

The logo for Halton Virtual School features the word "VIRTUAL" on the left and "SCHOOL" on the right, both in a light blue, spaced-out font. Above the "SCHOOL" text, the word "HALTON" is written in a smaller, dark blue font. In the center, between "VIRTUAL" and "SCHOOL", is the Halton District School Board crest, which is a shield-shaped emblem with a green and gold color scheme. The entire logo is set against a white background with two vertical dark blue bars on either side.

VIRTUAL HALTON SCHOOL

Halton Virtual School

Offer for Previously Looked After Children

Roles and Responsibilities

Who is a Previously Looked After Child?

Previously Looked After Children are those who:

- Are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales (as defined by the Children Act 1989 or Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014) because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order
- Were adopted from 'state care' outside England and Wales. 'State care' is care provided by a public authority, a religious organisation or, or any other organisation on whose sole or main purpose is to benefit society

What is the role of the Virtual School with regard to Previously Looked After Children?

The Designated Teacher has a duty to promote the educational achievement of previously looked after children. Governing bodies have a duty to appoint a member of staff with appropriate qualifications and experience to this role. They should have the opportunity to undertake appropriate training and work closely with parents and guardians to ensure the best outcomes for the child, socially, emotionally and educationally. The Designated Teacher should be the first point of contact for queries or concerns regarding Previously Looked After Children. Further information about the role of the Designated Teacher can be found here. [The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674222/the-designated-teacher-for-looked-after-and-previously-looked-after-children.pdf)

- If you are new to the role of DT the Virtual School holds New to the Role of DT training annually and provides an overview to the role.

Who is the Designated Teacher at my child's school/the school I work at?	If you are not sure who this is, please approach the School Office or Head Teacher for further guidance.
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Funding

What funding is available to support Previously Looked After Children?	Pupil Premium Grant is available for children (aged 5-16) who were adopted from care or who have le care, who were previously looked a er by an English or Welsh local authority immediately prior to being adopted, or who le local authority care on a special guardianship order or child arrangement order. For children who fall into this category the amount of pupil premium paid to schools is £2570 per pupil for 2024-2025. Further information on the Pupil Premium Grant can be found here Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2022 to 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
How do schools access the Pupil Premium Grant for Previously Looked After Children?	Children must be recorded on the October census in order for the pupil premium to be allocated. This funding will then be paid directly to the school.

<p>I am the parent/carer of a Previously Looked After Child can I say what the Pupil Premium Grant is spent on?</p>	<p>The Pupil Premium Grant is paid to the school, and they will decide how it is used. The grant does not have to be used to directly support an individual pupil therefore, a parent/carer cannot direct the school on how the funding is used. There are some conditions that the school needs to adhere to, the grant may be spent in the following ways;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the purposes of the school, that is, for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school • For the benefit of pupils registered at other maintained schools of academies • On community services whose provision furthers the benefit of pupils at the school. <p>Activities funded by the Pupil Premium Grant should support the quality of teaching, such as staff professional development, provide targeted academic support such as tutoring and tackle non-academic barriers to success in school such as attendance, behaviour and social and emotional support.</p>
<p>How can I find out how a school is using its Pupil Premium Grant?</p>	<p>Maintained schools are required to publish a Pupil Premium Strategy annually and this should be available from the school website, if you are not able to access it, you can request it from the school office or from the Designated Teacher.</p>
<p>What is the Adoption Support Fund?</p>	<p>The Adoption Support Fund provides funds to local authorities and regional adoption agencies to pay for essential therapeutic services for eligible adoptive and special guardianship order families. The fund is accessed by the local authority or regional adoption agency not schools or parents/carers, following an assessment of the family's adoption support need by either the local authority or the regional adoption agency. For the first three years after placement the local authority or regional</p>

adoption agency who placed the child are responsible for the assessment. After the first 3 years it is the responsibility of the local authority where you live.

Further information on the Adoption Support Fund can be found here [Adoption support fund \(ASF\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/adoption-support-fund).

