

SEND News Bulletin

Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Worcestershire SEND News Bulletin. We hope that the Spring Term has gone well so far for you and your school community – I'm sure you're looking forward to longer and warmer days ahead!

In this bulletin you will find information and updates from a range of national and local service providers and support teams. We encourage you to read and share with relevant colleagues within your school.

At this time, we are particularly interested in gaining your comments and feedback regarding the [draft 'Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision' document](#) previously shared at the SENCo Network events. This forms part of a wider programme of events with a range of stakeholders to ensure that this guidance document is wholly co-produced, and that implementation is appropriately trialed. Please see page 7 for further details on how you can get involved and share your views.

We hope that you find the information useful and, as always, would welcome any feedback you may have.

Thank you as always for your ongoing commitment and hard work in meeting the needs of the children and young people with SEND and their families. Despite the ongoing challenges, there are many success stories to share in celebrating the achievements of children and young people with SEND in our schools and settings.

Wishing you all a restful half term break!

Kind regards

Helen Harris

Learning & Teaching Adviser, SEND/Inclusion

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National News & Updates

Special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities: guidance for school governing boards

On 30th January, the DfE published new guidance for school governing boards in relation to SEND.

This guidance is intended to:

- support school governing boards' understanding of their role and responsibilities in relation to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities
- empower governors and trustees to hold their schools to account

The guidance also includes a useful checklist for governing boards to consider.

The board is the decision-making body of the school and is accountable and responsible for what the school does. It is vital that boards play an active role in providing support and challenge, to ensure schools are providing the best support for pupils with SEN and disabilities.

School governing boards have responsibilities to children and young people with SEN and disabilities under the [Children and Families Act 2014](#) (the 2014 Act) and to disabled children and young people under the [Equality Act 2010](#).

The governing board should be taken to mean the accountable body for the school or group of schools. In local authority-maintained schools, this will be the governing body and in an academy trust this will be the trust board.

Download the guidance document [here](#).

Access SEND CPD resources from the 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](#)

Research The “What Works in SEND” programme new report on inclusion

The What Works in SEND programme has published a new report looking at the inclusion of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in schools. It explores the key factors that facilitate the inclusion of children and young people with SEND in schools, focusing in particular on understanding what local areas can do to better to support schools to become more inclusive, improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND and their families. It offers an important look at the key ingredient to facilitate meaningful inclusion. Findings encompass facilitating factors and challenges in eight areas, including values and ethos, workforce, leadership and partnership working with parents and carers.

Key messages from the research findings can be downloaded [here](#).

Kooth Update

FAO: DSLs, Pastoral and Welfare Teams, PSHE Leads

Action: Please share details of KOOOTH widely with your young people and their families plus on your website, through social media and newsletters/parent communications.

Kooth is free anonymous mental health support available to young people aged 11 - 18 across Worcestershire. This support includes:

- Community support through moderated forums and articles
- Self-help resources and goal setting
- Live chat and message based emotional wellbeing and counselling support
- Signposting and ongoing support if required

This support is anonymous and does not require a referral. To access please just go to: <https://www.kooth.com/>.

If your school would like some hard copy resources, or would like the KOOOTH Engagement Team to deliver a presentation to your young people or staff, please email msmith@kooth.com

You can download the electronic KOOOTH leaflet, for sharing, from the [Google Drive](#).

KoothTalks Professionals

Free mental health training webinars for professionals with insights from our clinical team.

The role of Kooth in the care pathway **for young people with an eating difficulty.**

Join our 30-minute webinar on how our digital platform can support eating difficulties, hear from our Kooth clinical team and receive additional resources. [Book here](#).

KoothTalks Families

Free webinars helping parents navigate their child's mental health worries.

The role of Kooth in the care pathway **for young people with an eating difficulty.**

Inform parents and carers on how our digital platforms can support young people with eating difficulties in this 30-minute webinar. [Share with families](#).

Guidance for arranging Alternative Provision

On 5th February, the DfE published updated guidance for arranging Alternative Provision [Arranging Alternative Provision - guide for LAs and schools](#)

This statutory guidance is for headteachers, local authorities, governing bodies and academy trusts.

