

Arts and Culture

- The REP Theatre - drama activity videos
- 1:1 Music Lessons for Year 4 pupils
- ArtsLink Connect & Create

BVS Summer Term Offer

Home learning (COVID-19)
support for carers

**Going 4
Success**
Birmingham Virtual School

Advisor Support

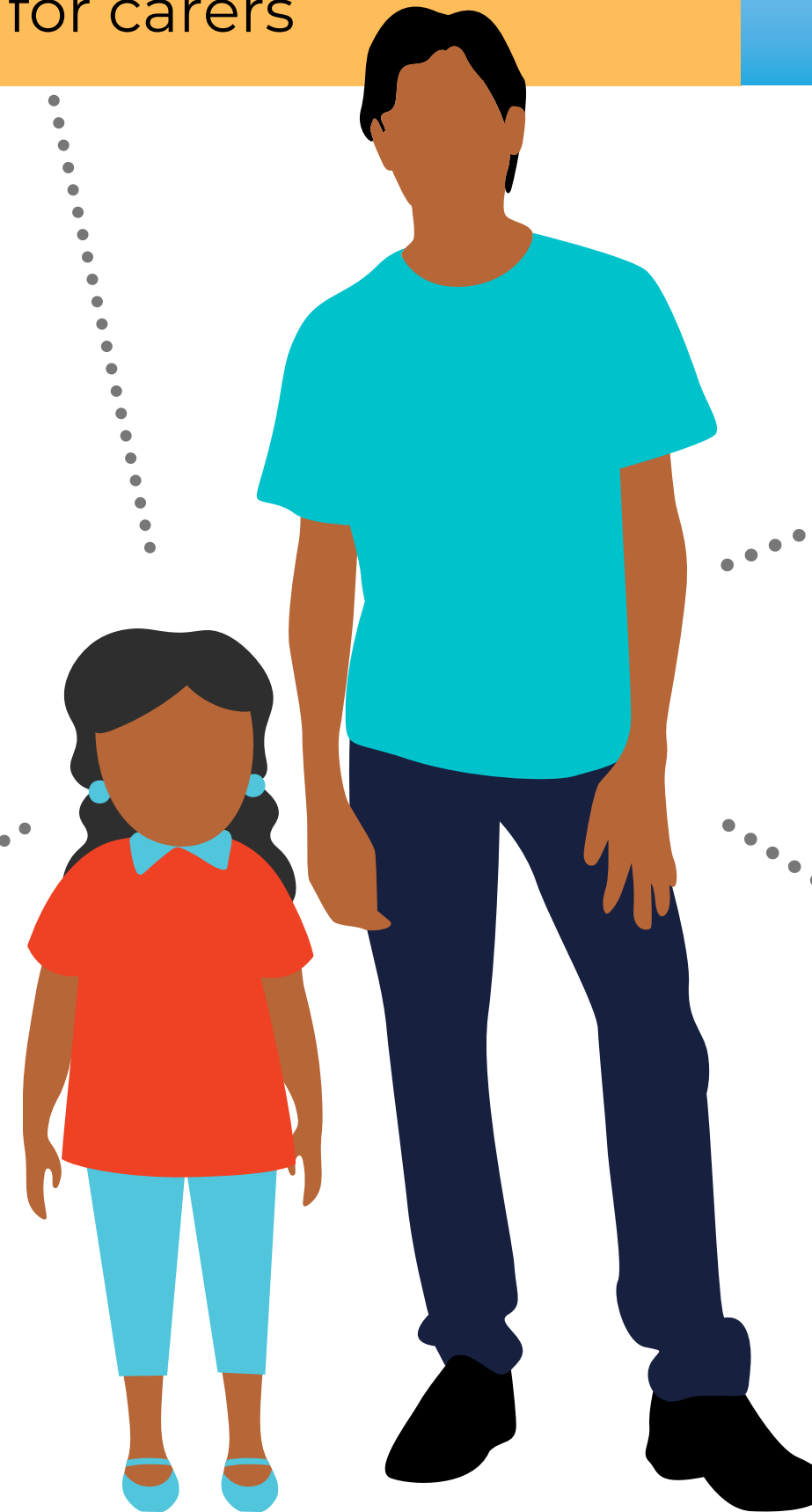
BVS advisors are available for support,
or email: birminghamvirtualschool@birmingham.gov.uk

Education and Careers

- Flash Academy
- Britannica Digital Learning
- Education City
- NIMBL tablets
- Letterbox packs
- Storytime magazine
- The Oak National Academy
- Birmingham Careers Service

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

- Kooth - online mental health support
- Malachi support service
- Dare2Dream mentoring
- CGL mentoring
- Evolve Mentoring



Education Resources

As part of our offer to our young people during the Covid -19 school closures, BVS are delighted to be able to offer a range of online learning tools to support the work given by schools to complete at home.