Accessing Support/Sharing Concerns

<p>I am the parent/carer of a Previously Looked After Child who can I contact for support or advice regarding my child?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your first contact should always be with your child’s school, either their class teacher or the Designated Teacher depending on your concerns. If you don’t know who the Designated Teacher is the Head Teacher at the school will be able to tell you.• Halton Virtual School’s website Halton Virtual School: also has useful information about PLAC and some of the support available.• Halton Virtual School has a mailbox that you can email if you are unable to find the answers that you need virtual.school@halton.gov.uk Emails to this mailbox will be responded to within 5 working days.• Support group for Kinship Carers and parents / carers of previously looked after children (including children with a social worker).
<p>I am the Designated Teacher at the child’s school who can I contact for support regarding PLAC?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Halton Virtual School’s website Halton Virtual School: also has useful information about PLAC and some of the support available.• Halton Virtual School virtual.school@halton.gov.uk has a mailbox that you can email if you are unable to find the answers that you need to this mailbox will be responded to within 5 working days.• DT Newsletter is produced termly and contains useful information and contacts from a variety of sources. This is sent directly to Designated Teachers and/or their school office. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact• Designated Teachers have the opportunity to attend DT Network Meetings Termly (Terms 1, 3 and 5) and DT Workshops Termly (Terms 2, 4 and 6). The Network meetings are focussed on CPD, and the Workshops provide CPD, sharing of good practice and also the opportunity to present a case for Peer Problem Solving.

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Education Plans for Previously Looked After Children (EPPLAC)	
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What is an EPPLAC?	The EPPLAC (Education Plan for Previously Looked After Children) is a tool to support schools and parents in ensuring and promoting the education and well-being of Previously Looked After Children. This document provides a format for an education planning meeting in order to identify strengths and needs and to plan a programme of support for the child. The EPPLAC can only be completed with the consent of the parents/carers. A copy of the EPPLAC can be found here Halton Virtual School: Previously Looked After Children (P-lac)
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Who is the EPPLAC for?	The EPPLAC is for any child or young person who has been previously looked after and has subsequently been adopted or made the subject of a special guardianship or child arrangement order. The EPPLAC can be used for any child or young person who falls into this category. There is no statutory requirement to complete an EPPLAC and it can only be completed with the consent of the parents/carers.
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Who completes the EPPLAC?	The EPPLAC should be completed by the Designated Teacher with the support of those who know the child well and where appropriate the child themselves.
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Who should I end the EPPLAC meeting?	The meeting should be a ended by anyone who may be able to support the child and where appropriate the child's voice should form part of the meeting (either in person or having been previously sought by a trusted adult).
How often should an EPPLAC be completed?	There is no specified frequency for completing EPPLACs, however we recommend completing them at least annually. They can be completed more frequently depending on the needs identified. We would also recommend completing an EPPLAC when a child is due to transition to a new school to support the receiving school to gain a good understanding of the child.

Training

What training is available for schools?	<p>Halton Virtual School offers training via the DT Network and Workshop meetings which run throughout the school year, these offer 6 opportunities to access CPD and support from the Virtual School, other agencies and also colleagues.</p> <p>We also have training available via the Virtual School and Learning Support Team Core Offer which is available to all schools. Halton Virtual School website also details other training available and can be found here, this includes New to the Role of DT training and training that is provided by other agencies. Training areas and dates are sent out regularly by the Virtual School.</p>
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<p>What training is available for parents/carers?</p>	<p>In conjunction with our partner local authorities, Halton works alongside Warrington, St.Helens, Wigan and Cheshire West Virtual School to offer bespoke training (such as ‘navigating the virtual world’ and ‘the adoption journey’) for our parents / carers. Details of forthcoming events will be sent out by the Virtual School.</p>
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Transitions

<p>A previously looked after child is moving in to/out of my school what can I do to support this?</p>	<p>As with any new starter ensuring that the child and their family are aware of the key adults within the school is crucial, this includes the class teacher, classroom support staff and the Designated Teacher. We would also recommend using the EPPLAC to support any transition, it is a really useful tool to capture information about the child, their family and their experiences. It is important to keep in mind the long and often challenging journey that the parents and the child have experienced. If a child is leaving your setting, with the permission of the parents/carers, it may be useful to invite them to an EPPLAC Review mee ng or to share previous EPPLAC minutes with the new school.</p>
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	<p>Halton Virtual School website has some links to useful resources compiled by Adoption UK to support transition on into Nursery, Primary School and Secondary School Halton Virtual School</p>
<p>My child is moving schools what can I do to support this?</p>	<p>Prior to choosing a new school useful areas to research include the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What pastoral support does the school offer?• How do the school spend their Pupil Premium funding?• How does the school support children with Social Emotional & Mental Health Needs?• What approach does the school take to managing behaviour? <p>Much of this can be found out through the school website, however the best way to find out if a school is the right fit for your child is to visit and meet with key adults, ideally the Designated Teacher.</p>