It applies to all educational settings providing alternative provision (AP):

- schools maintained by the local authority
- [academies](#) and [free schools](#)
- pupil referral units (PRUs)
- further education colleges
- independent providers that deliver alternative provision

This guidance covers the use of AP where:

- local authorities arrange education for pupils who, because of exclusion, illness or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education
- schools arrange education for pupils on a fixed-period exclusion
- schools arrange education for pupils to improve their behaviour off-site

Statutory guidance sets out what schools and local authorities must do to comply with the law.

Local News & Updates

'Deep dive' feedback – update about our SEND improvement journey

The Department for Education and NHS England held a 'Deep Dive' meeting with the SEND local area partnership in December. This is part of standard process to monitor the progress we've been making on our Priority Action Plan.

The key areas of progress they recognised are:

- Additional support offers have been put in place to effectively manage waiting lists for the Umbrella Pathway. This includes recruiting three nurses for triage and support, to improve patient flow and reduce waiting times.
- 250 young people aged 16 and over have been given the option to transfer from the Umbrella Pathway to private providers for their autism assessment.
- The recruitment of a Co-production Co-ordinator, alongside an Emotional Mental Health role will strengthen the work of co-production across the partnership.
- The Youth Cabinet has demonstrated high levels of engagement, and their manifesto prioritised mental health and SEND. They aim to build a strong relationship with the SEND Co-production Co-ordinator and continue linking with the SEND and AP partnership committee.

Read the full Deep Dive feedback letter, alongside other updates about SEND improvements on the SEND Local Offer website. [What we're doing to improve our local area partnership SEND services | Worcestershire County Council](#)

New Independent Chair of the SEND and Alternative Provision Executive Board

We are delighted to announce the appointment to the role of Independent Chair of the SEND and Alternative Provision Executive Board, Jane Friswell. Jane has worked across England with Local Authorities, Area Partnerships, Multi Academy Trusts, NHSE, Local Health Care Trusts and Social Care bodies. Jane describes herself as a SEND agent of change, delivering tangible and sustainable difference to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. Jane has an excellent understanding and application of effective, strategy, policy and practice in special educational needs and disabilities and whole school improvement. As a parent of a young man with autism and additional learning needs, Jane provides a blended perspective as a leader for SEND with strong purpose and support for parent carer advocacy. Jane will be in post once the HR processes are complete.

Change Programme update

At the Headteacher Briefing on 11th February, WCC leaders provided an update on the work of the Change Programme. In Phase 2, the DFE have refined the focus of the programme to two specific areas:

- Inclusive Provision
- Testing a model for Three-Tier Alternative Provision

Inclusive Provision

We shared the journey of the development of the co-produced 'Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision' document and ask that SENCOs review this document in its existing form and provide feedback to by the end of February.

Please access the draft document on [Google Drive](#) to add your comments or alternatively, please forward any comments via email to: loland@worcestershire.gov.uk

The deadline for comments is Friday 28th February.

We also launched our Collaboration with the University of Worcester, who are delivering a Changemakers Leadership Programme to support the roll out and test of refining and embedding IP in a sample of settings across Worcestershire. It is our aim that all Districts and Phases are represented within this test group.

Please see the recording of Head Teacher's Briefing for further details of the support that is being offered via the University of Worcester. A summary of the commitment and support available is below:

Commitment of schools/Trust	Support/ Resources Available	Criteria
Expression of interest April-Jan UoW Termly meet ups (networking & feedback) WCC Commitment to testing IP in your school setting and incorporating it into your SEF Leadership support for the attendee to ensure that change is implemented in school/Trust	UoW Course (fully funded) £1,000 bursary from Change Programme funds to support backfill	Attendee must be on SLT or have agency to drive change in school/ Trust Capacity to complete the cycle (should there be staffing changes internally) and have representation at all events The support of the Headteacher/ CEO to complete the cycle and provide feedback

Expressions of interest can be made using the following [form](#) by **Friday 7th March**.

