

NELC Virtual School



Children thrive with Love

"Fitting in"

is becoming who you think you need to be in order to be accepted.

Belonging

is being your authentic self and knowing that no matter what happens, you belong to you.

Brene Brown

A MESSAGE FROM SLT

It has been another busy term here in the Virtual School with many changes. One of our longest standing Inclusion Officers, Gill MacTaggart has retired - we will miss her and her relentless advocacy for our children greatly. We have three new Inclusion Officers with a fourth joining us in the New Year, the breadth of their experience is huge, and we are looking forward to how this will strengthen the team and improve outcomes for our children and young people.

We want to make sure our children feel seen and receive the praise they deserve so have introduced our Virtual School Shout Out cards - please continue to share their achievements during their PEP Review Meetings so our Inclusion Officers can send them out a 'Well done'.



QUALITY ASSURANCE

There have been significant improvements in the quality of our PEPs this term. Some of the impactful changes include -:

- Headings with child friendly explanations which help influence how the plan is written.
- Becoming more strengths based. Richer information about what is known, loved and admired
- The shift in language reflects a more holistic understanding of the child and supports a sense of identity and belonging

The quality assurance process has been finalised ensuring -:

- Each PEP is assessed by IO using RAG rating system
- Random or themed moderation by SLT or QA Sub Group
- Feedback to DT with focus on strengths and areas for development with learning points (new)

The Quality Assurance process enables us to identify training needs across schools, tailor support where required and provide individual advice and guidance.

Quality Assurance Status week ending 28/11/2025

2.2%

20.2%

77.6%



MEET THE TEAM





EXTENSION DUTIES

There has been a raft of activities going on around the updated Extension Duties this term which were introduced at the CP Co-Ordinators Meeting and our VS Partnership Meeting earlier this term. We have started meeting with several of our schools to support with understanding the changes so please feel to contact our Deputy Head, Jodi Parkin jodi.parkin@nelincs.gov.uk if you would like to book time for an informal chat.

Following a successful introduction to our CP Co-Ordinators earlier this year we have now met with our Social Workers to discuss how attendance, support and continuous review should be a focus during CIN/CP meetings. We have continued our work with our Adopted and SGO families, supporting both them and other professionals with educational queries and advocacy for our children and young people.

SCHOOL LEAVERS

What happens in school is vitally important to the future success of our young people, a robust careers programme and appropriate support, alongside academic achievements is a critical part of that.

Here are some characteristics we found locally when looking at school leavers who find themselves **NEET** (Not in Education, Employment or Training):

- Did not achieve Grade 4 or above in Maths and English.
- Where the information was available a very high percentage had a history of exclusion and low attendance
- Whilst the vast majority applied for provision Post 16 whilst still at school, only a very small minority started that provision
- Those students who did apply, over half applied for provision that had an entry requirement above their predicted/actual grades.

The more you can do to prepare your students to make that successful transition the better and reduce their chances of becoming NEET.

SPOTLIGHT

Each term we like to capture some of the amazing work going on in our schools. This term we would like to spotlight several of our Secondary Schools, your work does not go unnoticed. A huge thank you goes to -:

- **Chloe Hodson-Smith** at **Ormiston Maritime Academy** for her relentless work re-engaging several of our young people.
- The **Child in Care Team** at **Somercotes Academy** who have been working hard to work collaboratively with us to ensure the best outcomes for our young people.
- **Ryha Houghton** at **Healing Academy** for being proactive and ensuring our young people get the support they need as soon as possible.
- **Nicola Law** and **Kim Robinson** at **Waltham Tollbar Academy** for working collaboratively to ensure a smooth transition for one of our young people.
- **Robyn Laurie** at **Havelock Academy** for her unwavering support and dedication to ensuring our young people get the support they need and deserve.
- **Claire Glaves** at **John Whitgift Academy** for her high-quality PEP's and continued support and advocacy of the Virtual School.



PERMISSION TO BE PROUD

- Two Y11 young people with excellent attendance and attitude to learning at OMA.
- Y12 young person for excellent attendance at ActFast
- Y10 young person for excellent attendance and attitude to learning at OAW.
- Y9 young person for re-engaging with school and learning following prolonged absence at JWA.
- Y10 young person for turning it around and engaging in additional interventions to improve outcomes at SA
- Y12 young person for improved attendance and engagement at L4L.
- Y6 young person who has passed her 11Plus at BAP and has her sights set on Grammar School.



More Information: Please contact
cape@nelincs.gov.uk



INAUGURAL VIRTUAL SCHOOL CONFERENCE 10th FEBRUARY 2026

We have guest speakers Fatima Whitbread talking about growing up in care, Susan Zeedyk talking about connection and attachment, Mark Finnis on the relational approach and Dean Cotton on behaviour. Lunch will be provided and there will be some free time for networking with our other local schools and members from across the authority. Tickets are going fast so please book your tickets now using the QR code on the left. We are currently exploring options for our Out of Area schools to be able to join us remotely and will keep you posted!

VIRTUAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

Thank you to those schools who have attended our first two Virtual School Partnership meetings. These meetings are invaluable for sharing important updates and information about the Virtual School, statutory guidance and training opportunities. We would love to see more of you there to gain your views on how we can help you support our children and young people. Our next meeting will be held on **TEAMS** at **3.45pm** on the **26th March 2026**.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL TRAINING OFFER

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY TEAM BUILDING A BOROUGH OF BELONGING

• Relational Approaches for Our Children, Our Future

A practical and engaging way to create emotionally safe environments by prioritising strong, positive relationships as the foundation for learning and behaviour, focusing on understanding behaviour as communication, using restorative practices and trauma-informed strategies to build trust, inclusion, and wellbeing. QR code to be shared in January, interest can be registered at EdPsych@nelincs.gov.uk.

24th February 2026 / 13th March 2026

• Emotion Coaching Awareness Workshops

A practical and engaging way to recognise and respond to emotional cues, show empathy and validate feelings, set boundaries with compassion, build resilience in children and look after your own well-being. Tickets can be secured by following the QR Code on the flyer below.

14th January 2026 / 02nd February 2026

• ELSA – Emotional Literacy Support Assistant

A structured programme designed to help schools support the wellbeing of children and young people focusing on improving emotional literacy and resilience. Please contact EdPsych@nelincs.gov.uk for more details.

Autumn Dates to be confirmed.

• MeLSA – Mediated Learning Support Assistant

A training and supervision programme designed by educational psychologists to build the capacity of schools to support skilled and independent children based on the psychology of learning. Please contact EdPsych@nelincs.gov.uk for further details.

15th January 2026 / 29th January 2026 / 5th February 2026 / 26th February / 12th March 2026 / 26th March

