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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a good week.

The Department for Education (DfE) announced yesterday (4th December) major reforms to SEND system. Thousands of pupils are to benefit from a £740 million cash injection from the Government to pave the way for more pupils with SEND to achieve and thrive in mainstream schools. This new funding can be used to adapt classrooms to be more accessible for children with SEND, and to create specialist facilities within mainstream schools that can deliver more intensive support adapted to suit the pupils' needs. It will start to pave the way for the government's wide-ranging long-term plans for reform to help more pupils with SEND to have their needs met in mainstream schools. We will expect to receive guidance and allocation information in the Spring Term and appreciate that this proposal does in part respond to our strategy and many schools and Trusts strategy to meet children's needs. [Read press release on new specialist places to be created in mainstream schools.](#)

Last Wednesday (27th November) the DfE [announced](#) that schools with primary-aged pupils can now [apply to become an early adopter of the universal free breakfast club programme](#). From April 2025, up to 750 schools will be funded to provide access to a free, universal breakfast club lasting at least 30 minutes that includes food. Early adopter schools will be central to shaping plans for national rollout.

On Monday 18th November 2024, the Department for Education published 'Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive', the new Children's Social Care policy statement. This is the biggest overhaul in a generation to children's social care and an important new statement summarising government's vision for a decade of reform and a legislative agenda to reset the children's social care system. It covers how national government will collaborate with local government and take a whole system approach. You can read the [policy statement](#) in full and the [press notice](#) summarising the announcement on GOV.UK now.

And finally some local news, congratulations to Sarah Flanagan, Manager of our Inclusion & EHE Team within Education Engagement, who has been successful in gaining a promotion with City of Wolverhampton Council, commencing January 2025. Worcestershire's loss will be Wolverhampton's gain, and we wish Sarah all the very best in this next exciting step in her career.

Best wishes

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Latest attendance news and updates

Attendance Register coding - FAQs

The DfE have released a short webinar in response to the most frequently asked questions regarding attendance register coding this half term, and in response to recent coding changes. It is approximately 18 minutes long and a useful watch to ensure compliance:

[FAQ - School attendance and admission registers](#)

The Statutory attendance guidance, specifically Chapter 8 - attendance and absence codes, remains the best point of reference to answer register coding queries in regard to adverse weather/transport matters/unforeseen circumstances where school attendance has not been possible: [Working together to improve school attendance 2024](#)

Should you have any register coding queries that the attendance guidance or DfE webinar does not clarify, do call the attendance helpline on 01905 844440 for further assistance/advice. The helpline is open from 9am-12.30 and 1-4.30pm daily during term time.

New attendance training dates for Worcestershire schools

During January and February, we are pleased to be able to offer 2 further courses to support both senior leaders, and school staff managing attendance in Worcestershire. Details of each course can be found using the links below. Places will be limited so do book early to avoid disappointment.

Managing School Attendance – Supporting senior leaders/attendance leads

28th January & 4th February 2025

[View and book](#)

New to Attendance/Refresher training for attendance officers/staff

30th January & 6th February 2025

[View and book](#)

Reminder of public health advice for the winter months

As expected in the winter months, seasonal illnesses are circulating and to support parents, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published [advice](#) on how to reduce their spread.

Schools should continue maintaining high attendance expectations and refer parents to NHS [guidance](#) to know when a child is too ill for school. Pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend school with a cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea and vomiting.

Latest education news and updates

Edenred Portal access will be available for the Christmas holiday 2024

During the Christmas holiday, eligible students will receive free school meals through the voucher system provided by Edenred. Edenred is the council's contracted provider to issue free school meal vouchers for the school holidays, and no other platforms are authorised to issue them.

All vouchers issued during this period will have a validity period of one month from the date of delivery. Please advise parents/carers to redeem vouchers as soon as possible, the supermarket eGift card will have a longer expiry date in accordance with their chosen supermarket T&Cs, see page 6 of [Parent Carer FAQs](#).

Schools are instructed to issue vouchers only for the corresponding holiday period.

