

# DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILDREN WE CARE FOR AND PREVIOUSLY CARED FOR CHILDREN UPDATE



Issue 44

Term 6  
2023/24



Welcome to the 44<sup>th</sup> 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. If you have any questions/requests for content of upcoming issues, contact [laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## CONTACT US

### Website:

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/virtualschool](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/virtualschool)

Direct Line: 01865 328550

### Email:

[virtualschool.lac@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool.lac@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Training Programme 2023/24

– **BOOK HERE**

Upcoming training:

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

PACE for School Staff

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June**

Oxfordshire Virtual School Conference

**Bookings for 2024-25 training will be open  
on Education Services very soon.**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Key Person Training (Session 1 of 3)

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Designated Teacher Induction Training inc.  
ePEP and Pupil Premium Plus

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September**

De-escalation Training (Session 1 of 2)

## Endings / New Beginnings

**SATs** – We are sure primary colleagues breathed a huge sigh of relief when all the Year 6 tests were completed and in the right envelopes. Thank you for supporting our care-experienced Year 6 pupils - we hope everything went as well as it could have done.

**Transition Visits/PEPs for Year 6s** – June and July are hugely important months for our Year 6s. DTs in primary and secondary schools will hopefully already have made arrangements to attend Term 6 PEPs to plan a smooth transition. Our Year 6s do benefit from extra visits to their new school, photos of key staff and information about routines, what to bring, timetables and what to expect.

**GCSE and Post-16 exams** – The exam season is fully underway. Exams are stressful for everyone, but especially for young people with instability and uncertainty in their lives. Please contact caseworkers if you want to discuss any individual young people who are struggling – we will do all that we can to advise and support. Can we also insist that the most up-to-date exam officer contact details are recorded on ePEPs as we will have to contact them if exam results are not all successfully pulled through to our system. It is critical we know our students' results as soon as possible so that, should things not going to plan. We will pro-actively support them regarding best possible next steps.

**Y6 and Y11 Transition Profiles** - Transition Profiles for Year 6s and Year 11s need to be written for all our children and young people moving on this September. The templates can be found [here](#). Once completed, the profiles need to be uploaded into the 'Documents' section of the ePEP. Contact caseworkers for support (if needed) and feel free to also email profiles to them.

## **\*\* URGENT – PEPs need completing \*\***

It is really important that DTs complete any outstanding PEPs on Looked After Call and submit them for review – ideally you will have populated most of the ePEP before the PEP meeting, so this should all be possible within 5 working days of the PEP. Virtual School caseworkers have a duty to quality assure them by the end of the Summer Term.

The last Pupil Premium funding payments for this academic year need to be made by the end of term – for schools with PEPs not signed off by then, funding will be delayed. In addition, any information in PEPs not completed/signed off will be lost because Looked After Call updates all of the data during the summer break and rolls pupils over into the next academic year. Therefore, it is essential you make time to check the status of all your PEPs and keep a close eye on emails from your caseworker who will be working hard to sign off all PEPs by the end of term.

Don't forget to add the date for the next PEP in Section 1 otherwise it doesn't appear on the Home Page. New PEPs with the correct year group will be available at the start of Term 1 (September).

## **Virtual School Podcast on Managing Transitions**

Click here to listen to our latest podcast on managing transition:

<https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-fdqmf-15feade>



## **Report to Governors**

DTs have a responsibility to report to governors, so now is a good opportunity to review outcomes for the 2023/24 academic year.

- Look at progress made by individual children - both Children We Care For and Previously Cared For Children. Academic progress is important, but also remember to look at other indicators of progress. You can look at attendance data, SDQ scores, behaviour logs, intervention tracking, participation in activities, steps in friendship skills and achievements in Sport or Creative Arts.
- Use of Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding can be tracked through PEPs.
- Maybe a case study would encapsulate the steps taken and the milestone moments? Did the PP+ make a difference? How do you know?
- Don't forget to include any whole-school initiatives in place to raise awareness of Children We Care For and Previously Care For Children – e.g. CPD that increases staff knowledge and skills.

### **Next Steps – What would make a difference next year?**

- What training and support would staff value to raise awareness of care-experienced children's vulnerabilities and needs? Now is the time to plan next year's CPD programme. Talk to your school's CPD lead. Are there specific interventions that would be useful? ELSA? Emotion Coaching? PACE training?
- Have you engaged in any of our free training and support sessions and/or attended our annual conference? If so, include this in your report.
- Do make contact with your Virtual School caseworker if you would like to run through ideas.

## Year 11 to Post-16 Transition

We urge you to hold a Transition Meeting for your care-experienced Year 11s after exams have finished, ideally with a relevant member of staff from their identified Post-16 destination. If you do not need to request any Pupil Premium Plus funding, this does not have to be a full PEP meeting, instead please use this form to record the discussion:

[Record of Year 11 Transition Meeting](#)

Please also support your Year 11s to complete a [Transition Profile](#) to help their new provider and our Post-16 team to get to know them. Transition Profiles need to be emailed to [isabel.crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:isabel.crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk), as Izzi carefully oversees this important transition for all of our Year 11s.

