

## **Virtual School for Children in Care**

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Virtual School Lead: Sam Wilson

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Our Ref: COVID19

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Dear Designated Teacher

I hope you are well in what I know is a very difficult time. I am writing to let you know how the Virtual School will be working to support children in care and foster carers during these difficult circumstances.

As of today we know that some children in care may well be at home whilst others will be in school. Each child in care's situation is very different and it is important that we work with you, the foster carer and the child's social worker to establish what is best for each child in care on a case by case basis.

From today onwards our Virtual School advisers will attempt to contact all Designated Teachers in order to discuss what support you may need in order to engage and teach children in care, whether they are attending school or working at home. From then on we aim to be in contact with you on a two weekly basis, or more often, should the need arise.

We have added links to learning and interactive websites onto the Virtual School website to support children in care and children previously in care working at home; the fostering team have also published useful information and links on their website.

Our tutors who tutor children in care will try to continue as best as they possibly can. The plan is to teach by Skype/ Face time and we will also offer TLC live tutoring. Their priority will be to support with work that is being set by schools.

We will be prioritising current use of pupil premium plus to support learning from home; these requests may be made by foster carers, social workers or teachers and will be authorised by the Virtual School adviser responsible for the child; examples include online learning packages, books or laptops.

We will be discussing with you what you and your schools will be doing to attempt to maintain contact with a group of children and young people who are particularly likely to find the current situation challenging.

The contact details of all members of the Virtual School team are available on the Virtual School website and we are available to be contacted for advice and guidance as needed. We will be updating the website regularly with any new resources that may be helpful.

Please be assured that we are here to support you and appreciate the work you are doing for children in care and keen to work in collaboration so that these children remain well supported.

Do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Kindest regards,



Sam Wilson

Virtual School Lead

Virtual School for Children in Care & Previously in Care

