DATE NOW: Thursday 27th April

Delivered jointly by The Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team (OXSiT),
Oxfordshire Virtual School,
The ATTACH Team and The Clinical Team

This is a unique opportunity for settings to hear nationally and internationally recognised speakers addressing the following themes:

- Restorative approaches
- The importance of kindness and positive regard
- Whole-school approaches to staff wellbeing
- Unconscious bias related to race and cultural identity

This in-person event will be followed by a week of optional face-to-face workshops and webinars with practical ideas for developing different, whole-school approaches to behaviour support. The Virtual School encourages settings to send suitable staff representatives and make use of Pupil Premium funding allocated to Children We Care For and Previously Cared For Children to cover the booking fee should cost be a barrier.

For more information and book on, go to:

<https://educationservices.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Event/189510>



Oxfordshire Virtual School presents:

2023 Annual Conference

'Breaking Down Barriers to Success'



Join Oxfordshire Virtual School and contributors for our 2023 Annual Conference - a day of connection, learning and sharing of best practice.

Thursday 29th June 2023 (09:00-15:30)

The Kassam Stadium, Grenoble Road, Oxford. OX4 4XP

Together, we will think about:

- What makes the biggest difference to Children We Care For in school
- How we can use our scientific understanding of brain development to improve outcomes for both children and adults in the future
- What we mean by trauma-informed practice
- The neuroscience of shame
- Best practice when it comes to whole-setting approaches to trauma recovery
- Creating capacity and developing resilience for trauma-informed practice in school systems
- Accessing support for Previously Cared For Children
- Promoting the Education of Children with a Social Worker
- Trauma-Informed Relational Practice
- Getting the most out of the PEP process and Pupil Premium

The day will consist of keynotes, a choice of 5 workshops, an opportunity to network and a panel Q&A.

Keynote speakers include:

- Dr Louise Dalton and Dr Elizabeth Rapa from Oxford Brain Story
- Betsy de Thierry - Psychotherapist, author, trainer and founder of the Trauma Recovery Centre
- Dr Hester Riviere - Educational Psychologist, ATTACH Team

[Book here](#)

Tel: 03300 249046

Email:

OxfordshireEducationServices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Free training to support schools in supporting refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people

The Healing Classrooms programme from International Rescue Committee (IRC) aims to support schools and educators to develop inclusive and nurturing learning spaces where refugee and asylum-seeking students can gain the necessary academic, social and emotional skills to develop their full potential.

The IRC offers free training sessions and resources to educators and schools supporting refugee and asylum-seeking students in the UK.

The IRC run sessions online although there is an option for in-person sessions in certain circumstances. The course consists of three 1hr 30min sessions delivered weekly after school.

➤ [More information and to access the training](#)

[Oxfordshire's Virtual School](#) is working closely with IRC - please revisit our website to check for newly uploaded resources and updates regarding future training opportunities.

Internet Safety Resources

Safer Internet Day which took place last month serves to remind pupils about the dangers the internet can pose and to reinforce those messages of how to stay safe online. Below are some resources specifically for learners with SEND to help you to do this:

- The [NSPCC](#) has worked with [Ambitious about Autism](#) and produced a [set of activities](#) for parents to use to discuss online safety at home.
- [Internet matters](#) have a whole range of [resources](#) aimed at supporting young people with SEND.
- An [online safety leaflet](#) from Kent County Council considering all of the areas staff may want to consider when talking about online safety with a set of links to further resources.
- A short [online film](#) 'Know your friends with Josh and Sue' targeted at young people in KS3 with learning disabilities to be introduced to the consequences of online actions.
- A [set of resources](#) to share with parents/carers from [Childnet](#).

Internet Safety Resources for Early Years

How do you help to embed online safety in early years? Children love using technology and are learning to navigate websites, online games and consoles, and touch screen technology from a young age. We can support them by helping to embed safer practice online from an early age.

- Follow Digiduck's online adventures over five stories that have been created to help parents and teachers educate children aged 3–7 about online safety, with accompanying teaching activities: [Digiduck's Big Decision | Childnet](#).
- Another age appropriate story you can share with early years children is Smartie Penguin [Smartie the Penguin | Childnet](#).
- Internet Matters also share useful guidance for parents and carers: [Pre-school \(0-5\) online safety tips and advice | Internet Matters](#).

Glossary

As DT you become very familiar with abbreviations and terminology connected to the care system. Here is a useful summary to help inform other school staff. Children and young people prefer that we use more every day language to describe their situation e.g. family, my meeting, home, my worker etc. See [The language that cares](#) report 2020 for young people's views about words they prefer.

Child We Care For – child in the care system with a care order - interim or full care order. This can be alongside or instead of being cared for by parents.

Care Order – legal order made by court that gives social care permission to care for children.

Accommodated – cared for by social care.

Permanent placement – a foster placement that is long term.

Supervising social worker – assists the foster carer in providing good quality care. Some SSW are employed by the local authority and some work for fostering agencies.

IRO – the Independent Reviewing Officer is an experienced social worker who scrutinises the care plans to ensure they serve the child's best interest. Chairs the CWCF review.

SGO – A Special Guardianship Order is a private law order giving a guardian responsibility for caring for a child until they are 18.

Previously Cared For – a child adopted from care of the local authority, or under an SGO or child arrangements order.

Contact – describes when and how a child sees their family and relatives.

Reunification plan – describes a plan to return a child to live with their parents.

Kinship care - being cared for by other relatives. This can be an informal arrangement (so child is NOT under a care order) or can be formalised under a legal order.

PP+ funding – Pupil Premium Plus fund held by Virtual Schools and distributed to schools via the Personal Education Plan (PEP).

Care leavers (care experienced adults) – describes young people who have moved on from being cared for.

Supported living – supported housing for young people post 16 which provides independence with adult support.

Corporate parent – when a child is cared for, the local authority becomes the corporate parent e.g. has collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the child.

Life story work – carried out by social worker with child and aims to help them understand and accept their own personal history.