



**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# The Virtual School



## **Our Vision:**

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We strive for all our children and young people to meet their full academic, social, emotional and physical potential through building solid foundations during this first chapter in their lifelong learning journey in partnership with all their supporters.

## **Our children and young people will become:**

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- Successful learners
- Responsible citizens
- Creative thinkers
- Reflective individuals

## How we will support you:

**Support**

**Challenge**

**Training opportunities**

**Advocacy**

**Guidance**

## And together we will ensure:

- ✓ All children and young people who are Looked After, feel nurtured, valued and supported in their learning and will fulfil their aspirational goals and ambitions
- ✓ Children and young people shape the Virtual School and the wider services for all Looked After Children
- ✓ An improved sense of Corporate Parenting, Social Pedagogy and a shared responsibility for our Looked After Children
- ✓ Every school and educational setting is empowered and confident to meet the needs of children and young people who are Looked After and provide tailored support enabling progress and success
- ✓ The educational gap between children and young people who are Looked After and those who are not will gradually close



**“Children, young people and families  
at the heart of everything we do”**

## What the Virtual School is doing:



 Working with schools to ensure **Pupil Premium Plus** is used effectively to narrow the gap.

 Providing **advice, guidance and support** to enable each young person to reach their full potential

 Tracking and **monitoring attendance**, exclusions and progress.

 Providing specific **training for social workers, parents and carers**, settings and schools, including designated teachers and school governors.

 **Challenging** schools and educational settings to **raise attainment** of Looked After Children.

 Providing **educational advice** and guidance to young people and their carers.

 Recognising and **celebrating achievement**.

 Providing advice and guidance on **future pathways**.



 **Encouraging** the participation of our children and young people in out of school experiences to **raise self esteem**.

 Ensuring all Looked After Children receive their core mainstream offer of education, providing access to educational resources and **offering support** with studies.

 Providing **personalised support packages** to young people, to support behaviour and social development.

 Providing an **allocated Education Support Officer** for every young person.

 **Working in partnership** with others to support the educational needs of individual pupils.

 Providing access to **IT support, tuition or tailored services** to promote achievement and success.

 Providing **advice, guidance and support** to enable each young person to reach their full potential.



## Who we are:

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The Virtual School are an innovative team working alongside schools and settings to ensure they provide the best provision for children and young people in our care and care leavers.

All Bedford Borough Looked After children, young people and care leavers belong to the Virtual School.

The Virtual School has a staffing structure similar to that of an actual school but without a school building.

Children and Young people will remain enrolled at their existing school or setting with the Virtual School offering support, guidance and training, to ensure that educational services are effectively co-ordinated and that Looked After Children and young people get the best opportunities to reach their fullest potential.

## Contact:

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