

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We would like to have a proven e-safety tool. How can Britannica School help?

Britannica takes e-safety seriously. All Britannica content is generated by Britannica. Safe sites are added, to provide children and young people with additional resources.

An e-safety document has been sent to every child in care and their carer. A copy is available on the Virtual School website – www.essex.gov.uk/virtualschool

How can we make sure that children and young people get a real benefit from using Britannica School as an alternative to the internet and for homework usage?

Britannica will monitor usage and report statistics to the Essex Virtual School. Britannica can arrange training sessions and webinars.

Britannica matches each article to the curriculum, relevant to learning and safe.

ImageQuest is included and contains millions of copyright cleared images, so there is no danger of inappropriate material or infringing copyright.

How can Britannica School help young people with English as an additional language?

Britannica translates into over 100 languages.

Can Britannica School provide educational activities and not just articles?

Britannica has many Study Guides, Spotlights and games for all ages and key stages.

We would like our children to have access to books and journals

There are thousands of e-books and a live journal feed.

Many children struggle to read; can Britannica School help?

Britannica has a dictionary example for each word and includes a read aloud tool. This is also useful for young people with English as an additional language.

How would we set up Britannica School for our child or young person?

Britannica is web based and is accessed through the Essex Virtual School website www.essex.gov.uk/virtualschool. Click on the Britannica logo. Remember to bookmark (save) the address.

What is the user ID?

Please contact the virtual school at virtual.school@essex.gov.uk

Can Britannica help children and young people do projects?

Britannica has a separate tab in where you can create resource packs. Each one of these has a unique URL, making the projects easy to share. This is the same for all of our articles.

How does Britannica help safeguard children and young people?

Britannica is an enclosed system, which is edited daily to ensure there is no possibility of children or young people accessing harmful material.

Is it suitable for children with additional learning needs?

Yes. Each article can be accessed at a level to suit the cognition of the pupil. Additionally there are some activities in the Early Learner resources that may suit.

I am a carer and the young person does not have access to a computer. Will the Virtual School provide one?

The Virtual School does not provide computer equipment. There is an expectation that carers will provide access to the internet to support the learning. Young people also have access to the internet at school, college or via the public library.

How do I go about getting training?

A guided tour document has been sent to all young people and their carers. This explains how Britannica School works. If you are a carer and feel you need further help then please contact your supervising social worker. They will contact the Virtual School to address any training needs.

If you are a Designated Teacher please contact the Virtual School directly.

My young person is nearly 18 and leaves care when they are an adult. Can they still use it?

The Essex Virtual School will continue to support the use of Britannica for the full academic year 2017-18 and if the young person is still in education when they turn 18 they can continue to use Britannica. Indeed, if any person leaves care during the academic year they can continue to access Britannica until July 2018.

Who provides support for Britannica?

The Britannica Digital Learning website is straightforward to use and there is online help within it.