For further information please contact:

- gdivito-smith@worcestershire.gov.uk
- loland@worcestershire.gov.uk

Or:

- lbradbury@worcestershire.gov.uk
- jhoward@worcestershire.gov.uk

“Support While You Wait” - information for patients/service users who are awaiting an appointment with Children’s Health Services

A new website “Support Whilst You Wait” has been created to support children and young people, as well as their families, who find themselves experiencing long waits for appointments with health services in Worcestershire.

These include appointments for Community Paediatrics, Umbrella Pathway, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and CAMHS.

The website, created by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrate Care System (ICB), contains details of resources and support available locally and nationally. This includes links to web resources, telephone advice and some in-person groups.

Worcestershire’s Children’s Community Health services are continuing to experience a high volume of referrals and unfortunately that means children and young people are waiting longer than usual for their first appointment. This can be worrying and frustrating and the ICB are working as a system to improve waiting times for children, young people and their families.

We would encourage anyone working with families who are waiting appointments for these services to make them aware of the website and the support available while they wait: [Support for children and young people while waiting for health appointments.](#)

QR code for Support Whilst You Wait info - Worcestershire:



Please share any feedback from CYP/Families accessing the Support While You wait info, including whether CYP/Families have found any particular sections useful, or have accessed specific resources, training or groups that they have found useful.

Worcestershire SENCo Network

SENCo Network Events 2024/2025

Feedback received from SENCOs about the blended approach of virtual and face-to-face SENCO network events has been overwhelmingly positive. SENCOs have reported that they appreciate the shared space together to discuss topics pertinent to their role and problem-solve creative approaches to shared issues or experiences. SENCOs also fed back that information received from a range of partners provided them with updated information about services, guidance and met training needs which enabled them to feel confident in carrying out their role.

The blended approach to the SENCO network will continue in 2024/25 with FREE membership for all Worcestershire schools with the slight change that there will be two locality meetings each term for the North and South of the County (rather than 3 locality meetings). This change is based on feedback received regarding travel.

The remaining 24/25 SENCO network events are:

Spring 2 Locality Meetings (North and South) (SCH 10421)

Monday 24th March 2025 1:00-4:00pm (North) – Arrow Vale High School

Tuesday 25th March 2025 1:00-4:00pm (South) – Kings Hawford Prep School

Summer 1 National and Local SEND updates (SCH 10178)

Tuesday 20th May 2025 3:30 – 5:00pm Virtual Meeting

Summer 2 Inclusion Conference (CON 10565)

Wednesday 25th June 2025, 9:00-3:45pm – Bromsgrove Hotel & Spa

*£50.00pp + VAT with the option to bring a second delegate from your school for £30.00pp + VAT.
(maximum of two delegates per school)

[Book your place for the Inclusion Conference on 25 June 2025](#)

Schools will need to book a place for each individual event via the [CPD Portal](#). This will ensure you receive any recordings and presentations shared. It will also enable us to track membership and ensure venues are able to accommodate delegates.

We look forward to you joining us for this series of events.







Lumi Nova - Free Workshop: 'Talking about Worries'



FAO: SENCOs, DSLs, Pastoral Leads and Classroom Teachers.

This year's theme, "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself" is all about how we can build and grow our resilience by understanding ourselves and recognising our emotions.

To support your school in promoting a growth mindset, the Lumi Nova team are sharing their free 'Talking about Worries' workshop, which can be used as part of your wellbeing scheme and supports young people to:

-   Normalise worries and recognise what they might feel like
-   Suggest some actions you might do if you are worried
-   Learn how to break worries down into manageable steps

Instantly download your FREE workshop kit [HERE](#)

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage is a digital therapeutic mobile game supporting children with fears, worries and anxiety. Designed for children aged 7-12 years, Lumi Nova helps children to reflect on their feelings, build resilience, and learn lifelong skills to self-manage their worries in a fun intergalactic adventure.

