

## Virtual School

The perfect solution for Shared 6<sup>th</sup> Forms



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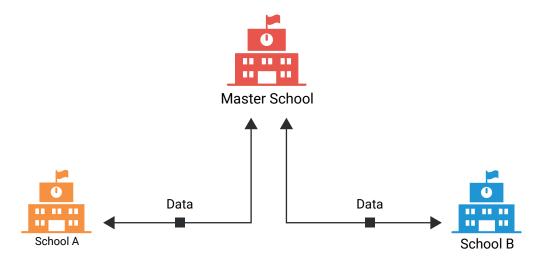
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#### What is Virtual School?

Bromcom's Virtual School is a cloud based solution allowing multiple schools and education providers to form partnerships and share the services they offer. Multiple providers can come together to increase the opportunities available to their students, while teachers continue to interact with their MIS in the normal fashion and data transfer is seamless and automatic.

By allowing schools to join forces and offer joint courses, both on-site and on-line, Virtual School enables its users to increase the quality and choice of their curriculum offer to students at a time when harsh funding realities require schools to do more with less.



- Bromcom's Virtual School solution works in tandem with the Bromcom MIS by integrating and automating data exchange between multiple Bromcom MIS databases and the central Virtual School solution
- The most daunting obstacles to co-operation and sharing of resources between schools are administrative and logistical. Virtual School makes the recording and reporting of guest pupils' data seamless, without compromising the authority and accountability of each student's main school

#### **Hosting flexibility**

The Bromcom Virtual School is available with two hosting options; The centrally hosted service uses Bromcom's UK located Cloud service to deliver the Virtual School as a Software as a Service. As an alternative it can be installed and managed locally within a Trust, Federation or indeed any partnership of schools to provide the service from your own physical or virtual server. In both cases you will benefit from Bromcom's managed service to maintain the Virtual School software for you.

#### **Feature Overview**

Bromcom Virtual School is a platform for recording and reporting attendance, behaviour and attainment data for pupils who receive teaching at schools other than the site of their main registration. It therefore allows schools to come together and collaborate to increase the number of educational opportunities available to their students.

The Virtual School dynamically creates the following:

- Student and Staff Details
- Room Details
- Tutor Groups
- Classes
- Timetables
- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Assessment

The system is invisible to class teachers who register and record attainment and behaviour events of students in the virtual school via their normal MIS login, in exactly the same way as they do for students whose main registration is at their school. By tailoring the system to minimise inconvenience to teachers, their focus can remain where it should be: driving up student performance.

Configuring a virtual school arrangement is simple, with each partner school setting their partnership key and selecting the classes and students to be shared on one screen. The partnership keys are added to the virtual school login and data transfer is scheduled, after which the transfer takes place automatically, without the need for a manual process.

Student details flow up to the virtual school, including all educational, contact and medical information, and from here the information is shared with any partner school at which the student attends, where they appear on roll as a guest student. Class details are likewise transferred from the partner school where the classes are timetabled, to the virtual school.

#### **Feature Overview**

Assessment templates can be shared from partner to Virtual School so that a single record is maintained per class of student attainment, behaviour and attendance data. Crucially, while it is entered by staff at another school, this data can be viewed and reported on by staff at the student's main school and is kept updated in real time.

Exams, Learning Aims and Attendance data required for school census is automatically transferred to the relevant partner school, and behaviour events assigned via lessons in the virtual school can trigger actions or outcomes in the students' home schools. Meanwhile the virtual school remains a single port for real time reporting of assessment data and virtual school attendance and behaviour data can also be reported on without the need to collate data from individual partner schools.

#### **Educational Benefits**

The Bromcom Virtual School is designed to support schools to collaborate and share services more efficiently. Key benefits include:

- A broader curriculum offer ensuring more students follow their passions and remain engaged.
- Automated data exchanges are quicker, more accurate and more efficient and free up time for staff to devote to students.
- The availability of data for reporting at the main and host schools reduces the response time for issues of attendance, behaviour and attainment and improves safeguarding of vulnerable pupils.
- The mixing of pupils between schools made possible by the Virtual School enriches the learning experience and broadens student horizons.

