



Walsall Virtual Primary School

Hello,
It's great to meet you!
We are the Walsall
Virtual School.



What is a Virtual School?

Don't worry – a virtual school isn't actually a real school – we won't give you homework, or ask you to sit a maths exam.

A Virtual school is an education support service for children in care. We work with the adults around you including your parents, carers, social workers, and teachers to ensure that you are supported in your education.

We want to help you to achieve the most you can and to feel the happiest possible. This involves working with your school to make sure you have the support needed.

Our aims are to:

- Support young people to achieve their goals, learn as much as they can and have positive experiences throughout education.
- Support foster carers in helping young people to achieve.
- Support and challenge schools and colleges to provide high quality teaching and care.
- Provide additional opportunities to support children in their development.



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The Walsall Virtual School Team

The Virtual School team may work directly with you as well as the adults around you. Our team includes:

- Teachers
- Mentors
- Tutors
- Careers advisors
- Key workers

Our teachers and key workers may speak to your parents and carers or teachers to offer advice and support. The mentors, tutors and careers advisor may work directly with you to support your learning or to improve your wellbeing.

The Pupil Education Plan

The Pupil Education Plan (PEP) is an important document outlining your educational progress. We meet with your parents, carers, social worker, and designated teacher regularly to discuss your educational progress. We also encourage you to share your own opinions about how you feel, what is going well, and what could be improved.

Definitions:

Designated Teacher:
A teacher in your school who is responsible for ensuring your educational needs are met.

All of this information is used to create a Pupil Education Plan, which highlights your achievements and suggests strategies to maintain or improve your educational experience.

If you have any questions about your personal education plan speak with your social worker or designated teacher.

Enrichment Opportunities

Like your own school, we want to provide you with as many opportunities to grow and learn as possible. We arrange trips, events and programmes to support this, and also occasionally send books and gifts to your home.

The following are some of the enrichment activities that we offer.

Books and learning resources

- If you are in year 1-4 you may receive a monthly subscription to **Storytime**, a magazine of fairy tales, stories and funny poems. You will also receive a pack of activity sheets to go with the magazine
- If you are in year 5-8 You may receive a subscription to **First News**; a UK newspaper for young people. You will also have free access to their website and all activity sheets
- If you are in Year 1, 3, 5 or 7 you will receive a book every term through our **Book in a Bag** project. This might also activity sheets to support reading and activities.



Events

- You may be invited to attend the '**Excellent Tea Party**' or the '**Excellent Night Out**'. These events include performances, awards, dinner and a disco and are a great opportunity for you to meet other young people and celebrate your talents.



Trips

You may be invited to one of our trips, we arrange a few over the year.

- We arrange regular **Theatre Trips** to watch a variety of plays and performances.
- You may be invited to a **Forest School Trip**, where you will explore nature and be encouraged to get muddy.
- If you are in year 6 you will be invited to the **Year 6 Residential Trip**. Taking place over a few days, you will stay in a lodge and complete amazing activities such as abseiling or canoeing!

Programmes

We run programmes to support your growth and development.

- When you move to secondary school you might be invited to join our Aspire to University (A2U) programme that supports you into University. Through this you will receive support around your grades, extracurricular activities, and your application to university.
- You will be invited to join the Children in Care Council. A group of young people who meet to discuss ways to improve the support provided to children in care.

If you would like to know more about how the virtual school can support you speak to your carer, social worker or designated teacher or email us at:

Walsallvirtualschool@walsall.gov.uk



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