



Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a relaxing and peaceful break and managed to rest and recuperate over the festive break.

The Virtual School has lots of FREE training opportunities for you which we regularly share through the ePEP platform.

If you are not accessing the ePEP platform then please contact us and we will ensure that you are added to the system.

We also have a wealth of information on our virtual school website which can be found at www.Wokinghamvirtualschool.co.uk



For those new to the borough or for those who need a refresher, it is our mission to ensure that every Wokingham Child we Care for is successful, thriving, achieving and resilient.



Before the Christmas break we were made aware by e.Gov who run the ePEP platform and a number of schools that there were emails received regarding a 'data breach'.

For all those schools in Wokingham that we know were contacted by this individual, we sent emails in a timely manner to reassure them that there has been no data breach but there is an individual who is actively trying to bring the ePEP platform down as they are opposed to it's work.

To avoid unnecessary confusion or engagement, schools were kindly asked to not respond to the email.

If you receive any communication regarding ePEP or data breaches, please pass them directly to us rather than replying directly to the sender.

Whats On

- ★ Friday 19 December 2025 WBC Last day of term
- ★ Monday 5 January 2026 WBC Start of Spring Term
- ★ Thursday 15 January 2026 Primary/Junior School Application Deadline
- ★ Tuesday 3 February 2026 Wokingham DSL Meeting
- ★ Monday 23 February 2026 – Friday 27 February 2026 WBC Half Term
- ★ Tuesday 24 February 2026 Designated Person for Child Protection in Education Refresher Training
 - ★ Monday 2 March 2026 National Offer Day (Secondary)
 - ★ Monday 16 March 2026 PP+ deadline
 - ★ Monday 23 March 2026 PEP Deadline
- ★ Wednesday 25 March 2026 Designated Person for Child Protection in Education Training



January is usually a pretty bleak month so we just wanted to feature our mental health and wellbeing resources page on our website:

<https://www.wokinghamvirtualschool.co.uk/page/category/mental-health-and-wellbeing>

We are here if you ever need to talk about any of the cases you deal with on a daily basis. Supervision isn't always prioritised in schools but we are here.



Under the new Ofsted framework, inspectors are keen to see certification for the training of a designated teacher. You may have attended National College training or other relevant training for the Designated Teacher and have certification through that CPD course.

If you have attended Wokingham Virtual School Designated Teacher training since September 2024 you should have received a certificate which includes all that was covered within our training. If you would like to attend our training, please do get in touch and we will look to ensure that we deliver this to you in a timely manner so that you have evidence of attending training.



Department
for Education

A Quick Designated Teacher Checklist

- **Appointment**

Governing body must appoint a **qualified teacher** (or headteacher) as the Designated Teacher.

This is a legal requirement under the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the 2009 Regulations.

- **Core Duties**

Ensure every looked after child has a **Personal Education Plan (PEP)** that is up to date and effective.

Work with the Virtual School Head, social workers, carers, and parents to support the child's education.

Monitor progress, attainment, attendance, and well-being of looked after and previously looked after children.

Report regularly to the governing body on outcomes for these pupils.

- **Who are DTs responsible for?**

Children currently looked after by a local authority.

Children who were previously looked after but are now under adoption, special guardianship, or child arrangements orders.

- **Training and Awareness**

Must undertake appropriate training.

Ensure all staff understand the needs of looked after and previously looked after children.

- **Governance**

Must hold the school accountable for the progress of looked after children.



We are excited to share that our keynote speaker for the July conference is Luke Rogers. The keynote is focused on the power of relationships, highlighting what individuals can do to have a huge impact on the lives of children in the care system. This includes how to communicate with children effectively, how to see the messages in children's behaviour and spotting triggers that can often cause trauma for children.

The conference will take place on: Tuesday 7th July 2026

The Venue : Crowne Plaza Reading East

Address: Wharfedale Road, Winnersh Triangle. RG41 5TS

The **CareLeaders**



Don't forget the virtual school are here to assist you should you require any support. You can email us at the following addresses and we promise we will respond within 24 hours.

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Here's how to
CONTACT US!



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