

Ealing Virtual School
Information and Contact Details

Grid of staff profiles including Bridie McDonagh (Head Teacher), Sally Obado (Senior Teacher), Sian Hender (Primary Teacher), Alison O'Connor (Primary Teacher), Maureen Registe (Secondary Teacher), Sue Tarry (Secondary Teacher), Sundeep Gill (Post 16 Teacher), Zainab Idris (Lead Mentor), and Irene Tymkiw (Senior Educational Psychologist).

Contact Details
Ealing Virtual School Perceval House 2/NE/4. 14/16 Uxbridge Road Ealing, London W5 2HL.
Education sessions for Looked After Children are held at the Horizons Education and Achievement Centre 15 Cherington Road, Hanwell W7 3HL. Telephone 020 8537 4940.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Virtual School Teacher (s). Rows include Connect 1 & 2, Connect 3 & 4, MAST, Care Planning, CWD, Unaccompanied Minors, Leaving Care, and 20+ team.

Ofsted inspection (August 2016)
This recent inspection said of the virtual school work:
'The educational progress and attainment of children looked after are given a high priority.... The Virtual School Head provides strong and strategic leadership....Some of the work done by the Virtual School team with Designated Teachers in schools both in borough and out borough... is outstanding; there is a strong focus on improving outcomes.....
The Horizons Education and Achievement Centre is outstanding in assisting children to transform lives and increase their knowledge and skills, aspirations and self-esteem.
The highly successful 'My Education' mentoring scheme... is encouraging increasing numbers of care leavers to become learning mentors to younger children in care..... Inspired by the success of care leavers, many of whom are at University, children are encouraged to believe in themselves, aim high and develop the skills and knowledge that they need to succeed.
The two children in care councils are strong, dynamic and influential.
Care leavers are routinely encouraged to aim high and do well in education, employment and training..... The local authority is an outstanding corporate parent, ambitious, aspirational and proactive.... highly ambitious for its care leavers, 20% of care leavers are at University.'

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Ealing Council, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, London W5 2HL.

Ealing Virtual School

Teaching, Support and Advice for Ealing's Looked After Children and Care Leavers



Children's Services







### What is the Virtual School?

The Virtual School works within Ealing Council's Children's Services. We aim to improve the life chances of Ealing's Looked After Children and care leavers by promoting and supporting them throughout their education. We also provide education advice, information and support to social workers.

### What does the Virtual School offer?

The Virtual School not only works directly with young people in care, but also offers a service to all those people who work

with them; this includes schools, social workers and carers.

### Education sessions at Horizons Centre

All our staff are qualified and experienced teachers. There is study support for year 6 students and above on Wednesdays from 4.00pm to 7.00pm at the Horizons Centre during term time.

Information and advice for Post 16 is available every Thursday from 2pm - 4pm at the Horizons Education and



Achievement Centre. This includes support with college and university applications.

This is not an alternative to school, but a service to make sure that young people don't miss out on their education if they are without a school place. Our aim is both to improve young peoples' learning AND to get them back into school as quickly as possible.

### ME (My Education) Peer Mentoring Project

The ME Peer Mentoring Project runs on Monday night from 5-7pm at the Horizons Education and Achievement Centre.

It links up young people who have left care as mentors with mentees who are Looked After Children. We engage in a variety of activities, from cooking and street dance to visiting universities and hearing from course advisors. The



programme aims to engage young people in fun activities whilst informing them of their educational options.

### Support in school

We also aim to help young people when they are in school or college. We will often work directly with teachers in schools and colleges supporting and helping young people with their education as well as monitoring the progress of each young person and advising on their Personal Education Plans (statutory for aged 3-18 years).

### Support for social workers and carers

Much of our work involves helping and supporting social workers and carers.

We will offer advice when dealing with particular problems and also offer training sessions to those wishing to improve their understanding of the education system so that they can support the education of young people in care.

### Pupil Premium

The Virtual School are responsible for distributing and monitoring the Pupil Premium Grant for Looked After Children, ensuring it is used for additionality to raise the education and achievement of each young person. This is largely done through discussions at the PEP meetings.

We can also visit young people in their homes if they need particular help with their schoolwork and homework.

Our work is not only confined to school age young people, we also support and give advice to young people in college and university.

### Special activities and events

During the school holidays we often run special activities and trips for young people. These include working with high quality providers such as the Royal College of Arts, Holland Park Opera, authors, actors, musicians and poets.

### Educational Achievement Awards

This prestigious event is held early in the autumn term, where we recognise and celebrate the educational achievements of all of Ealing's Looked After Children, and care leavers. Attended by the Mayor, looked after learners are able to celebrate success on every level.