

What is the Virtual school?

- As a child in the care of Cheshire West and Chester the Local Authority is called your Corporate Parent. We know some of you don't like this term as, understandably, you tell us you already have parents and so don't want more. It is however the national term, and it means the local authority is responsible for supporting and looking after you. It is the job of your social worker and your Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) to make sure you are well looked after and supported in your placement and life generally, and it is the job of the Virtual School to make sure you that you have a good education and to support you with whatever you may need to do well in education.
- The Virtual School is not a real school building but a team of people from a variety of backgrounds whose job it is to work with your social worker and your school or college's Designated Teacher / Designated Person to make sure you do as well in education as you can.
- We check that your termly Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting is held on time, that the form is done properly and says clearly what support you should get for your wellbeing and your lessons. The person who does this will be your PEP coordinator or PEP adviser. Your Designated teacher can tell you who this is and if you go to your PEP you can meet them.

Your Designated Teacher (DT) / Designated Person (DP)

- This is a senior member of your school or college staff. Their job is to make sure your school give you the best possible opportunities and listen to you. They should speak up for you with other school staff if needed.
Your DT / DP is.....
- Your DT or someone who knows you well should go through your PEP form with you before the PEP meeting to make sure "your voice" is clear. This can be at a time and place of your choosing as you might not want to be taken out of class to do it. You can attend the PEP meeting if you wish and can also see the form afterwards which should be written to you in a positive and caring way.

What is Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)?

- PP+ is money that the Virtual School gets from the government to support Children in Care. Your school can ask the Virtual School for some money from the fund so that you get extra support with your wellbeing and your lessons. It is NOT money for you and can only be spent on lessons, activities, tuition or support that helps your wellbeing and education.

What is the Children in Care Council (CICC)?

- The CICC is a group of care experienced young people who work together to promote the views, values, and opinions of other cared for children & young people in Cheshire West. They help and take part in the design, delivery and evaluation of services you receive from CWAC. The CICC welcome any new members to its monthly meetings. You can find out more about it at www.cicc.org.uk/ where you will find lots of information you may find interesting. You can also check out the CICC Pledge which tells you all about what CWAC should be doing for you <https://cicc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/cicc-pledge-2023.pdf>

You can get in touch with the Virtual School by emailing Adam Croft - the Virtual School Headteacher at Adam.Croft@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

or by emailing Claire Bradley at claire.bradley@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or calling her on 01244 976172

Best wishes

Adam Croft