## KS4 Results Day – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

We will soon be making contact with exams officers at each school where we have Year 11 students sitting exams. This is why **we must insist that the most up-to-date exam officer contact details are recorded on the ePEP.**

**By the end of Results Day, we will require a copy of the exam results for every child** (either from the exam officer, DT or delegated representative), so we have up-to-date records and to enable us to support moves to Post-16 preferences. It really is critical we know our students' results as soon as possible, particularly if things haven't gone to plan. Thank you!

## Open Days

Please encourage your Year 11s to attend upcoming Open Days/Events, especially if they have not yet applied or chosen a course. Contact Izzi Crowther [Isabel.Crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Isabel.Crowther@oxfordshire.gov.uk) if any young people might appreciate support on a visit or with applications.

It is also a good time to encourage your Year 10s to attend Open Days/Events to start getting some ideas for their Post-16 options. Any Year 10s with EHCPs should have their Annual Review in the Summer Term to start considering Post-16 providers.

## Pupil Premium Plus for Previously Cared for Children

From April 2024, the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) allocation for children adopted from care, children who left care under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) and children who left care under a Child Arrangement Order (CAO) will be £2570.

To secure PP+ for Previously Cared For Children (where a child has not returned to their birth parents), it is the responsibility of the educational setting to check with parents/carers regarding a child's status in order to record the child's status on systems in advance of the January census. Do bear this in mind as you receive new starters.

For more information, visit [Previously cared for children | Oxfordshire County Council](#) and go to 'Pupil Premium Grant'

**\*\* OPPORTUNITY FOR C&YP WHO ARE INTERESTED IN/LOVE DANCE \*\***



Care to Dance is a social enterprise that supports care-experienced young people through dance, led by Qualified Social Workers and Dancers. The combination of Social Work and Dance provides a holistic approach in supporting those who have experienced trauma.

Care to Dance is an opportunity for young people aged 7-24 who want to learn different styles of dance, including hip hop and breaking workshops, and is held Every Monday: 7-12 year olds: 5-6pm 12-24 year olds: 6-7pm Rose Hill Community Centre. 12-24 year olds have an opportunity to gain Level 1 and 2 Dance Leadership Qualifications.

If you are working with a child/young person who might benefit from this programme (which is part-subsidised by Oxfordshire Virtual School), please contact Beth Vecchione for more information on 07868897816 or [beth@caretodance.co.uk](mailto:beth@caretodance.co.uk)

**Access EEF funded teaching and learning programmes**



*Take part in an EEF project*

The EEF are recruiting schools, colleges, and early years settings to take part in trials of high-potential programmes.

These include:

- [Mastering Maths](#) (Post-16 settings)
- [Tutor Trust](#) (Post-16 settings)
- [Primary Sciences Quality Mark](#) (Primary schools)
- [Mathematical Reasoning](#) (Primary schools)
- [Maths Mastery](#) (Secondary schools)
- [Early Years Conversation Project](#) (Early years)
- [Talking Time](#) (Early years)

You can find out more here: [Take part in an EEF project | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)

**School Readiness and Lifelong Learning Newsletter**

The May issue of the newsletter can be found here: [School Readiness and Lifelong Learning Newsletter May 2024 \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

# Oxfordshire's commitment to children we care for and care experienced young people



**A corporate parent is the name given to an organisation or person who has special responsibilities to children we care for and care experienced young people.**

A corporate parent is intended to carry out many of the roles a parent should. While you or your organisation may not be able to provide everything a parent can, you should still be able to provide the children and young people you're responsible for with the best possible support and care.

Corporate parent responsibilities are intended to encourage people and organisations to do as much as they can towards improving the lives of children we care for and care experienced young people, so they feel in control of their lives and are able to overcome the barriers they may face.

As corporate parents in Oxfordshire we are ambitious for our children we care for and care experienced young people. We are committed to

working together to help children, young people, and families to thrive.

**We want Oxfordshire to be a great place to grow up and for any Oxfordshire child or young person to have the opportunity to become everything they want to be.**

To achieve this vision for children and young people we have a focus on all children and young people being successful, safe, healthy, and supported.

Some of our children we care for and care experienced young people have told us what they need from their corporate parents and how we can best support them to help them thrive.



## YOUTH VOICES

OXFORDSHIRE

CARE FOR THE FUTURE

Youth Voices (formally Children in Care Council, CiCC) is the new forum for Children We Care For (CWCF) and Care Leavers. Youth Voices help the council achieve our commitment to CWCF and care-experienced young people in Oxfordshire. Youth Voices have regular meetings, run surveys and access a range of enrichment activities that support us in working alongside them to better understand their needs and aspirations. Youth Voices hold the council, as Corporate Parent, to account against its commitment.

Should you know a child or young person who might like to join Youth Voices, please contact James Collins (Youth Voices Engagement Officer) on 07803287813, [james.collins@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.collins@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or visit [Children in Care Council | OXME.INFO](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/children-in-care-council)



Lisa Cherry

Rees Centre



Oxfordshire Virtual School presents:

### 2024 Annual Conference

**'Nurturing a strong sense of identity and belonging in care-experienced children'**



We look forward to seeing those of you who are coming to our conference which takes place on Thursday 27th June at The Kassam Stadium, Oxford.

The day will consist of keynotes, a choice of 3 workshops, an opportunity to network and a panel Q&A. [Click here](#) for more information.

Please contact [laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk) if you are not booked on and wish to secure a place.