Schools will have access to the Edenred portal from **Monday 9th December 2024** until **Friday 10th January 2025**. This will allow a window for placing orders for the holiday.

Vouchers cannot exceed **£30** per eligible FSM pupil for the whole period (£15 per week, schools will be invoiced if this amount is exceeded).

Vouchers are **not available** for nursery age children or 6th form students (vouchers to be issued to years reception to year 11, providing the child is aged 4 and above after 31st Aug 24), and vouchers must not be ordered to replace term time meals.

You must use the WCC ordering site with your existing **WCC account (22463)**, the login page can be accessed here: [Edenred Online Ordering](#)

Please ensure you have the correct recipient email address and that parent/carers are notified they will be in receipt of a voucher to ensure they are expecting it and do not leave vouchers to expire.

The council is seeing an increasing number of requests to reissue for vouchers that haven't been redeemed over a number of months after the original issue date. There has also been an increase in the number of fraudulent attempts to get vouchers reissued which is unfortunately why a more robust process needs to be followed.

School accounts to place Christmas holiday orders will close on **Friday 10th January 2025** and the council will allow up until **Friday 17th January 2025** for any outstanding expired voucher queries to be resolved. Therefore, those requests received after this date will not be reissued. Exceptions to this **may** be considered if there are any extenuating family circumstances during the original voucher redemption window that may be taken into account for the delay in reporting any issues with vouchers, which the school will be asked to verify.

If a voucher has expired, the voucher cannot be re-issued by the school, for any queries regarding the re-issuing of vouchers please contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk

To help monitor the vouchers issued under this scheme please can you ensure you include the URN or UKPRN for the school when placing the order.

It is important to remind schools that as eligibility is linked to FSM status, there may be families who although have FSM status, their circumstances have changed. This is a finite pot of government funding and with the government protection on FSM status, regardless of circumstance change, there are families that may no longer require the vouchers. Please ensure that vouchers are issued to those children and families who require the support and who are receiving FSM.

Below are lots of helpful links and guides to answer common questions and issues:

- Forgotten password – please reset your password using [password reset](#)
- Forgotten email address – contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk and we will advise of the email address your account is set up with.
- Edenred [user guide](#) – including supermarket details and how to order.
- Parent/carer FAQ's can be found here: [Parent Carer FAQs](#)
- Order “pending” – you will need to agree to the terms and conditions and confirm your order for it to be processed.
- Order “held” – we will ensure any held orders are released.
- “Ordering window is closed” – please check you are logged into the correct portal. The DfE portal is closed, but the WCC portal is open.
- Redeem eCodes – Visit the Edenred [redeem eCodes](#) webpage. Please note, we are unable to control which supermarkets you can redeem vouchers at.
- eGift card queries – have not received ordered egift card. Please advise parent/carer to seek assistance in parent/carer guide [Parent Carer FAQs](#) on page 6.

The [user guide](#) will answer many of your common questions and should be your first point of call for any queries. If after reading the user guide and links, you still need assistance then please contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcestershire.gov.uk where we will be happy to help you. Please be aware however that you will not receive an instant response as this inbox is one of many that are manned by our team. The fastest way therefore to resolve your issues will always be to read the guides and links in the majority of cases.

[Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#) at the County Council is available to signpost families to other local sources of support.

For support around the cost of living please signpost parents/carers to our [Cost of living support](#) webpage.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Winter 2024

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN for Worcestershire's winter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme! During the school holidays, eligible families can book FREE holiday activities, family passes and events through the programme.

Funded by the Department for Education, HAF is primarily for children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals aged 5-16, however, the programme does support other children and young people otherwise considered vulnerable (including LAC, SEND and refugee status).

We would be grateful if you could help us to promote this programme. Families can search and book activities through the HAF booking site. Information and booking instructions to share with families are included in the [HAF Winter 2024 School Comms Toolkit](#). The information is in different formats so can be tailored to the communication channels you use in school.

