

Barnet Virtual School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2024

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 15th 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 are not going to be able to agree as much funding as we have been as both recovery funding and Pupil Premium Plus funding for looked after children have ended. This may impact the funding of things such as after school clubs etc.

Any questions please just get in touch. Sarah Deale Virtual School Headteacher

Working together to improve school attendance

Important changes to Attendance coding



Please be aware that attendance coding has changed and make sure you are familiar with the new codes listed in [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) .

Please be mindful that the **part-time timetable code** has changed and is now **C2**. The Virtual School will have oversight of all CLA, CIN and CP cases on a part time timetable to ensure this is carefully managed and time-limited.

Please also be aware of two new codes around transport. Firstly **Q** is for children who are legally entitled to transport but are awaiting transport to be set up by the Local Authority. Secondly, **Y1** is for those who have Local Authority transport in place, but on a given day it was not available. Also **Y5**, unable to attend as pupil is in criminal justice detention i.e. in police detention or remanded in youth detention awaiting sentencing.

Inactive Codes— **H, Y and J**. If any service children require Holidays in term time than schools should use the code **C**. The **J** code has been replaced by a new code **J1** and has changed from an Approved Educational Activity to Authorised Absence.

Studybugs

As per the Welcome Back email from Neil Marlow, please sign up for the pilot project aimed at improving the safeguarding, health, welfare and attendance of children across Barnet. **Please visit [Studybugs – Barnet Council](#) for more details and to register to participate.**

Thank you.

Kinship Care

Kinship care is when a child lives full-time or most of the time with a relative or close family friend. In the UK there are over 180,000 children in kinship care. Grandparents are the most common kinship carers. Kinship carers are sometimes referred to as 'connected people'. There are different types of kinship care.



- It might be an informal arrangement where someone looks after a child but they do not have parental responsibility and are not in the care of the LA.
- A family court might have awarded a special guardianship order where PR is shared with the child's parents but carers can make nearly all major decisions about the child without asking the parent's permissions.
- A court could award a child arrangements order. Again PR is shared but parents must be included in big decisions.
- A family member or friend could become a child's foster carer—they are then considered 'looked after' by the LA who shares PR with the parents.

Private fostering is when someone who is not a child's parent or close relative looks after a child for 28 days or more. If you suspect a child is being privately fostered, please inform the LA immediately.

About Kinship Care Week 2024

Kinship Care Week (7 to 13 October 2024) is an opportunity to celebrate the incredible role that kinship carers play in children's lives and society. It's also an important time to help everyone understand what kinship care is.

This year, the theme of Kinship Care Week is #ThisIsKinshipCare. Each and every kinship family has a unique story based on both their happy memories, as well as their challenging experiences. Please help to shine a light on these stories and to recognise these diverse and inspiring kinship families. Joining in with Kinship Care Week 2024 will help raise awareness about kinship care and what life is like for kinship families.

There are resource packs available on the Kinship website— [Kinship Care Week 2024 | Kinship](#) They are also running three lunch time sessions for professionals working with kinship carers. They are all free and will be held on teams. Although not strictly aimed at schools, they may be useful. They will cover the topics:

What does a good relationship look like when working with kinship families?

- How can we help kinship families to best navigate the school system?
- How can we support kinship carers to access the financial support they need?

Again you can find full details on the Kinship website—[Homepage - Kinship - The kinship care charity](#)

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: 19th 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: 1st October 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: 9th October 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

Language Screening in School—looked after children

Thursday 26th September — 3.15—4.15 online

This course will cover:

What is the Progression Tool Language Screen

How school staff can deliver the screen in school

What are the benefits of completing the screen with a LAC child/young person

Leader: Speech and Language Therapists

Impact of Trauma on Brain Development

Thursday 17th October — 9.30—12.00 online

This course will explore the impact that trauma can have on the developing brain of children, from utero to early adulthood. It will also explore how healthy learning environments can support growth and healing.

Leader : Dr Amy Gibb, Educational Psychologist

To book these training courses, please open this link: [Training & Events | BELS | Barnet Education and Learning Service \(belstradedservices.uk\)](#) **N.B The first course will not be on the system until later this week.**

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

Training

Aces and Communication for the Vulnerable Child

Thursday 7th November— 3.15—4.15 online

This course will cover:

What are Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

What impact can ACEs have on the development of speech, language and communication

What support is on offer of more help is required for the child or young person

Leader: Speech and Language Therapists

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

Emotion Coaching

Thursday 14th November— 9.30—12.00

The training is an opportunity to learn more about how to support children to understand the different emotions they experience, why they occur and how to support emotional regulation . The workshop aims to:

- Consider children's emotional development and needs
- Understand and learn the steps of using an emotion coaching approach

Provide opportunities to practise these approaches and feel confident to apply them in your work with children and young people

Leader: Dr Amiee Cole, Educational Psychologist

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

Key Contacts at the Virtual School

Website: [Home | Barnet Virtual School | London Borough of Barnet | England \(barnetvs.org\)](#)

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Follow us on Twitter  (@barnetvs), Instagram  (Barnet_virtual_school) and Facebook  (Barnet Virtual School) to keep up with news, resources, training etc .

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