

For comprehensive online training,  
please contact the Virtual School  
for login details by emailing  
[virtualschool@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

**Virtual School Head**

01992 555926

**Primary School (including BESD schools)**

**Education Advisers:**

Dacorum, Watford, St Albans: 01992 55543  
Three Rivers, Hertsmere, Welwyn & Hatfield:  
01442 453514  
Broxbourne, East Herts, Stevenage & North  
Herts: 01442 453864

**Secondary School (ESCs and BSED schools)**

**Education Advisers:**

Dacorum, Watford, St Albans: 01442 453320  
Three Rivers, Hertsmere, Welwyn & Hatfield:  
01442 453514  
Broxbourne, East Herts, Stevenage & North  
Herts: 01438 843964

**Manager for Education, Training &  
Employment for Care Leavers**

01707 346617

[www.thegrid.org.uk/virtualschool](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/virtualschool)

To request this leaflet in large print,  
Braille, audiotape or disk format please  
call 0300 123 4043

To request this leaflet in another  
language, please call 0300 123 4043

*"I just want to go to university  
to study... I just want to have  
good money, a good job,  
a good life really."*

Quote from a young  
person in care

*"Children in care should be  
a litmus test of how we are  
delivering the ambitions for all  
children and young people."*



Design Ref: 075760

Hertfordshire  
**virtualschool**  
LEARN · ACHIEVE · SUCCEED

Tel: 01992 556915 Fax: 01992 588512  
[virtualschool@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
[www.thegrid.org.uk/virtualschool](http://www.thegrid.org.uk/virtualschool)



## What is a Virtual School?

---

The Hertfordshire Virtual School is not a teaching institution but a way of bringing together the information about children and young people who are looked after as if they were in a single school so that their progress can be closely tracked and supported and intervention can be targeted in a more strategic way.



## The role of the Virtual School

---

- To champion the needs of children and young people looked after by Hertfordshire educated inside the county or in other local authorities
- To ensure that children and young people have the best possible education and every chance to realise potential
- To offer personalised support plans and interventions to raise attainment and aspirations for the future
- To robustly track cohort trends and target resources effectively to promote achievement.

## What are our priorities?

---

- A commitment to empowering schools, social workers and carers to make education a priority for children looked after.
- A focus on the 'Narrowing the Gap' agenda.
- An effective leadership and governance structure that maximises all the services of CS to improve the educational achievement of children and young people looked after.
- The development of management information systems to inform effective self evaluation and improvement planning that will provide a detailed understanding of school age Hertfordshire children looked after, wherever they are placed and children of other local authorities.
- Challenge and support for key deliverers – education providers and alternative providers.
- A responsiveness to the views and feedback from children and young people.



## How can we provide support?

---

### For children & young people:

- Support with studies
- Educational resources including IT equipment
- Access to Education Support Workers to help overcome barriers to learning
- Out of school hours activities
- Study skills and booster classes
- Recognition of achievement - HERTS Awards
- Advice and guidance on future pathways
- Work experience opportunities.

### Children's Services Social Care staff:

- Comprehensive training on the education of children looked after
- Advice, guidance and support from specialist Education Advisers on raising the achievement of children looked after.

### Hertfordshire Schools:

- Comprehensive training on the new statutory guidance for Designated Teachers and Governors.
- Regular visits to your school.
- Inspection advice and preparation for Ofsted.
- Personal Education Planning support and guidance.

### Corporate Parents and Foster Carers:

- Advice, information and guidance to help the young person get the best out of their education
- Courses on how to support learning in the home
- Regular contact from named Virtual School staff members
- Training support - online or taught courses.