School holidays can be a difficult time for families, we want to make sure the HAF Programme reaches as many of those who need it as possible. Please support the HAF Programme in your school by:

- Sharing the information linked with eligible families.
- Encouraging families to book activities (HAF activities are FREE to families, no hidden cost (fully funded by the Department for Education)).
- Encouraging new starters to sign up to HAF as they sign up to Free School Meals.

More information about the programme is available on the [Worcestershire County Council website](#) or you can contact the HAF Team at providers@hafworcestershire.co.uk

Health & Safety Webinar for Schools

Our colleagues in Worcestershire County Council are hosting a health & safety webinar for schools on 18th March 2025 from 10am to 12pm. They would like to invite all Heads/SLTs, Site Managers/Caretakers and Health & Safety School Governors to the webinar which will cover:

- Updates and changes to H&S Law
- Slips/trips and falls - We have the UK expert on slip safety attending the webinar
- Lessons learnt from insurance claims
- Utilising psychology to positively influence health and safety that can help to provide the highest standards of education - we have the U.K.'s expert on Behavioural Science and Performance Psychology attending
- Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) - National IOSH lead for schools, will be doing a presentation on school safety
- SLA and other services the H&S team provide
- Outstanding Practice and areas for improvement

[Register your free place now on the Health & Safety Webinar for Schools](#)

Latest SEND news and updates

Complete the new online SEND training through Universal SEND Services programme

The Department for Education's [Universal SEND Services programme](#) provides Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) specific Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for school and further education staff.

The programme's [online CPD units](#) support professionals to make high quality inclusive teaching the reality for every learner. The final unit in the series, 'Supporting Reading and Comprehension Across the Curriculum' is now available.

Complete the new unit to learn more about:

- how to identify barriers to learners within the core building blocks of reading
- the essential role senior leaders, teachers, reading leads, SENCOs, support staff and others can play in identifying when a child needs support with reading
- how to apply practical strategies to use in the classroom as part of an inclusive approach

Create an account with Whole School SEND to [access the unit for free](#)

Latest health and wellbeing news and updates

Winter infections in children 2024/25

Public Health, Worcestershire County Council, recently developed [local guidance and advice about winter infections in children](#) which you should have received by email. Colds, sickness bugs and other infections are common, especially in children and young people, in winter. In Worcestershire, we have recently seen an increase of infectious diseases including diarrhoea and vomiting in education settings.

The local guidance includes general advice as well as links to further guidance about winter infections in children and is aimed at supporting education settings this winter. It includes information about:

- Common winter illnesses
- How infections are spread
- What measures schools can take to stop the spread of winter infections
- How long staff and children should remain at school, if required, for different infectious diseases
- Vaccinations to prevent infectious diseases
- Worcestershire school immunisation service – Vaccination UK
- How and who to report infectious diseases to.

Further information can also be found by following the below links:

[Health protection in children and young people settings, including education](#) -- A practical guide produced by UKHSA for staff on managing cases of infectious diseases in education and childcare settings. Updated 12/09/24.

The [UKHSA blog](#) contains useful articles around respiratory infections including how to be winter strong. [They have also produced a blog aimed at parents](#) with steps they can take now and throughout the coming term to help protect their family from seasonal illnesses.

[e-bug](#) resources - which includes information, games and lesson plans also provide useful tools for teaching children about infectious diseases and preventative measures.

You can also access the local 'Clean Hands Safe Hands' toolkits which include ideas, activities, and messages to encourage children to regularly wash their hands as part of their everyday routine. The key message is washing your hands with soap and water is still the best way to make sure your hands are germ-free as hand sanitisers are not effective against some germs like the winter sickness bug, Norovirus. The toolkits for schools and other resources are available at:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/health-and-wellbeing/healthy-children-and-young-people/clean-hands-safe-hands>.

Vaping prevention - social norms pilot opportunity

Public Health has completed the first pilot of a social norms vaping prevention intervention in a Worcestershire secondary school and would welcome the involvement of a further secondary school to be part of the next stage starting in January 2025. Once completed there will be opportunities for further schools to sign up to the project starting in June/July for implementation in September 2025.

If your secondary school would like to take part in the pilot starting in January next year, or be considered for the start of the project roll out in summer 2025, please email PublicHealthAdmin@worcestershire.gov.uk for further details.