- **Signpost:** Lumi Nova is instantly accessible to families by signing up at luminova.app/handw
- **Spread the Word:** Check out the [Lumi Nova Resource Kit](#) for resources to support you to share Lumi Nova with other professionals and families
- **Stay connected:** Subscribe to the [Lumi Nova Newsletter](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for new resources and updates
- **Learn More:** Join a [Lumi Nova Discovery](#) for professionals to learn more about the offer or watch our [Lumi Nova Introduction Video](#)

If you would like to order posters/leaflets or have any questions, please reach out to the Lumi Nova team at luminova@bfb-labs.com

Emotional health and wellbeing for parents

[Inourplace](#) is an online learning environment developed by psychologists and health practitioners providing accessible learning about emotional health and wellbeing, proven to positively impact mental health, behaviour and relationships. As part of our sponsorship of inourplace, all the courses and content are free to local parents. The latest [update on wellbeing for school parents \(January 2025\)](#) is now available to share.

These updates will be available twice per term and if there is anything additional, you'd like to see or if you're interested in teacher training or resources, please email solihull.approach@uhb.nhs.uk

A PDF version of January 2025 update is also available to download from SharePoint and we welcome your support to raise awareness with parents and carers.

Deferred and Delayed Entry Guide 2025

Parents and carers in Worcestershire now have access to a comprehensive new guide to help them make informed decisions about deferred and delayed entry to schools.

The Deferred and Delayed Entry Guide 2025 provides clear and practical information about the processes, criteria, and support available for parents who may be exploring whether deferred or delayed school entry is the right choice for their child. It aims to clarify complex procedures and offer reassurance to families during this important decision-making process.

Children are not of compulsory school age until the term following their fifth birthday. Parents can defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the same school year following their fourth birthday, providing they do not defer beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the start of the final term of that school year.

Parents must apply for a school place in the normal way at the usual time. At the point that a parent has been offered a school place, they should liaise directly with the school to notify the school that their child's entry to a reception class will be deferred until later in the same reception academic year group, when they reach statutory school age. This cannot be beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the start of the final term of that school year.

The guide is part of Worcestershire County Council's offer to support families and enhance educational opportunities for children across the county. Parents and carers can download the guide by visiting: [Deferred and Delayed Entry Guide 2025](#).

Flexi-Schooling Guidance

Flexi-Schooling is an arrangement between parent and school where children of compulsory school age are on roll at a school but where the provision is split between attendance at school and home education arranged by the parents or carers. The [pupil attendance and welfare guidance](#) provides some more detail and recommendations for schools, parents and carers.

Empowering Autistic Young People

The National Autistic Society (NAS) have created a collection of free resources designed to **help autistic teenagers better understand their unique experiences**. The **'Know Yourself'** collection aims to give teens the knowledge and confidence to navigate their self-discovery journey.

Resources include videos, PDFs, worksheets and downloadable guides, to support autistic teenagers in understanding what being autistic means to them.

Weblink: <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/resources-for-autistic-teenagers>

The series will cover six topics in total over the course of three years. The first four topics, 'understanding yourself', 'energy accounting', 'exploring your identity' and 'setting yourself up for success' are available now on the above weblink. Young autistic people also share personal stories and strategies that have helped them.

Free autism and ADHD workshops for parent carers

Herefordshire & Worcestershire Integrated Care Board have funded a series of free workshops available to parents and carers delivered by Autism West Midlands and ADHD Foundation Trust. These are running through until April with multiple dates and times available. From Autism West Midlands, these are live online webinars that are between 1.5 to 2 hours long, with access to recordings for up to 2 weeks after the session so you can rewatch it in your own time. Sessions include:

- [Autism & Anxiety](#)
- [Autism & Communication](#)
- [Autism & Sensory difficulties](#)
- [Autism & Behaviour](#)
- [Navigating the System](#)
- [Autism & the Teenage Brain](#)
- [Supporting your Autistic Teen.](#)

From ADHD Foundation Trust, these are a series of live online webinars that are 1 hour and 15 minutes long. There are two workshop series available: Set 1 for parents/carers whose child is waiting for an ADHD assessment, or for those wanting to learn more about ADHD and Set 2 for parents/carers whose child has an ADHD diagnosis and needs support. To find out more and to book the dates/times you want, [download the PDF documents available half-way down this page.](#)

[Download webinar flyers](#)

Free course about autism for teens

[Teen Autism Confident](#) is a free online 6-week course about autism for autistic teens aged 13-19. It is delivered by Autism West Midlands and is an opportunity for diagnosed and non-diagnosed autistic teens to learn more about autism in small, supportive group sessions and a one-to-one meeting with an autism advisor. The course will explore topics ranging from understanding autism to self-esteem and self-image. The sessions are every Monday from 9.30am – 11am starting 24th February.

