



Designated Teacher for Children we Care for and Previously Cared for Children. Update - Issue 12

2020-2021

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the regular Designated Teacher input. This is the first for the academic year 2020-2021. Please circulate to any staff who are involved in completing review meetings or to any staff working with children we care for or previously cared for children.

If you have any questions/requests for content of upcoming issues - contact rachel.cosgrove@oxfordshire.gov.uk



GCSE results 2020 (unvalidated)

Attainment by Oxfordshire Children we care for				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Attained 9-4 in English & Maths	9.4	13.9	17.0	27.3 (33%)
Attained 9-5 in English & Maths	1.6	6.9	4.5	13.0 (17.3%)
Attained 5 or more GCSEs at grade 9-5 inc English & Maths	7.2	11.1	11.4	23.4 (31%)

If you are a new Designated Teacher, welcome to the DT updates. These are produced every month and circulated to all our schools. The aim is to provide some information updates, contacts and useful strategies and ideas to support the work you do with our pupils. Watch out for each edition and feel free to email on or print and display. The more we can raise awareness, the better equipped schools are to do their best for our children.

Children we care for summer update 2020
 We had our best ever set of results this year at GCSE and at A level/BTEC. These results are in line with what we had expected at the start of the year as this was strong cohort - this is fantastic and we are thrilled for the young people and grateful for all the amazing collaborative work achieved in schools and beyond. Pupils continued to work hard during Covid, accessing online learning despite cancellation of exams. The importance of sustaining the rhythm of learning was important for pupils to keep motivated and to be ready for college courses in September 2020.
 We are delighted with the results achieved by our post 16 cohort. These are higher grades than in previous years and we have 2 young people taking Oxbridge pathways. Our pupils are moving onto a diverse range of destinations and we are very proud.
 One of our big areas for focus this last academic year was to work on reducing exclusions and the figures show that we have had the lowest ever exclusion rate and that this trend was set prior to lockdown. In terms of good attendance and low exclusion rates, Oxfordshire Virtual School is bucking the trend.
 We have also worked hard on building on relationships with the community and feedback shows that now have stronger links with schools, the police, universities, Children in Care Council and with foster carers.

Personal Education Plan and attendance collection update

- Those of you who have been Designated Teachers for a while will be very familiar with electronic Personal Education Plans and with daily calls to schools re attendance data collection.
- This academic year marks a change in provider for the Virtual School. OCC has decided to move from 'Welfare Call' to '**Looked After Call**' which is part of IRIS Education - a management information service already providing many services to schools, for example Parent Pay. There are economical and functionality advantages to moving. Looked After Call can link directly to systems in schools such as Sims. This means the data we can see is live so we will be able act and communicate in a more focussed and immediate way.
- Headteachers and data managers in schools have had information about this change, all GDPR processes are in place so we are ready to go live. There will be training offered but to reassure everyone - the system is very intuitive and easy to use and we are sure that designated teachers will be able to log on and get going straight away. Data from previous plans is being exported across and when you log in you will see that the headings of the pages are very much what you are used to.
- Looked After Call will do daily attendance monitoring – this can be extracted from schools via sims or similar. They will also call schools direct if a query is needed. Assessment data will also be collected termly from schools; the personal education plans will have data pre populated and updated regularly. There will be electronic post 16 plans on the system – we are just finalising the format of these.
- It can be tricky to get used to a new system and the timing could be better as we know schools are coping with new routines and managing the vagaries of our post lockdown world, but going forwards we think this will be a more effective platform to store, manage and analyse data for our children and young people. There will be further training and support over the year.
- Check your emails for an email from Looked After Call which will include your log in details. You can add new users if you want to set up other staff who will be running reviews.

The plan itself looks very similar to previous plans; the review format, teacher comments, pupil voice, outcomes will all make sense. Our Virtual School case workers are familiarising themselves with the new format and will be able to advise if you get stuck and Looked After Call have a team you can call who can advise and guide. Watch out for future DT updates which will include tips on good practise around Personal education plans and reviews.

IRIS Looked After Call

An innovative MIS supporting local authorities to safeguard and monitor looked after children

Check out website [here](#)