The Handi App

Please share widely with your parents and staff via websites, newsletters, text messaging and social media.

The HANDi App is designed to help parents and carers know what to do when their child is unwell - whether that's looking after them at home, taking them to see a GP, using the NHS 111 service, or visiting an urgent care service. It has been developed and approved by local NHS paediatricians and other healthcare professionals. Content for school newsletters, websites and social media is below:

The HANDi App - your first port of call when your child is under the weather

It's the time of year when bugs can play on your mind. If your child is unwell, HANDi will ask you questions about your child's condition to help you decide the best course of action - and with all the advice on HANDi developed and approved by NHS paediatricians and other healthcare professionals, you can rest assured that you're getting the best possible advice. It includes the most common childhood illnesses including diarrhoea, vomiting and high temperature.

You can find out more here [HANDi App: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System](#) and download the App for free on iOS or Android devices.

District Youth Networks

District Youth Networks (DYNs) provide an opportunity for all organisations with an interest in supporting young people to review young people's needs, collaborate on youth related projects, discuss funding applications and approaches and share the voices of young people. If your school is not already part of your local District Youth Network, you can find out more and who to contact to be involved by visiting this webpage: [District Youth Networks | Worcestershire County Council](#)

If your school runs a youth club is not listed on this webpage: [Youth clubs | Worcestershire County Council](#) please complete this form to be included: <https://forms.office.com/e/kBaD1VmXif>

Free stop smoking service

We have produced a new set of assets to promote our new stop-smoking service in Worcestershire.

Please feel free to use these visuals on your own social media channels and share them with your stakeholders and business networks. You can find these in our [Stop Smoking Service Google Drive](#).

If you need a printed version of our leaflets and posters, or if you need these designs in a specific size, please email phcomms@worcestershire.gov.uk.

You can also share our social media posts on your channels:

- [Facebook post](#)
- [X post](#)

Our new Stop Smoking Service is available to all adults in the county and was soft launched at the beginning of Stoptober. In just a few weeks we have had an encouraging number of people signing up for the service. Here's some more information about the service.

A team of specialist advisors are available to help people quit. They provide free, expert advice tailored to an individual's needs for up to four weeks.

What we offer:

Everyone's journey to quit smoking is unique, so we offer personalised support. This includes a customised action plan, free vapes, and assistance with any challenges they might encounter. Here's what they can expect:

- **Initial Consultation:** They'll start with a one-on-one session over the phone with a trained stop-smoking advisor who will help them create a plan that fits their lifestyle.
- **Weekly Support:** Regular telephone check-ins will keep them on track and provide encouragement as they work towards their goal.
- **Free Vape Starter Kit:** To help them transition away from cigarettes, we'll provide vape starter kit vouchers at no cost.
- **Follow-up:** Four weeks after their quit date, we'll check in with them by phone to ensure they're still on the path to success.

Any adult (18 and over) who lives in Worcestershire or has a registered GP in Worcestershire can use the service. To find out more go to worcestershire.gov.uk/stopsmoking or call 0800 772 0307 or 01905 928 185. To refer people directly to the service please go to: www.healthyworcestershire.org.uk/stop-smoking.

You can also go to any library in Worcestershire if you need help to get online to book into the service. Anyone who is pregnant or lives with a child under three years old can get even more support to stop smoking. Find out more on our website: worcestershire.gov.uk/stopsmoking

Thank you so much for your support in promoting this important service, that can improve the health outcomes for so many people.

Drugs awareness - cannabis

Our Public Health colleagues have been made aware of a new type of cannabis resin called 'Live Resin'.

They have been notified by police colleagues that live resin has been identified in Wales, although they have not had any information to say this is in West Mercia it's worth being aware.

Cannabis concentrates are often named or described by their textures or consistencies: some are hard and brittle, like shatter; some waxy; some thick and gooey, like batter; and some like sauce. By definition, live resin is a more malleable concentrate, sitting somewhere between a wax and a sauce.

