



Sandwell Virtual School Newsletter September 2021



A Message from the Team

Welcome to the new academic year! We hope you have had the opportunity to spend some time on yourselves over the summer break. We thought it would be helpful to start the term with information that will be useful to you in terms of training and Personal Education Plan completion; also, to remind you who to contact in the team if you need to discuss support for your young person.



Thank you to those secondary schools who have provided exam results for your looked after pupils completing Year 11. It's not too late to upload them now so get in touch if you need guidance.

Epep_enquiries@sandwell.gov.uk



Our training date for ePEP is scheduled for 22nd September from 3.30 to 4.30. Recommended for new designated teachers but we find that even those with experience of the electronic PEP learn something new each time! Spaces are limited to 30 to give colleagues the opportunity to ask questions but to ensure that we finish on time.

Michelle will send a separate notification but please get in touch if you would like to register your interest now. Michelle_geer1@sandwell.gov.uk



For those unable to attend the training, we would like to remind you of some of the information that would improve the quality of the PEPs, making them easier to share with young people and their carers.

Attainment – we appreciate that there are a range of interpretations around assessments for children. We therefore do give you the opportunity to put in your internal school data. This is really helpful in enabling us to determine whether we are talking about what qualification schemes are being referred to (eg Entry Level/GCSEs/SATs). We can then assess the attainment and progress data in the context of the grades.

We encourage you all to record English and Mathematics as a minimum at all key stages.

Updates on assessments for early years and SEN are expected during the term (if not done already).

SEND – whether children have an identified SEN or not, please complete the descriptor on this tab as again it enables us to make peer comparisons more easily.

SEMH – a strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) should be completed for each PEP. This tool is absolutely essential in helping you determine appropriate targets within the PEP. We will be requesting that the SDQ is uploaded to the system and this will give us the opportunity to support you in scoring the assessment.

Look out for further developments with the SDQ but we will endeavour to cover this topic at our ePEP sessions. You can also email any queries you have to the Virtual School staff member assigned to your pupils.



Extended Role of the Virtual Head

On 16th June, the Government announced more than £16 million funding to strengthen support for children with a social worker by extending the role of Virtual School Heads.

Extending the role of Virtual School Heads delivers on a key recommendation from the Government's Children in Need review.

From September 2021, Virtual School Heads will:

- be asked to be a strategic leader
- be a champion for the cohort of children with social workers
- enhance partnerships with education settings.
- will receive funding and be encouraged to engage with a research partner.

We will have further information to share with you in the coming months including the impact on your role as designated teacher and also the designated safeguarding lead.

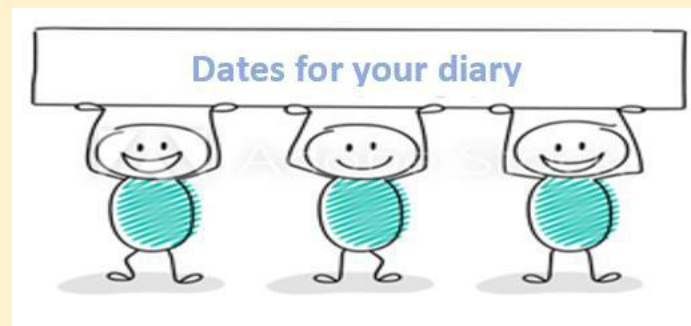


Sharon Osmond	Early years and Reception
Helen Hardwick	Years 1, 2 and 3
Jasvinder Kang	Years 4 and 5
Melonie Farrell	Years 6 and 7
Julie Chilton	Years 8 and 9
Prakash Patel	Years 10, 11, 12 and 13
Elliot McKenzie	Years 12 and 13

TRAINING

Trauma Informed Training

To give you a head start with your roles in supporting children in care (and the wider group of children with a social worker) we would like to share our training programme with you for this year. The majority of the sessions will be online but we would really like to see you all again therefore hope to have a face to face session early in the summer term! We attach the flyer for our first training session for senior leaders that is taking place on the 14th and 16th September. This will also be sent out independently of this notification but please pass it on as appropriate.



Jenny Nock Consultancy 2021/22 Twilight sessions 3.30pm – 6pm			
Training	1 st Date	2 nd Date	Audience
A new school year in the Covid 19 era	14 th September	16 th September	SLT plus any staff but need leadership to attend
Attachment and Trauma Demystified	4 th October	6 th October	All staff but especially those new to A&T
Children's mental health in Covid-19 era	22 nd November	24 th November	All
Complex difficulties; Core concepts	17 th January		All
<i>Provisionally</i> Getting creative with supervision	Spring term		SLT/ Leadership roles
The Impact of early experiences on sensory development and processing	16 th February		All
Meeting attachment needs and maladaptive dissociation	9 th March		All
End of year summary & action planning. In the room	Easter time?		All

There will be other occasions for designated teachers to interact and share practice so look out for our online information sharing sessions!