[Download Team Autism Confident flyer](#)

Early Years Inclusion Update

Early Years Inclusion Surgery Slots with the Area SENCO team

A reminder that we hold regular Inclusion Surgery Slots with the Area SENCO team. Booking is essential as places are limited; you can book on using the form on [Google Drive](#).

These are dedicated surgeries for Early Years SENCO's/providers giving the opportunity for a 20-30 minute meeting via telephone call. Currently these are held early or late afternoon. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss more complex inclusion issues with an Area SENCO.

Childminders EY Inclusion surgery

We are aware that the timing of our general inclusion surgeries may be difficult for childminders as many of you work alone and the timings fall within your working hours. We have added an evening slot only for childminders. Please use the link above to book a slot for all surgeries. The Area SENCO will call you at the time you have booked.

April 9th 2025 - 6 - 7.15pm

June 2025 TBC

There will be a further SENCO surgery available in June with the same times, date to be confirmed. When confirmed, the date will be on the booking form. If there is a need/demand for the surgery, we will continue these into the next year.

To book your place click on the link above and add your name and contact number on the Google doc. booking form.

For your information, please see contact details for Area SENCO's and the area's they cover.

Sharon Andrews: Bromsgrove
01905 843881
Sandrews@worcestershire.gov.uk

Caroline Britton; Wyre Forest
01905 846942
CBritton2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Amy Rowley: Worcester City & Malvern
01905 643962
ARowley@worcestershire.gov.uk

Annette Murray: Wychavon (inc. Droitwich) & Redditch
01905 643643
Amurray@worcestershire.gov.uk

Spring Early Years SENCo Cluster meeting

Have you booked on yet?

This is where you will hear about important updates and there is a CPD slot.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 4th March 4-5pm. We have a number of guest speakers including representatives from the Physical Development Outreach team and Dingley's Promise who are offering an enhanced provision in the south of the county. We're always looking for practitioners to share best practice with us too, if you have anything you would like to share, please contact your Area SENCo and we will book you a slot! We already have at least two practitioners ready to share their good practice with you. If you have any thoughts or ideas on topics you would like to be covered in the SEND cluster meetings, please email your Area SENCo and we will do our best to include them.

SENCo Forum / Cluster Spring Term 2025	90070	04/03/2025
SENCo Forum / Cluster Summer Term 2025	90071	10/06/2025

If you are not able to attend the meetings, they are recorded and can be found on our Early Years Inclusion website, A-Z of resources under C for cluster or on our YouTube channel, please see links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/@worcschildrensservices>

[Early Years Inclusion A to Z of resources | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Funding

For any queries regarding Graduated Response/SEND funding please continue to email or call the Early Years Inclusion Team helpline and email address.

eyinclusion@worcestershire.gov.uk

Inclusion team helpline: 01905 843099

Dates for your diary

Term deadline for application forms to reach Early Years Inclusion office:

Summer Term 2025 13th March 2025

Summer Term 2025 24th April 2025

Monitoring form return deadlines for 2023/2024 for application forms to reach Early Years Inclusion office:

Spring Term 2025 between 1st and 15th February 2025

Summer Term 2024 between 1st and 15th June 2025

Remember GR1-4 is claimed via your Provider Portal when you claim your NEF actuals. You can find more information on the link below:

[The Graduated Response levels and funding rates | Worcestershire County Council](#)

GR4+ challenge and exceptional funding has a separate claim form, please see link below:

[Funding application process | Worcestershire County Council](#)

If it has been confirmed that a child has been accepted for an Educational Healthcare Needs Assessment (EHCNA) or has an EHC Plan in place you can claim GR4 exceptional.