It is typically dark yellow in colour but can vary from light yellow to white. Like all cannabis concentrates, it is extremely sticky.

Like cannabis resin it's a class B drug

Live resin can be consumed in a few different ways and can be stored in fridges. Dabbing is the most popular way to consume live resin – inhaling the vapour – often via a dab pen – which is similar to a vape. It can also be smoked as a cannabis joint.

Please also be aware of 'THC diamonds' which have been recovered in Manchester. These are cannabis derivatives which are small crystal structures made from the cannabis plant which are extremely potent.

THC stands for Tetrahydrocannabinol and is also a class B drug.



Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Appropriate Body Assessments

- Most assessments are due around mid-December – please check your ECT's profile to see when their next assessment is due.
- Links to training videos on how to write progress reviews and formals assessments can now be found in the Resources area of ECT Manager.
- If you have any questions or queries, we will be running a weekly [online drop-in clinic](#) on Mondays at 4pm until the end of term.

TA Level 3 Apprenticeship

What does the course involve?

- Monthly half day online sessions
- Independent online learning/coursework
- 1:1 tutoring – reviews every 6 weeks (online or face to face)
- Off the job training (new learning undertaken as part of existing job role)

Application deadline is 22nd December 2024

[Apply here](#)

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training

Please note that the 20 hours of training for all ITT mentors has now been removed from every provider with immediate effect. However, we will still be offering the tier one training due to positive feedback. Dates for this training are available on the websites of the University of Worcester, Stourport SCITT, Tudor Grange SCITT and Prince Henry's and South Worcestershire ITT.

Applications for the 25-26 cohort have now opened.

An update from Suzanne Lawson (Head of Strategic Partnerships (Secondary) University of Worcester): Will you be looking for a Science, Modern Language or PE ECT in September? Could you grow your own? We are desperately looking for ITT placements in these three subjects for the spring/summer term. If you have any capacity please contact c.rowlands@worc.ac.uk. Happy to talk about other subjects as well!

ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for this academic year. Please use the link below to book onto these.
www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh

Year 1 ECT Events:

Conference 2 – January 2025

Clinic 2 – 6th March 2025

Clinic 3 – 12th June 2025

Year 2 ECT Events:

Clinic 5 – 20th March 2025

Clinic 6 – 19th June 2025

ECT Mentor Events:

Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors – June / July 2025

Clinic 1 for Year 1 Mentors – 6th February 2025

AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2024-25 cohort remain open. Please follow the link for guidance on how to register your ECTs with Prince Henry's TSH: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/registering-your-ect/>
If you have already registered your ECT/s with us, please be sure to complete the Service Level Agreement. If you have not received this via email, please contact cemms@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

NPQ Update

Applications for the Autumn 2024 programmes are now closed. Applications for Spring 2025 will open later this term, so please look out for details on our half termly newsletter or on our website using the following link: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/apply/>

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub and Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

NPQ Funding Update – Spring 2025 Cohort

We are expecting the next round of NPQs to launch from 1st April 2025.

Funding eligibility

Full scholarships will continue to be available to all teachers and leaders from publicly funded schools and 16 to 19 education organisations for NPQLPM, NPQSEnCo, and NPQH only (including EHCO for eligible participants).

For all other NPQs, Spring funding will target those teachers and leaders who work in schools or education settings serving more disadvantaged communities, including:

- The 50% of schools with the highest proportion of students who attract pupil premium funding.
- 16-19 education settings identified as having high disadvantage.
- NPQEYL, for highly disadvantaged early years settings, will also be eligible.

Participants and organisations not falling within these criteria will be required to pay to access NPQs.

Those wanting to access the NPQSEnCo who started the qualification by April 2025 will be prioritised.

Application Timelines

The DfE has confirmed that Teaching School Hubs & Lead Providers can start recruitment from **27th January 2025**.

Applicants will be able to register with the DfE from **mid-February**.

[Register your interest in a Spring 2025 NPQ here](#)

Latest government news and updates

Support for parents to access their child's UK eVisa

The UK Government is replacing physical immigration documents with eVisas, a digital proof of immigration status.

