

Walsall Virtual School **School Tuition Offer**



Walsall Council



Introduction to Tuition Offer

One to one tuition is highlighted by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) as a high impact intervention. We know from a wide body of evidence that targeted academic support can have a positive impact on learning, particularly for those pupil premium pupils who are not making at least expected progress.

Walsall Virtual School use pupil premium+ to ensure all children in care get the opportunity to receive tuition, which is online, through a virtual classroom or face to face. We work on a 'needs based model' for our pupil premium use, so each case is considered individually to ensure the children have the most appropriate support at any given time to meet their individual needs. For children in school, tuition can be provided directly by school staff or through a tuition company, which is sourced by school and funded using Pupil Premium + (PP+). This PP+ request must be attached to a SMART target. For children not in school, tuition is arranged by Virtual School.

Tuition Offer to Children/Young People in Primary School

Tuition is offered as part of a tiered approach to support children and young people to attain as highly as possible in school.

Primary school children are identified as needing tuition by their school or the Virtual School Officer working with them. They are usually children who are working slightly below age related expectations (ARE) and need help to reach ARE or stay at that level securely. These children will ideally have around an hour of tuition a week. The tuition will be agreed for as long as it is needed and reviewed each term to ensure it is having impact. Tuition is provided for English or maths. It is provided either by a tutor employed by Virtual School or organised by the school directly using a tuition company or teacher that is known to the child.

Tuition Offer to Children/Young People in Secondary School

Secondary school children are identified as needing tuition by their school or the Virtual School Officer working with them. They are usually children who are working slightly below their targets and need help to reach their end of key stage target. The tuition will be agreed for as long as it is needed and reviewed each term. Tuition is provided for English or maths. It is provided either by a tutor employed by Virtual School, or organised by the school directly using a tuition company or teacher that is known to them.

In addition, for secondary students, we will also fund tuition for specific GCSE/Qualification subjects as needed. For example, if a student wants to study science A Levels to progress to a career in medicine and they need to get a higher science grade than they are predicted, we will fund tuition to help them make accelerated progress. In this instance we usually expect the school to source the tutor and set tuition up.

Tuition Offer to Children/Young People in Post 16 Education

Young people in post 16 education can access tuition depending on their needs and course of study. Tuition would again be identified by their educational provision or the Virtual School Officer working with them. This tuition is likely to be to support young people completing A-levels or resitting English and maths GCSE qualifications. Where young people are resitting GCSEs whilst in college or a training provider, Virtual School will arrange tuition for English and maths. However, if the tuition is for a young person in sixth form completing A-levels, we would expect the education provider to arrange and set up tuition, having had the agreement to use PP+ through the SMART targets.

Tuition Offer to Children/Young People with an EHCP

External tuition for children with an EHCP requires approval for funding through the SEN Decision Making Panel (DMG). The DMG meet once a week, therefore timescales for arranging tuition is approximately 7 days. For short term tuition Virtual School will use an online tuition provider. If tuition is required for extended periods the tuition will be reviewed to see if face to face tuition is required. We send EHC Plans to the tuition providers before a placement is agreed. This is so the providers can see if they are able to meet the child's needs appropriately. We expect our providers to offer a robust curriculum content, delivered at an appropriate level to meet the needs, ability and aptitude of our learners. Online providers offer up to 20 hours of tuition per week and face to face tuition is up to 10 hours per week, which will be considered if a child with an EHCP does not have a school place. Virtual School will arrange all tuition for children with an EHCP and without a school place, which will be funded by SEN. However, for those with an EHCP and with a current school place, any additional tuition requested by schools, social workers, parents and/or carers would need to be discussed at the child's PEP meeting and PP+ requested through the SMART targets.

Tuition Offer to Children Without a School Place

We strive to ensure that all children have access to good quality education but for children who are not in school, there may be a need for short term tuition to be put in place. We consider each case on an individual basis and then decide which is the most appropriate short-term tuition offer. For example, for children transferring from one school to another, there may be a short period of time where they are not receiving education. In this case online tuition may be offered. For children who will be out of school for longer periods of time face to face tuition may be put in place, dependent on availability and location.