We believe that schools themselves are best placed to provide the teaching and learning needed at this difficult time. We are not aiming to replace or replicate school teaching, but offer a range of resources that can support learning at home. Please read the below information to see how you access the resources and what they can offer.



During the Covid-19 school closures BVS have given you FREE access to Britannica Digital Learning. This is an online resource providing live, educationally focused content which can be adapted to every type of learner.

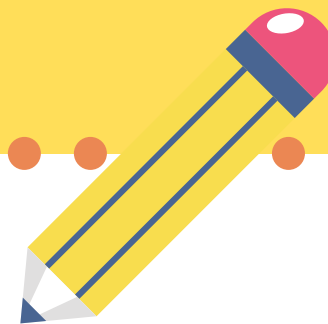
Britannica has three databases that are separated by reading ability, meaning children of all ages and abilities have access to appropriate, safe and reliable content.

The interface has inbuilt features to cater to a range of learning difficulties or challenges- articles can be spoken aloud, highlighted, translated into over 100 languages or defined at the touch of a button! The platform also hosts educationally focused and copyright-cleared media, journals, magazines and eBooks as well as a number of interactive games, browsing tools and an early years zone which focuses on early numeracy and literacy skills.

By catering for the least to the most able children and adhering to a strict editorial process ensuring safeguarding is at the forefront of our product, Britannica can support independent learning in your home.

Access Link: www.school.eb.co.uk // User name: birmingham1 // Password: access

Education Resources



Flash Academy

All young people who are cared for by Birmingham Children's Trust and have English as an Additional Language (EAL) are entitled to a login for Flash Academy via the Birmingham Virtual School.

Flash Academy is an online platform that can be accessed via mobile, tablet or computer that helps children and young people develop their English skills.

- Includes speaking, listening, reading, writing and understanding British culture.
- Ongoing emphasis on grammar throughout, as well as vocabulary.
- Wide range of abilities catered for - even young people with no English skills can use the app.
- Engaging, appealing format with games, videos and activities.
- All instructions given in the pupil's home language, with the option to speak instructions if the pupil is not literate.
- Over 35 languages supported, with more being regularly added.

**For more information contact Claire Bagnall:
claire.bagnall@birmingham.gov.uk**

Education City

Education City is an online learning resource used in over 15,500 schools in the UK and worldwide. It is mostly aimed at our early years and primary aged children but could suit SEN learners too.

- BVS commission this resource and can set up free access - contact your BVS advisor for details. All year 6 pupils have already been given access.
- Education City offers curriculum based, interactive, fun activities that pupils can work through by themselves or with adult support:
 - Topic Tools support achievement in activities such as calculators, rulers, number grids, word banks etc.
 - Learn Screens offer mini tutorials and voiced instructions about all curriculum topics.
 - ThinkIts encourage cross-curricular, independent learning where children are challenged to solve problems.
 - Online tests to assess performance and tailor activities to the pupil's ability and progress.

For access, contact your child's BVS advisor.

Education Resources

Nimbl e-Learning Tablet and App

Birmingham Virtual School work in partnership with Anspear to provide Nimbl e-learning access via use of either an app or a NIMBL device to support the education of Birmingham's children in care.

This resource is designed to support young people who want to undertake extra work at home to catch up with some learning they may have missed, or for those who are temporarily without a school place. Nimbl enables young people to go back and secure knowledge if gaps exist; as well as hosting specific resources for children in care.

Getting the most from your tablet

anspear

Birmingham Virtual School
Going for Success

anspear

[How to access nimbl]

You can access nimbl any time, anywhere using a smartphone, tablet or computer, or all three!

! First, you need your unique nimbl login.

On a computer

- Log in to govimbluk

On a smartphone or tablet

- Download the free nimbl app from the App Store or Google Play
- Enter your unique nimbl login
- Download all your resources.

These all work offline, but remember to connect to your wifi for regular updates and new publications.

On a locked down tablet

- Everything is set up for you, just tap the nimbl logo on your homescreen
- Remember to connect to your wifi for regular updates and new publications.

Get started with Help in the extra menu!