Funding criteria can be found here:

[Funding criteria, deadline dates and monitoring forms | Worcestershire County Council](#)

CPD

Our training offer is currently still FREE. All training is delivered virtually, See below for our Spring and Summer offer.

Course Title	Code	Date
SEND in the Early Years	90061	18/03/2025
Individual Provision Maps (IPMs) and Smart Outcomes	90063	01/04/2025
Training for NEW SENCO's <i>An essential course for all named SENCo's, new SENCo's, Managers and Room Supervisors.</i>	10166 90885	30/04/2025 7/05/2025
Annual Reviews of EHCPs	90068	13/05/2025

We also have many webcasts that are freely available. They can be found on the following links:

[Early Years Inclusion Process | Worcestershire County Council](#)

[Worcestershire County Council Children's Services - YouTube](#)

Don't forget to check out the following link for further CPD opportunities for the Early Years sector:

[Education Services Training and Continuing Professional Development | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association Update

[Please download the latest newsletter from Google Drive.](#)

Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

[HW SENDIASS](#) is the Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service covering Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

SENDIASS have a dedicated team of trained advisors offering legally based information, advice and support on all matters relating to children and young people **(0-25)** who have or may have SEND. The service is **FREE, impartial, and confidential.**

If you identify children in your setting with SEND, you can signpost them and their families to SENDIASS for free information and support.

SENDIASS can also provide general information, advice and support to professionals working with families of children/young people with SEND. You can contact them using the details below.

SEND Training

HW SENDIASS also provide **FREE SEND Training Workshops and Webinars** for parent carers and professionals.

If you would like SENDIASS to host a FREE session at your setting, please complete the [SENDIASS Training Request Form](#) or contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk for more information.

Workshops currently available for **Parent Carers:**

- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [How to check a draft Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\)-HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS ONLINE WORKSHOP](#)
- [Who are SENDIASS and how can they support me? - HW SENDIASS Online Information Session](#)

Workshops currently available for **Professionals:**

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS Online Information Session for Professionals](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Response in Schools Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What Does a Good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)

All sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions.

SENDIASS would appreciate your help in informing the families that you support about these opportunities.

[Please download training flyers for use in your newsletters or on social media](#)

Contact SENDIASS

Call: 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm (24hr answerphone service)

Email sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their [SENDIASS Contact page](#) or follow them on social media: [Facebook-HWSENDIASS](#)

HW SENDIASS also have lots of useful information on their website www.hwsendiass.co.uk

Training And Professional Development Opportunities

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

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.

WCC Autism Training Courses 2025

Autism and Puberty

An overview of the issues facing autistic students as they enter puberty and what to consider when designing/delivering sex education lessons in school. A 60-minute opportunity for High Schools, which covers:

- Public/Private
- Hygiene
- Gender identity
- Protective behaviours

Cost: £20 + VAT per delegate

- 10 March 2025, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10001 / 90195

Autism with Demand Avoidance caused by Anxiety

A 60-minute opportunity which covers:

- How demand avoidance may present in your setting
- What are some key strategies to aid with demand avoidance
- Modelled examples of strategies

Cost: £20 + Vat per delegate

- 21 May 2025, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10005 / 90197

Girls and Autism

A 90-minute opportunity which covers:

- 'Typical' presentations of girls with autism
- How to support "masking" behaviour
- How to support girls with autism in your classroom
- How to support girls with autism with their self-esteem

Cost: £27.50 + VAT per delegate

- 7 May 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code 10078 / 90193

Masking and autism

A 90-minute opportunity which covers:

- What is masking?
- What are some key strategies to help children who may be masking
- Examples of strategies

Cost: FREE to Worcestershire Local Authority / Academy and Free – Schools

Max: 2 places per school

Cost: Independent Schools and other settings: £35 + VAT per delegate

- 14 May 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10424 / 90171

Primary Schools: Creating an autism-friendly classroom

A 90-minute opportunity which covers:

- What is autism?
- How does autism present typically in schools?
- Top tips for teaching and supporting autistic pupils

Cost: Free

- 2 June 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10116 / 90170

Secondary Schools: Creating an autism-friendly classroom

A 90-minute opportunity which covers:

- What is autism?
- How does autism present typically in schools?
- Top tips for teaching and supporting autistic pupils.

