

Barnet Virtual School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2023

Welcome to the first Autumn Term newsletter from the Virtual School. We hope you all had a restful Summer break and that the beginning of the new School Year has gone smoothly.

The deadline for Autumn PEPs is the 10th November at the latest—best practice is completing them straight after the meeting to ensure there is no drift and delay. Please ensure that your PEP meetings have happened and the PEP document is complete by this date. **For statutory age children, any PEPs completed after this date will not be able to have funding agreed. Please remember that we hold both recovery funding and Pupil Premium Plus funding for looked after children and that you can request this through the PEP attached to an outcome for the young person.** Any questions please just get in touch.

Sarah Deale Virtual School Headteacher

Working together to improve school attendance

In response to two key pieces of government legislation:

[Promoting the education of children with a social worker \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) June 2022

[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) May 2022

Barnet Virtual School and Education Welfare Service will be setting up an Attendance Forum to address issues with some of the children with child protection plans (in the first instance) who are severely persistently absent where schools have tried strategies but the case appears 'stuck'. The forum will be multi-disciplinary including membership from across BELS, Family Services and Health, with the aim of working together to share intelligence, planning, and solutions.

Children who meet the criteria will be identified and schools and social workers will be contacted for further information. If they are thought to be suitable for the forum, the school will be sent a form to complete prior to the meeting of the forum and subsequently a date and ten minute time slot to attend. Papers will be circulated prior to the meeting. In the 10 minute slot, the panel may ask for clarity around anything on the form and options will be discussed. Actions will be minuted and circulated. If there is no improvement over a period of time, the case will be brought back to the forum for further discussions.

What do we need you to do?

We need schools to prioritise completing the form if one of their children is identified and to select the most appropriate member of staff to attend the forum.

The panel will be held monthly and the first one will be held in November.

Useful Free Resources/Links

Support for EAL

In the last newsletter, we signposted to the Bell Foundation. They have lots of useful resources for supporting EAL learners— [Resources Resources](#) - [The Bell Foundation \(bell-foundation.org.uk\)](https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk) New resources include: Guiding Learners using EAL through the school transition process. features of medieval castles to support learning vocabulary at KS1/ and the Periodic Table and Statistics: Tallies and pictograms for KS3. look here [Back to school resource bundle for schools teaching refugees and asylum seekers \(rescue.org\)](#) for useful resources for welcoming refugees and asylum seekers.



Grant Funding

Schools can apply for grants to support the education of young people through educational, cultural, sporting and other projects. BlueSpark is particularly keen to support projects which will help enhance the self-confidence, team working skills and future employability of children and young people. In most cases, grants will be made on a relatively small scale. The funding available can be for physical assets (such as iPads, sports equipment, or lighting for stage productions) or for services or facilities (such as sports coaching or music or drama tuition) or simply for the provision of experiences (such as theatre visits). Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis at approximately 8-week intervals. To find out more and how to apply, please click here.



Wellbeing activities

The Red Cross has wellbeing activities for both primary and secondary ages to help young people be kind to themselves. [Wellbeing activities for schools | British Red Cross](#)

Key Contacts at the Virtual School

Head Teacher: Sarah.deale@barnet.gov.uk **Deputy Head of School:** Julie.locke@barnet.gov.uk
School Business Manager: Jane.thrift@barnet.gov.uk **Caseworker:** Allan.newby@barnet.gov.uk
PEP Coordinator: Caroline.Gladkow@barnet.gov.uk **Caseworker :** Hannah.hudson@barnet.gov.uk
Caseworker: Ornella.rochfort@barnet.gov.uk **Senior Caseworker:** Frazier.stroud@barnet.gov.uk
Caseworker : Sejal.patel@barnet.gov.uk **Caseworker:** Isabella.underhill@barnet.gov.uk
Caseworker—Post 16: Sinead.garvey@barnet.gov.uk
Education Lead—Children with a social worker: Nicola.axford@barnet.gov.uk
Senior Learning Mentor— Amy.wight@barnet.gov.uk **Learning Mentor—** Jhana.mills@barnet.gov.uk

Speech and Language Training/drop ins

These drop in sessions are run by our Speech and Language therapist and you do not need to book. Just join using the link provided for each session

SLT drop in session (18th September – between 11.30am and 1.00pm via TEAMS); WHAT NEXT?

This session is aimed at those of you who have completed (or close to completing) the SLT programme for a LAC child in your school and you are wondering ‘what next?’. The SLT team can discuss with you where the child might need some follow up targets/support based on how the progress they have shown so far. This is a practical and hands-on session – come with your questions and we will endeavour to find the answers together.

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 377 395 355 493
Passcode: qQxLUZ

LAC SLT drop in session (16th October -3.15pm—4.30 p.m. via TEAMS): FEELING STUCK!

This session is aimed at those of you who are a bit lost/unsure i.e. you have an SLT programme for a LAC child in your school but you have not been able to get started so far and need a quick refresh: maybe you feel unsure how to set up the session, lack the resources or generally not sure what it is all about come along with your questions and we can talk you through the programme and share ideas/resources to get you started”

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 344 352 794 549
Passcode: zet5HW

LAC SLT drop in session (30th October -10am—11.30am via TEAMS): RESOURCES BONANZA

“All the ideas, strategies and resources you could ever dream of (to run your SLT session)– join in to find out more!

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 321 377 831 162
Passcode: YeUwqV

Workshop on ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences)

13/11/2023 at 3.15pm on TEAMS and again on 04/12/2023 at 10am on TEAMS

This session is focused on ACES and the impact they can have on a child’s communication, behaviour and emotional development.

Suitable for all school staff.

Leaders: Barnet Speech and Language Therapists

To book this training course please open this link: [Training & Events | BELS | Barnet Education and Learning Service \(belstradedservices.uk\)](#)

Training

New to Designated Teacher/New to Barnet Induction Course

This course is a remote three part training session and is relevant to anyone who is new to the role of Designated Teacher for Looked After Children or is new to Barnet.

Session One: Thursday 14th September 1.30 – 3pm

Understanding the role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

Who's who in Barnet Virtual School

Role of the Designated Teacher and your statutory responsibilities

How to work strategically as a Designated Teacher

Session Two: Thursday 21st September 1.30pm to 3pm

A Virtual Tour of the ePEP (Personal Education Plans)

A guided virtual tour of Welfare Call and the ePEP

How to set targets on the ePEP

Pupil Premium Plus and the ePEP

Session Three: Thursday 28th September 1.30pm to 3pm

An Introduction to attachment & trauma-informed practice and how to support in schools

An introduction to Attachment theory & trauma-informed practice and why it matters

The importance of the learning relationship

How you can support in school

Leader: Sam Rothwell—Inclusion Advisory Team with Ornella Rochfort, Virtual School (Session 2)

Back by popular demand!

Body Based Approaches to working with children and young people who have experienced trauma

Tuesday 5th December—9.30—15.00 at the PDC

This course will:

Explore how trauma affects a child/young person's nervous system and what happens when they are triggered into a fight/flight/freeze response.

Develop an understanding of how trauma is stored in the body.

Try out creative and sensory based approaches to support a child/young person who is trauma experienced

Explore practical approaches to sooth a child's nervous system when in fight/flight/freeze (including individual and whole class approaches).

This training will include a mixture of traditional and experiential learning. Attendees must be prepared to try out and practice, creative, movement and other sensory based activities.

Leader: Dr Amy Gibb, Educational Psychologist

To book either of these training courses, please open this link: [Training & Events | BELS | Barnet Education and Learning Service \(belstradedservices.uk\)](#)



Our training is free to ALL schools. You do not need to buy into BPSI/Bels