Tablet guide
Helping you get the most from your tablet

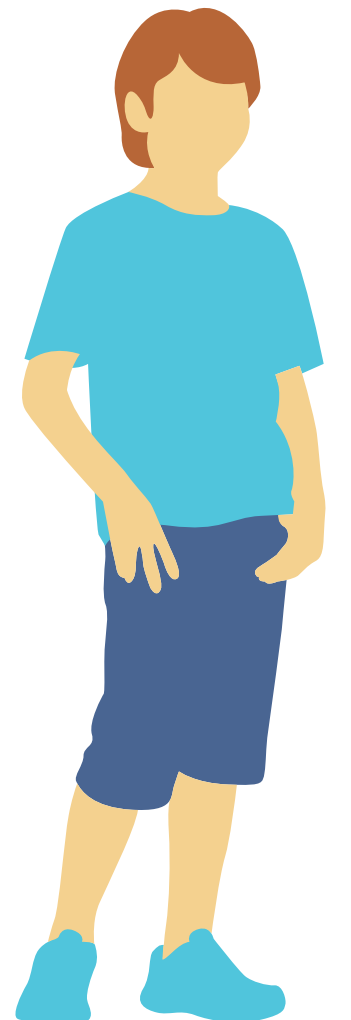
Mobile learning anytime, anywhere

01223 350555 www.anspear.com 01223 350555 www.anspear.com

Each device can be set to the learning levels of the young person and you can choose to pre-load the NIMBL device with learning materials from Key Stage 2 through to Key Stage 4.

Allocation and purchasing of the app or device can be discussed as part of a PEP meeting with your Virtual School advisor. Each young person will then be issued with a log in ID or device.

Teaching staff and carers can also be given a username and password so they can work alongside the pupil with the learning material and monitor the learning undertaken.



Education Resources

The Oak National Academy

The Oak National Academy is a Government-backed free online educational resource to support home learning for children and young people from Nursery to Year 10 who are usually educated in a mainstream school without much extra support.

The website consists of a series of video 'lessons' featuring qualified teachers teaching concepts from a variety of subjects, instructions on activities that can be carried out at home to develop understanding, and quizzes that can be completed and marked online. The lessons are not broadcast live or at specific times, meaning you can access a lesson at any time of day to suit you.

One of the advantages of the Oak National Academy is that qualified teachers deliver and tailor the content to be accessible without much adult support or intervention. The resource is not intended to replace any provision that has been made by a child or young person's school: and children and young people should always follow the advice of their school regarding home learning taking place.

Technical Guidance

Having investigated this resource at BVS, we have identified some solutions to help you access the Oak National Academy:

- Some parental guidance filters which block inappropriate content may block the website - you may need to set this website as an exception to the filter
- Some people have experienced difficulties in progressing on to the next part of the lesson once the first part is finished. Try scrolling down, where you will see the green button that allows you to progress onto the next section.
- If experiencing issues, try a different browser, such as Microsoft Edge rather than Internet Explorer.

For access, go to: <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/schedule>

Education Resources

Letterbox

Birmingham Virtual School work in partnership with Booktrust to send out Letterbox parcels to young people in years 1-6 who attend mainstream schools.

Children receive 6 regular parcels and a festive package at around Christmas time, as we usually send these out from October – April. The parcels contain books targeted for different age groups as well as maths games and some stationery.

There are three different parcels that we send out:

- **Orange – for children in years 1 – 2**
- **Blue – for children in years 3 – 4**
- **Red – for children in years 5 – 6**

Eligible children should have received three parcels at once in April 2020, to support learning at home during the COVID-19 lockdown.

In these parcels there are a great a variety of books that children can read. From fiction stories to activity books, we feel the Letterbox parcels have got a wide range of interests covered!



Storytime

Storytime magazines are delivered monthly, all year round, for all children in Reception to Year 4 in mainstream schools.

Storytime is a beautiful, fully illustrated magazine that is full of short stories, poems, and word games for children to explore. This quality printed magazine can be kept and read many times.

The magazine caters for a spread of ages and abilities. We encourage you to read the magazine with children, as some of it can be challenging for younger children.

Each Storytime magazine comes with five classic stories, one or two poems and sections such as:

- Favourite Fairy Tales
- Around the World Tales
- Poems and Rhymes
- Myths and Legends
- Storyteller's Corner
- Playbox: which includes puzzles, games and activities!

Throughout the Covid-19 lockdown we will endeavour to continue to send Storytime magazine out regularly.

Careers Support

Birmingham Careers Service

Birmingham Careers Service is a free and friendly support service providing careers information, advice and guidance to young people aged 16 to 19 (up to 25 with a learning difficulty or disability) who are not in education, employment or training.

With the early closure of schools, your young person may have missed out on a careers interview with a professionally qualified adviser. They may be wondering how to get help with their future plans. No matter how big or small your query is, Birmingham Careers Service are here to help. Get in touch by phone, e-mail, WhatsApp or text.

There are many ways Parents/Carers can help their child at this difficult time. Take a look at our leaflet 'Helping Young People with Career Choices' in the publication section on our website. You'll also find lots of helpful information if you are unsure about post 16 or post 18 options. Finally, keep an check on our social media profile as it has lots of career opportunities and information.

