

Leicestershire Educational Psychology Service: Virtual Schools Offer

PURPOSE

- Supporting children and young people (CYP) in Virtual Schools to access education, remain engaged, and experience a sense of belonging.
- To work alongside schools, social carers, and families to understand needs and plan psychologically informed support.
- Provide EP input for CYP with social, emotional and mental health needs, including those at risk of exclusion or previously looked-after.
- To use a range of evidence-based and relational approaches to help adults around the child feel supported.

IMPACT

- Schools report EP involvement has supported their understanding of CYP needs and providing practical strategies of support.
- Staff value the tools, psychological strategies, and guidance material that is shared.
- Feedback reported strong partnership working between EPs, the Virtual School, schools, carers, and social workers. Multi-agency work has strengthened consistency across services and has been positively received.
- Supervision sessions have followed after casework to provide staff additional support.
- EP input contributed to the professional development of staff through discussions, advice, and information sharing.

STRATEGY

EPs use collaborative and creative methods of work to support CYP and the adults around them, such as:

- Planning meetings with the Head of Virtual Schools to identify areas of support.
- Supporting previously looked-after CYP or those at risk of exclusion.
- Develop guidance and training sessions to support social workers and school staff to strengthen understanding of CYP needs.
- Attending PEP meetings to offer psychological insight and help shape educational planning.
- Provide psychoeducation to CYP to support them with their SEMH needs.
- Facilitating discussions around CYP to develop shared formulation and next steps.
- Use creative and adaptive methods e.g. PATHS.
- Using Circle of Adults to support the adults around a CYP when situations feel stuck.