#### **Training**

Training in the Virtual School is available as a half day 'Virtual School Co-Ordinator' course from our expert customer service team. The course covers all technical aspects of Virtual School management as well as advice on other aspects of successfully implementing a virtual school. Training is accompanied by supporting Quick Start Guide documentation, training videos and practice logins on a training school Cloud MIS account. The Service also provides on-line help, which also links to quick help videos.

### **Detailed Specifications**

Feature	What it does	Benefits
Selective Combined Curriculum	Brings the chosen elements of the curriculum offering from multiple schools into one virtual arrangement	A broader curriculum offer ensuring more students follow their passions and remain engaged
Increased School Partnership	Enables partner schools to benefit from each others strengths and mitigate their weaknesses	The mixing of pupils and curriculum strengths between schools made possible by the Virtual School enriches the learning experience and broadens student horizons
Centralised timetable management	Schools create their timetable as normal. They put selected teaching groups and selected students at the disposal of Virtual school	<ul> <li>Except "outplaced" teaching groups, partner schools retain full control over their timetable</li> <li>All students are assigned to their teaching groups at Virtual school level</li> <li>Students have a single timetable covering all schools they attend</li> <li>Teaching staff can be allocated across schools</li> <li>Single point timetable management for handling clashes</li> <li>All Timetable changes are made at virtual level and pushed out to partner schools</li> <li>Post-16 learning aims are managed at virtual school level to ensure accuracy for census returns</li> </ul>
Offering Students and Teaching Groups	Partner schools place students and teaching groups at the disposal of the Virtual school	<ul> <li>Individual schools retain control of which students are "outplaced" to the virtual school.</li> <li>Partner schools maintain school level data</li> </ul>

Academic period mapping	Collaborating schools may have varying period structures. Virtual school accommodates multiple structures and turns them into a single structure	<ul> <li>Schools can maintain their own period structure for lower school, but which can be converted into a Sixth form structure for timetable purposes</li> <li>The Virtual school period structure creates a standardised structure</li> <li>There is no need to create duplication in partner schools' timetables to accommodate other centres</li> <li>Students have a single timetable</li> <li>Staff have a single timetable</li> </ul>
Synchronised data flow	Data is transferred to and from Virtual school to keep data up to date	<ul> <li>Partner schools decide how often data is transferred</li> <li>Partner school retains control over their students</li> <li>Where students travel to another partner school, the student will appear on its roll as a guest</li> <li>Student transfer from one partner school to another can be managed without ctf files</li> </ul>
Attendance flow	Attendance can be transferred to and from the Virtual school	Registers can be taken for students in the normal way without duplication at individual partner schools
Behaviour management	A single model deployed at Virtual school can be imported at partner schools to produce consistent reporting across the cluster	<ul> <li>Standardised behaviour modelling allows accurate behaviour analysis</li> <li>Staff travelling from one school to another will use the same events</li> <li>Analysis can be done in a single place with no need to collate data from other schools for an individual student.</li> </ul>

Assessment management	Creating an assessment model at Virtual school level enables partner schools to use the same assessment model	<ul> <li>Partner schools follow the same template structures for consistency of output</li> <li>Assessment reporting and analysis for students is done in a central location</li> </ul>
Exam management	Schools can be identified by their home school details	<ul> <li>Ease of clash resolution</li> <li>Students are identified by their home centre for ease of exam management</li> <li>Entries could be managed centrally and distributed to partner schools Results transfer to Virtual school for analysis</li> </ul>
Centralised Reporting	All outplaced general student data is stored both at partner and virtual schools. Shared data from other centres is produced at virtual school level. Reporting is therefore carried out at virtual school level	<ul> <li>Full Attendance and Behaviour reporting is available by student</li> <li>Assessment reporting and analysis for students is done in a central location</li> </ul>
Student Portal	Student portal is used to create accounts for Post-16 student at virtual level giving students access to their own data across schools.	<ul> <li>Student timetables are kept up to date in a single location thus avoiding the need produce separate timetables</li> <li>Key data available to students from across partners</li> <li>6th form homework can be set at virtual level and be made available for students to submit in the normal way</li> </ul>
MCAS	Sixth form Virtual school has the same MCAS functionality as an ordinary school	Virtual school is available for communication with parents/carers from a single source



# Book a demo now!

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