Young Parents Service

Young Parent Advisers provide support and advice to young parents and expectant parents aged 16-19. From 1st May 2020 we will be taking Year 11 referrals. They offer: careers advice and guidance, practical support to access education, training, apprenticeships, short courses as well as advice on making choices around childcare and applying for funding to cover childcare costs.



Email: BCareers@birmingham.gov.uk Text / WhatsApp: 07864926905
www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk

Services For Education

The Music Service

Services for Education provide Birmingham's Music Service. They offer children in care 1:1 music lessons in their schools if they are in year 4 and 5. The option is available for existing pupils to continue their lessons remotely, if they have their instrument at home.

If a child currently receives 1:1 music tuition via this scheme, we ask that they confirm their intention to continue music lessons by contacting Adam Hickman at the Music Service: adam.hickman@servicesforeducation.co.uk. Adam will then notify the appropriate member of staff in order to get the lessons arranged and share any information they may need. Please note that ALL online lessons would only take place with the parent / carer or nominated adult present at all times.

Extra music education resources from the Music Service

Our partners at The Music Service have also launched a site which contains over 350 bite size video clips featuring all instruments and includes songs suitable for EYFS and KSI pupils. If you would like access to these wonderful resources then please use the unique sign in details for Birmingham Virtual School below:

www.sfeonline.co.uk

Username: bhamvirtual

Password: KhMnk9288



Arts and Culture

The REP Theatre

Our partners at The REP have created interactive drama sessions for you to enjoy and participate in at home with your family.

These will involve tasks for you to complete such as drawings, creative writing, movement and games. These videos are created by experienced drama practitioners and can be adapted to small groups or individual children - carers can join in too.

If you would like access to these fun, educational weekly drama sessions run by a practitioner from The REP, then email Kelly with your child's name and if they are in KS1 or KS2:

Kelly.truscott@birmingham-rep.co.uk

ArtsLink

Connect and Create resources have been specially commissioned for children in care.

This website offers arts & culture activities and experiences to do at home - art, music, dance, drama, creative literacy, digital arts and more - all free of charge!

<https://www.artslinkwm.org.uk/connect-create>



Emotional and Wellbeing Support



Evolve: a Social Impact Company are offering a Virtual Mentoring Service in partnership with Birmingham Virtual School and Birmingham Children's Trust. Mentoring will be available for Year 10 to Year 13 children in care, and 18+ care leavers, and will focus on general wellbeing support and transition back to school or college after COVID-19 lockdown.

With all of the young people having various holistic needs, Evolve are working to provide a baseline assessment to understand how the young people are coping in the current lockdown situation and what support they need moving forward.

Evolve's Health Mentors will provide virtual mentoring sessions (delivered via phone calls, Zoom or Skype), initially on a weekly basis. They will baseline where the young people are in terms of their current situation and what additional support is required. From this information, Evolve can liaise with other key workers and professionals to signpost onto other services.

If you think your young person would benefit from Evolve mentoring, please contact your BVS advisor who can refer them to the service.

Evolve 'Hero at Home' resources

Evolve have also created a series of resources to support home learning and improve children's physical and mental wellbeing during the COVID-19 period of home education. New videos are added every day and include:

- Physical Activity Challenges
- Active literacy and numeracy
- Creative Activities

Hero at Home: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EvolveImpact> or search #HeroatHome on Twitter

Emotional and Wellbeing Support

CGL Youth Promise Plus Mentoring

CGL Youth Promise Plus is an intensive mentoring service that works with NEET young people in care, to help them get back into education, training and employment.

They must reside in Birmingham or within 20 miles, and have the right to work and study in the EU. The project works with young people aged between 16-30 years old.

CGL offer:

- Help bringing young people out of their shell
- At least weekly contact with young people
- Help developing passions and interests
- Experienced at working with young people who have multiple and complex needs
- Finding ETE that helps build towards their future
- Vouchers and a personal budget to use for costs getting started in ETE

If you care for a NEET young person, speak to their Virtual School Advisor to make a referral to CGL Youth Promise Plus.

Barnardo's

Barnardo's have been providing creative one-to-one support for our young people in KS3 and KS4, which focuses on emotional wellbeing. This is continuing, including phone calls and activity packs. They are currently accepting new referrals.

Contact your BVS advisor for more information.

Dare2Dream

The Dare2Dream Foundation provide therapeutic, one-to-one support, and are continuing to deliver their services safely (mostly virtually) with current service users.

Malachi

Malachi continue to offer their therapeutic counselling support to children they are already working with, via virtual sessions.

Kooth

The Children's Trust and BVS recommend www.kooth.com for free mental health support for 11-25 year olds. This is available to all young people in Birmingham.

