

# Welcome to the West Sussex Virtual School

At the West Sussex Virtual School, we champion the education of West Sussex Children We Care For, children who have achieved permanence outside of their birth family and children with a social worker.

The Virtual School is not a real school with classrooms and playgrounds; it is a function of the Local Authority that brings together all these West Sussex children, as if they were in one school.

The support we provide is dependent on the status of the child, but we firmly believe that education is the foundation for improving lives and work to promote the right of every child to a high quality educational experience.

As an attachment-aware, trauma-responsive school, we are committed to raising awareness of the impact of adversity and trauma on educational engagement and outcomes. We work to promote an understanding of how best to overcome the barriers that prevent children and young people fulfilling their potential.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that children receive the high quality, trauma-sensitive, life-enhancing education they deserve.

## Sarah Clark

Head of West Sussex Virtual School



## WEST SUSSEX VIRTUAL SCHOOL

## Who Are We And What Do We Do?

## Contact us

For enquiries relating to **Children We Care For** contact the allocated Advisory Teacher or email [wsvs@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:wsvs@westsussex.gov.uk)

For enquiries relating to **children who have achieved permanence and children with a social worker**, who are not currently looked-after by the Local Authority, email [vsas@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:vsas@westsussex.gov.uk)

For more detailed information, resources and details of our training programme visit our website [westsussex.gov.uk/virtualschool](https://westsussex.gov.uk/virtualschool)

Follow us on Twitter [@WSvirtualschool](https://twitter.com/WSvirtualschool) 



## Children with a social worker



Children with a social worker are West Sussex children and young people currently being supported through Child in Need or Child Protection (CiN/CP) planning, or who have been subject to this support in the last six years.

### What does the Virtual School provide?

Information, advice, and training around education to supporting professionals who are working directly with the child or group of children.

### Who can access support?

- Social Care colleagues
- Early Help colleagues (where a child has been supported by CiN/CP planning in the past 6 years)
- Designated Safeguarding Leads and colleagues in West Sussex schools and education settings.

## Children We Care For

Children We Care For are children and young people who are currently accommodated in the care of West Sussex County Council and have been for more than 24 hours. This includes those who live with their birth family but have spent 75 nights or more in a residential setting or respite care. They may be cared for in foster families, residential placements, or with their potential adoptive families.

### What does the Virtual School provide?

Based on their phase of education (early years, primary, secondary or post 16), every Child We Care For has an allocated Virtual School Advisory Teacher who oversees the termly Personal Education Plan (PEP) process.



Pupil Premium Plus for Children We Care For funding is allocated on a needs led basis to remove barriers to progress in learning. The Virtual School provides training, resources, information, advice, and guidance on all aspects of education for Children We Care For.

### Who can access support?

- Social Care colleagues
- Designated Teachers and education colleagues working with West Sussex Children We Care For.

## Children who have achieved permanence

Children who have achieved permanence are children and young people who attend West Sussex education settings and were previously looked after (PLAC) by a Local Authority in England or Wales, or were adopted from state care outside of England and Wales. These children have achieved permanence due to a court order through adoption, special guardianship or a child arrangements order.

### What does the Virtual School provide?

Information and advice around education to parents and carers and supporting professionals.

### Who can access support?

- Social Care colleagues
- Early Help colleagues
- Designated teachers and colleagues in West Sussex schools and education settings
- Parents, carers and guardians.