Parents and guardians of children who are not British or Irish citizens, and whose children have either a biometric residence permit (BRP) card expiring on 31 December 2024, or a passport with an indefinite leave to remain ink stamp or vignette sticker, should take action to [access their eVisa now](#), and do so on behalf of their children too.

An eVisa cannot be lost or stolen and can be accessed online by visa holders at any time to prove their rights in the UK. It's free and their immigration status won't be affected.

You can find a range of shareable eVisa communications materials, including factsheets and social media content in the eVisa [partner pack](#).

Reminder to claim grant for funded senior mental health lead training

A reminder that schools and colleges have until 31 December 2024 to claim their grant for funded senior mental health lead training. You can claim a £1,200 grant to pay for [senior mental health lead training](#) which develops the [knowledge, confidence and practical skills](#) of your mental health leads. This training has made a difference in thousands of schools and colleges, helping leaders improve mental health & wellbeing, attendance and engagement in learning, and breaking down a key barrier to opportunity, helping pupils and learners to achieve and thrive.

Latest funding and grants news

Grants to Purchase School Music Equipment in 2025

Schools teaching the national curriculum, based in the UK and Ireland, can apply for grants to fund music education in the form of instruments, equipment and workshops (with the exception of statutory national curriculum music teaching).

Music teachers working within schools can apply for funding towards a recognised course, training or a qualification to aid their career progression.

There are two funding rounds per year and the maximum grant is £1,000 per applicant.

The next deadline for applications is 22nd January 2025.

For more information including details how to apply, please visit: [UMUK Sound Foundation website](#).

Funding available for innovative school-based projects

Grants from The Laurel Trust are available for collaborations of schools across England to deliver innovative school-based research projects that focus on improving the life chances for children and young people from educationally disadvantaged backgrounds.

This fund aims to support groups of schools to work together to secure improvements in teaching, learning, and children's well-being, whilst re-imagining education and placing emphasis on a culture rooted in emotional and academic resilience.

The theme of this year's research is 'Effective Transitions: educational readiness for every child at every phase'.

Closing date for applications is 28th February 2025.

For more information please download their [funding flyer](#) or visit <https://laureltrust.org.uk/>

Latest training news and conferences

Webcast: Taking a person-centred approach to preparing for adulthood

A free 25-minute webcast looking at Taking a person-centred approach to preparing for adulthood. By the end of this webcast, you will understand:

- SEND Code of Practice expectations in relation to Preparation for Adulthood
- Person-centred approaches to use with children and young people

Duration: 25 minutes

Audience: All educational settings, especially secondary schools, high schools and Post 16 section

This webcast can be watched as an individual or whole school.

Cost: Free

CPD Course code: 10540

To access the webcast please request the link via [CPD](#) using your school CPD Leader login details and search course code 10540. The confirmation email will provide all details on how to access the webcast and obtain certification. If you encounter any issues, please do not hesitate to contact the training & conference team on 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Understanding best practice within early years for school leaders *NEW*

Understanding best practice within early years for school leaders is a specific course for school headteachers and senior leads. Led by Matt Potts EYFS training and advisor, this course explores current EYFS thinking including the OFSTED guidance 'Best start in life' and supports leaders to develop their understanding of the early years.

Cost: £70 + VAT

Lunch is provided - please ensure dietary needs are provided at the point of booking
10 January 2025, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10536 / 90858

Annual reviews and preparing for adulthood

SENCOs from all settings will understand how to start planning for adulthood from the earliest years for those CYP with EHC Plans, and how to use person-centred approaches for their Annual Reviews. The co-constructed toolkit for annual reviews, which includes a focus on how to support Year 9 reviews onwards, will be shared and explored. There will be time for networking and sharing of good practice to enable settings to start planning person centred annual reviews for their children and young people with EHC Plans. The session will be interactive, and refreshments will be provided
Cost: Free – funded via the DBV grant

- 27 February 2025, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10526 / 90738
- 24 March 2025, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10526 / 90739

Using legal action to address pupil absence: Guidance for schools

This training session is intended for Worcestershire school-based staff who may need to instigate a request for legal proceedings as part of their school attendance escalation process. The training will explore when a request for legal proceedings maybe appropriate and the requirements upon schools in making such requests. The session will focus on unauthorised pupil absence (including unauthorised leave in term time) and will provide delegates with the latest information and appropriate resources to demonstrate what is required in order for the Local Authority to consider the issuing of a penalty notice or undertake a prosecution.

