



Walsall Virtual Secondary School

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



What is a Virtual School?

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

Your wellbeing and education are important to us, we want to help you to achieve the most you can and to feel the happiest possible. This involves working with your school or college 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

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

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

Books and learning resources

- You may receive a subscription to **First News**; a UK newspaper for young people. This is available for children in years 5-8.
- If you are in Year 7 you will receive a book every term through our **Book in a Bag** service. This might also include resources to support reading and activities.



Support Sessions

- You may receive **Extra Tuition** from our tutors to support your academic achievement.
- You may also be invited to attend **Study Skills Sessions** to prepare you for school and college exams.
- We also offer **Career's Advice Sessions** to explore your interests and options.



Events

- You may be invited to attend the '**Excellent Night Out**'. This event includes performances, awards, dinner and a disco and is a great opportunity for you to meet other young people and celebrate your talents.



Trips

- You may be invited to **Summit to Success**, a residential trip for year 8 and 9 students. Taking place over a few days, you will complete team building activities with other young people and test your limits.

Programmes

We run programmes to support your growth and development.

- You might be invited to join **A2U**, a programme that supports you into University. Through this you will receive support around your grades, extracurricular activities, and your application to university.
- You may also be invited to join our **Mentoring Programme**, matching you up with a senior manager within the council, who will provide career advice, guidance and support.
- 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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