Our Tuition Partners

Academy 21

Academy21 - Short term online provider

Academy21 recognises that each learner is unique and that in most cases, their history and life experiences to date will directly influence possible progression routes and their target academic outcomes. They offer a baseline assessment for each pupil referred to them or utilise existing assessment data to ensure they set realistic targets to support progress monitoring. Virtual School can monitor attendance and engagement through access to an online portal. Virtual School will utilise Academy21 online tuition services initially for short term cases. They will focus on delivering tuition on core subjects, However, their curriculum at each Key Stage provides access to a range of subject choices. This includes humanities, languages, social science and creative subjects. Their lessons run for 40 minutes per lesson, including a consolidation lesson on a Friday. Up to 20 hours of tuition per week can be arranged. Tuition can be arranged for a full term or week to week rolling dependent on the needs of the individual. Academy21 have an online referral process that we use to secure placements for children.



Smart Education - Face to face tuition

Smart education is an SEN home tuition provision who have a range of SEN specialist tutors available to support young people with a range of special educational needs. This is offered as face-to-face tuition for 10 hours per week and the tutors are allocated based on the student's individual needs to ensure the tutor has the specific skillset required. Smart Education is used for children who require face to face tuition as online is not appropriate or tuition is expected to be in place for an extended period. Virtual School will liaise with SEN managers when young people are struggling to access online education to request the funding and commission lessons. This would be reviewed every 4 weeks while suitable full-time provision is sourced.



Targeted Provision - Face to face and online.

Targeted Provision's focus is centred on supporting young individuals who find mainstream environments less accommodating of their needs, including children in care (CiC), those with special education needs or disabilities (SEND), and those with unmet social, emotional, or mental health needs (SEMH), and increasingly, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) where English is not their first language. They support Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) to post 16. Targeted provision offer face to face tuition based on availability but also online. Virtual School will request the services of Targeted Provision where the YP is living out of area and requires either face to face or online tuition. Their lessons last for 1 hour per subject, 3 hours per day (English, Maths, Science). Targeted Provision have an online referral process that we use to secure placements for children.



TLC Live

The Learning Centre is an online service that provides a bespoke education for every child to meet their unique needs, highlighting their strengths and weaknesses. The personalised approach is mapped for both maths and English taken from the National Curriculum. The TLC aims to meet the GL assessment for the Cambridge CEM for Walsall schools. The TLC also promotes a love of learning, instils and develops curiosity, and improves children's focus and dedication to their long-term goals. Virtual School use TLC for short term tuition, 2 weeks initially. Children will access 3 hours per day covering Maths, English and science. The TLC have an online referral process that we use to secure placements for children.



Access to IXL Learning Platform Through Virtual School

We have subscribed to the learning platform IXL, so all of our children and young people in Years 1-11 have access to the IXL English and maths programmes. IXL is personalised learning. With a comprehensive curriculum, individualised guidance and real-time analytics, IXL meets the unique needs of each learner.

Children/young people are given access to the IXL platform as soon as they enter care, and their login details are sent to them on the post as part of their welcome pack.

The usernames are mostly the child's first name and initial of their last name, e.g. Joe Bloggs would have the username JoeB.

The passwords are set as walsallvs initially, but they can log in and change this

Conclusion

As explained in this offer, Walsall Virtual School understands the impact the right tuition at the right time can have. While we use the information from the PEPs to identify children/ young people who would benefit from tuition, it is paramount that designated teachers, social workers, parents/carers who know the children best also consider whether tuition is an appropriate intervention. The best place to have these discussions is in the PEP Meeting. The designated teacher can then create a SMART target, with a pupil premium funding request attached, to secure funding for the tuition. (Please see our PEP Handbook for further information on writing a good SMART target.)

Should you wish to discuss anything in this offer further, please contact your Education Support Officer or email walsallvirtualschool@walsall.gov.uk



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