Audience: School Attendance Leads, Head teachers, School Attendance Officers, or any other school based associated staff with a key role in addressing pupil attendance, absence and welfare would be most welcome.

Cost: £38 + VAT per delegate

- 13 November 2024, 9.30am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: 10283 / 90443
- 5 February 2025, 9.30am to 12pm, Worcester, course code: 10283 / 90444
- Further dates are available in April and June 2025

Court Process & Writing Effective Witness Statements: Guidance for schools

This training session will inform school staff regarding court processes and equip them with sufficient knowledge and resources to complete witness statements effectively for prosecution of cases under s444(1)/ (1)A of the Education Act 1996 for unauthorised absences. School Attendance Leads, Head teachers, School Attendance Officers, or any other school based associated staff with a key role in addressing pupil attendance, absence and welfare would be most welcome. Candidates are advised to have a good working knowledge of or, completed the Using Legal Action to Address Pupil absence: Guidance for schools training, for a better understanding of this session.

Cost: £28 + VAT per delegate

- 13 November 2024, 1pm to 3pm, Worcester, course code: 10284/ 90439
- 5 February 2025, 1pm to 3pm, Worcester, course code: 10284 / 90440
- Further dates are available in April and June 2025

If your school books a delegate onto both courses then the following discount will apply: Book a delegate to attend both Using Legal & Witness Statements on the same day (does not need to be the same delegate per session but must be the same school) then pay only £51 +VAT for both sessions in total, a saving of £15 (full price for both sessions prior to discount is £66 + VAT)

Book your place on the above training via [CPD](#) using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided.

If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on **01905 844 420** or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk

Free development opportunities for Language Teachers

Grand Union Language Hubs are proud to work with schools across the region to promote and enhance the provision of MFL. They aim to empower schools to foster student engagement, motivation and attainment in languages, to enthuse and inspire the next generation of linguists!

They provide free development opportunities for Language Teachers and are delighted to announce their Spring CPD offer!

- **Facilitating Phonics** (Webinar) - 22nd January - 15:30-16:30
- **EEF Implementation in MFL** (Webinar) - 5th February - 15:30-16:30
- **AI: Enhancing MFL Provision** (Webinar) - 26th February - 15:30-16:30
- **Sequencing for Success** (in-person, Tudor Grange Academy Solihull) - 11th March - 9:30-14:30

Sign up on our website: [CPD Sign Up Page](#)

For any further information, please email office@grandunionlanguagehub.tgacademy.org.uk.

Other local news and events

Have your say on plans for cycling, walking and wheeling in the Wyre Forest area

The views of everyone in the Wyre Forest area are being sought to shape plans to make cycling, walking and wheeling a more attractive and safer choice for local journeys.

To improve connectivity and encourage people to choose a more convenient and healthy way to travel, Worcestershire County Council is asking residents to help influence a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the three towns of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport.

The aim is to create a long-term plan that looks at how best to improve the cycling, walking and wheeling network across the Wyre Forest district, taking into account the varying needs of where people want to go.

We'd like cycling, walking and wheeling to be the natural choice for short trips such as getting to school, commuting, and connecting to the railway station.

Through Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, we aim to invest in making changes that make walking and cycling a more attractive and convenient choice for people.

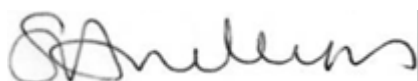
You can share your views via the following [short survey](#).

For further information on plans for cycling, walking and wheeling across the Wyre Forest, please visit the [County Council website](#).

Anyone who needs assistance accessing the survey can call in at your local library.

The closing date for responses is 10 January 2025.

Your support in sharing this with parents, carers and students would be most



Sarah Wilkins

Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

