

Vision

Keeping children and young people safe and giving them a great start in life

Core purpose

Safety and well-being

All children and young people are protected from harm, both physical and mental

High standards

All children and young people can access high-quality provision and achieve their potential

Equity

Access to education and training is fair. All vulnerable children and young people receive extra support to overcome barriers to their achievement

Successful transition to adult life

Young people embark on their chosen career path at 19+ with the qualifications, skills and character to contribute to the local, regional and national economy

Priorities

1 Drive sustainable school improvement

- Support schools' improvement in teaching and learning and leadership practice, under the direction of the Herefordshire School Improvement Partnership (HSIP)
- Work collaboratively with NLEs (national leaders in education), teaching schools and HSIP both on plans to recruit and retain suitable staff and to ensure there is high quality professional development which meets identified areas of need
- Align council statutory functions and IT systems so that schools and settings can access the support they need to be set up for success
- Learn from best practice nationally and get the most out of national initiatives for Herefordshire

2 Strengthen leadership

- Support governors and external agencies such as DfE, RSC's office and Ofsted to prevent under-performance and to help all schools and settings improve

3 Embed clear accountability

- Provide leaders, especially governors, with clear information to help them to hold schools and settings to account
- Develop existing risk assessment procedures to include post-16 so that there is a clear understanding of performance across all phases

4 Support and protect vulnerable children

- Champion fair access to education and training for vulnerable children and young people and challenge and support practice
- Improve existing partnership working with multi-agencies so that there is a joined up approach to support for children and young people, particularly around their mental health and on issues such as county lines
- Review our strategy to improve SEN and disabilities provision
- Work with external partners, such as the Home Office to protect children and young people from radicalisation

5 Develop the early years strategy

- Create an approach that supports the autonomy of early years settings and providers, particularly around workforce development

6 Deliver Herefordshire's Schools Capital Investment Strategy

- Deliver 249 new places at primary and 816 at secondary to meet demand
- Complete improvements to the school estate, including builds at Marlbrook, Brookfield, Peterchurch and the 16-19 SEN free school

7 Focus on the 16-19 education and skills agenda

- Develop provision in technical level qualifications so that outcomes match those at A-level
- Adapt NEETs strategy so that the number of young people in education or employment with training is well above national average
- Champion employability by working with schools, employers and FE providers on a county careers strategy which complements a broad, empowering, creative curriculum
- Link to the Marches Skills strategy and create new opportunities for young people in Herefordshire through, for example, apprenticeships and NMITE

Principles

Children and young people first

High expectation for every child

Supported autonomy for schools and settings

Top quartile performance

Impact measure: is the strategy leading to improvements in outcomes for children and young people?