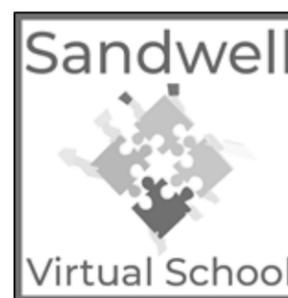




Sandwell Virtual School for Children in Care



This has been one of the most extraordinary academic years I can remember, but we have much to celebrate and many happy memories.

I start by saying a huge well done to all of you for the way you have approached the return to full-time schooling after two very unpredictable and unsettling years; I really admire your focus and resilience.

We are pleased to be able to report that in the recent Ofsted Inspection May 2022, the report was able to capture the extensive work we deliver, stating:

Leaders and the head of the virtual school have high expectations for children in care. They have worked diligently since the previous inspection to bring about improvements in the virtual school service and have had notable successes in improving the quality of how children in care are monitored and supported through education. Most children in care attend schools which are good or better and for those who do not, the reasons are clearly defined and in the best interests of the child. Children in care have a high attendance rate at school.

Inspection of Sandwell local authority children's services 9th to 20th May 2022

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/4/80549>

This is a true endorsement of the combined work we do to deliver an excellent service for our children and carers/parents.



It is with great pleasure to tell you about the launch of our Sandwell CiC year 4 to 7 band, 'Ignite'. They are made up of all the children in these year groups who have taken up the offer of free music lessons in their schools. They have come together to perform three times



this year and have shown great skills of perseverance and confidence. It has been a privilege to see them grow and take pride in what they do. I look forward to them performing live again at the Achievement Award in September 2022.

This academic year we have seen the return of Y6 SATs. I am pleased to say that our Designated Teachers report that children have handled these well and there are some reports that our children have enjoyed them! Well done to all Y6's, their parent/carers and teachers.



It has also been exciting to have face to face art events this year. Many of the children have taken part in a range of activities such as t-shirt design, jewellery making, spray painting and animation projects working with a variety of professional artists. Look out for more exciting events in the new academic year.

BOOK YOUR 2022/23 - EPEP TRAINING

For Designated Teachers and Social Workers: Via Teams until further notice.

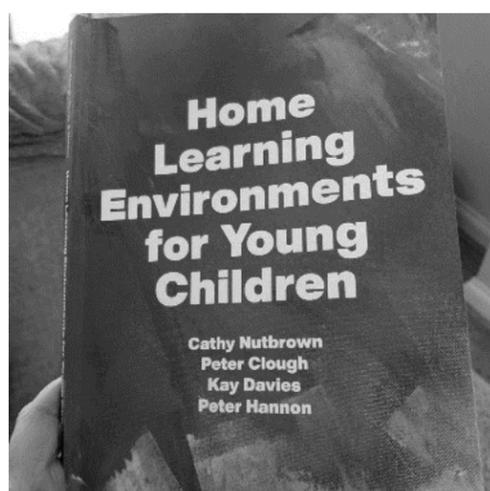
Wednesday 14 th September 22	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 16 th November 22	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 18 th January 23	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 19 th April 23	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday 28 th June 23	3.30pm – 4.30pm

To book your place please email: Michelle_geer1@sandwell.gov.uk

Early Years

The latest updates

Our Early Years Literacy training programme for children and families, 'Seeing the REAL world through the eyes of a child' was recognised and published as an example of outstanding practice.



Aspire 2 University

The latest updates



As we look forward; Aspire to University will be returning to its live format in September 2022, with visits the University of Wolverhampton resuming. With 13 Sandwell young people graduating this July I would welcome your participation and would like the carers to encourage their young people to re-engage with this nationally recognized programme.

Children with a Social Worker

We have gained two extremely experienced members to the team this term, Scott Johnson and Rachael Wolffel. They will lead on the extended duties of the VS for Children with a Social Worker (CWSW) by working with colleagues across the council and Sandwell Children's Trust to improve the attendance and help our children overcome barriers to education.

Designated Teachers - Don't forget about the Annual Report to Governors – Get your master document [here](#)

DT and DSL Training Programme 2022/23

20 October 2022	Attachment and Trauma demystified and Developing trauma Sensitive Classrooms	Face to Face	9.30 to 3.00 pm
23 November 2022	Developing emotional Regulation in children and YP who experience Trauma	Webinar	3.30 to 6.00 pm
25 January 2023	The impact of early experience on sensory development and processing	Webinar	3.30 to 6.00 pm
15 March 2023	A world of distractions, successful inclusion of children and Young people with ADHD	Webinar	3.30 to 6.00 pm
26 April 2023	Anxiety based difficulties and school	Webinar	3.30 to 6.00 pm
7 July 2023	Children's mental health in Covid-19 era	Face to Face	9.30 to 3.00 pm

Save the date - Compulsory Designated Teacher Training

The governing body of a maintained school and the proprietor of an academy must ensure that an appropriately qualified and experienced member of staff (hereafter referred to in this guidance as the 'designated teacher') undertakes the responsibilities within the school to promote the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after children on the school's roll. They must also ensure that the designated teacher undertakes training that is appropriate to carrying out this duty.

Designated Teacher for LAC and PLAC Statutory Guidance Feb 2018 Page 7

Over 70 delegates from across the education spectrum attended the first face to face Designated Teachers Training Seminar since November 2019!

The stimulating day included sessions on, creative use of Pupil Premium+, mindfulness Emotional Based School Avoidance, SMART Targets. The most powerful session was undoubtedly, listening to the voice of care experienced young people.

"I had to fill in this (evaluation) form, again as I filled it in too soon! after seeing the young people who came to speak, what an amazing experience for us all, their voices literally made this training day that was already good, totally outstanding, thank you!"

DT DSL & Family Liaison Officer



Friday
1st July 2022

B Bains: Executive Headteacher - https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200328/virtual_school_for_looked_after_children