



Slide one



Designated Teacher for Children We Care For and Previously Cared for Children Update - Issue 22 September 2021

2021-2022

Welcome to the twenty-second edition of the regular Designated Teacher update. Website links open when you view slides in slide show.

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

News from Oxfordshire Virtual School - if you want to get in contact [website and contacts here](#)

Staffing changes – Michelle Johnson, Headteacher, left Oxfordshire Virtual School at the end of this summer to take up headship of Chilworth House Upper School. We wish her every success in her new role and thank her for all her brilliant work with us at the Oxfordshire Virtual School. Sarah Hazell, who many of you will know as our Primary Lead and SENCo, is the interim Headteacher. Ruth Thornburn will be the interim Primary Lead & SENCo and Rachel Cosgrove will be interim Transition Consultant.

There is a wealth of experience in the team across all phases of education. If you need advice or support, please get in touch. Email: virtualschool.LAC@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire Virtual School team September 2021

Headteacher - Sarah Hazell 07771 975862

Secondary Lead - Hazel Fleming 07917 534406 and secondary case holder Emma Frank 07753 976778

Out of County Secondary Lead - Sarah Pigneguy 07799 097812

Learning Mentor year 11 - Izzy Crowther 07747 648494

Post-16 Lead - EET - Mark Walker 07824 866557 with Barney Perkins 07919 298286 and Sarah Kelly 07584 481253

Primary Lead & SENCo - Ruth Thornburn 07785 453252 and primary case holder Verity Banbury 07826 950523

Transition Consultants year 6-7 - Lizi Pinkney 07776 997315 and Rachel Cosgrove 07733 304139

Early Years Lead - Christine Grandison 07711 117472

Engagement Officer Children in Care Council - James Collins 07803 287913

Cultural Participation Engagement Officer for CiCC– Autumn Walsh 07769915764

Business Delivery, Interim Performance and Data Manager - Tracey Talbot 01865 328550 Admin - Debbie Hewings 01865 328550

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.

[2021 Virtual School Training Plan is here](#)

Personal Education Plan reminders for the new academic year

- If you have new pupils starting this term, dates for the first PEP should already have been set up. Check Looked After Call or ask the Virtual School case worker. If no date has been set, the first PEP in a new school should take place within 20 days.
- If you are delegating any PEPs to other staff within your team, you can add them into Looked After Call as a designated user. Ask your VS case worker to set this up.
- If you are working with year 6 pupils, the term 1 PEP is really important because discussion about secondary school application needs to be prioritised in order to meet deadlines for submission. Social workers generally make the application, so liaise early with the carer and social worker to agree which secondary school will be best suited. VS advise that only good or outstanding schools should be considered, but do get in touch to discuss this with us.
- Most PEPs will be held online and ideally the invite should be set up by the social worker. VS caseworkers cannot attend every meeting, but will join as and when needed. VS caseworkers are always on hand for queries, advice and guidance - so do get in touch.

Children We Care For summer update 2021

Once again, we have had a great set of results for our year 11s

GCSEs 27% of our reported cohort achieved at least 5 GCSEs with English and maths

22 children have achieved 4+ in English and maths GCSE

29 children have achieved 4+ in English GCSE

25 children have achieved 4+ in maths GCSE

18 children have achieved at least 5 GCSEs inc. English and maths

93.5% of year 11s have a secured plan for education, employment or training for September. A record breaker!

A level results include 9 A stars, 3 As, 6 Bs and 3 Cs

BTECs results include 5 distinctions, 6 merits and 7 passes.

University destinations include Roehampton University, Cambridge University, Brighton University, Chelsea College of Art, University of Bournemouth, London Met University, Brookes University, Exeter University

Primary summer update: Our children in KS1/2 show sustained expected progress in summer term data.

A significant number of year 6s did the One-Eighty summer transition project so look out for detailed reports arriving in school – One-Eighty are sending them directly to the DTs.

Exclusions / suspensions still remain an ongoing challenge. In 2019-20 only 6.4% of our secondary cohort had at least one exclusion whereas this year this increased to 11%, which considering lockdown, is of concern. This year in our primary cohort there were 3.65% exclusions. Please contact VS immediately if an exclusion is being considered. We aim to support schools to act creatively to avoid exclusion of Children We Care For.

Transition

Many pupils will be managing change this term; new school, change of cohort, new social worker or new home.

Schools can support pupils with building a sense of belonging in school.

Key actions:

- Identify a key adult and schedule meet up times.
- Get a pupil profile circulated early in the first term.
- Introduce pupils to important adults in school such as canteen staff, duty staff, SLT, pastoral staff - so adults can start a positive relationship early.
- Catch up with the carer by phone call or chat at drop off to allay worries and pick up early wobbles.
- Make sure 'hidden' routines are explained e.g. queues for lunch. Do not assume pupils will ask.
- Make sure pupils are well equipped and have everything they need and a safe place to go in school.