Cost: Free

- 3 March 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10159 / 90185

Using visual tools to reflect on social situations

A 60-minute opportunity which covers:

- Overview of autism and its impact on a young person's social skills
- What tools are available to reflect visually on social situations?
- When to use these tools
- How to make these tools effective

Cost: £20 + Vat per delegate

- 10 March 2025, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10175 / 90207

Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom

Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom is a 2-hour course delivered over two parts and will cover

- Key sensory processing differences in autistic children and young people and how this may present in a school setting.
- The importance of sensory differences in the DSM V Criteria.
- Strategies and tools to gather information and make reasonable adjustments.

Cost: FREE to Worcestershire Local Authority / Academy and Free – Schools max: 2 places per school

Cost: Independent Schools and other settings: £35 + VAT per delegate

- 11 and 25 June 2025, 4pm to 5pm, virtually delivery, course code: SCH 10426 / 90176

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

SEND CPD Programmes 2025

The Haybridge Teaching School Hub works with a number of specialist provisions to bring a wide range of CPD sessions to our colleagues. All of the sessions below are free to attend.

SEND online events: 4pm - 5pm

Tuesday 21st January – Exploring Challenging Behaviour

Thursday 30th January – Supporting Students with Dyslexia

Wednesday 5th February – Approaches to De-Escalation

Tuesday 11th February – Understanding Masking Behaviours

Monday 3rd March – Exploring the SENCo Role in Different Settings

Tuesday 18th March – Exploring ADHD

Wednesday 2nd April – Adaptive Practise in the Mainstream Classroom

SEND other events

Thursday 27th February – Exploring an Alternative Provision, Experience Day at Rosewood School

Thursday 27th February – Managing Transition, 4.00pm-5.00pm, Online Workshop

Tuesday 18th March – Exploring an Alternative Provision, Experience Day at Rosewood School

Thursday 20th March – Successes of a Relational Policy, 4.00pm -5.30pm at Crocketts School

TBC – Supporting international new arrivals, Online

[View and sign up to their collection of SEND events](#)

Resources

SEND Podcast

The SENDcast is a weekly podcast focusing on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). It is an effective way to keep up to date with policy changes, best practice and to improve your knowledge around SEN. The weekly podcast features a different guest or guests talking about a specific topic related to Special Educational Needs. [Listen to SENDcast](#)

NASEN - SEND Teacher Handbook

On 22 January 2024, nasen published an updated version of the SEND Teacher Handbook which is available for free download. This handbook has been developed as a resource for teachers to use over time as they embed inclusive practice in their classrooms: it is not intended that it is read cover-to-cover. It has been written for both primary, secondary and specialist colleagues: teaching assistants, teachers, senior leaders and headteachers. The handbook includes whole-school and whole-class approaches as well as subject-specific and condition-specific guidance.

It brings together practical examples of high-quality teaching - placing focus on removing barriers to learning, getting to know and understand individual learners, and bringing to life the graduated approach. With three completely new subject-specific chapters for History, Geography and Religious Education, it offers a wealth of ideas and information about the following key areas:

- Planning inclusive lessons
- Creating including environments
- Curriculum considerations for KS3 and 4
- Strategies to scaffold learning
- Vocabulary retentions
- Supporting learners who need additional conceptual understanding

Download the [Teacher Handbook | Nasen](#)

Shine A Light - Sharing Effective Practice

If you would like to share effective inclusive practice and 'shine a light' on what is working well, please email Helen Harris at: hharris@worcestershires.gov.uk. We know that SENCoS find this peer support extremely valuable so please get in touch to share your positive experiences, case studies or effective strategies or resources that have proven successful in improving the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

SENCo Contact Details

Please ensure that we have the current email address (school/work based) for your school's SENCo/Inclusion Leader or SEND Team to enable them to receive ongoing communications including updates, information, Bulletins, and training opportunities.

If your SENCo/Inclusion Leader has a change of email address, please email sread2@worcestershires.gov.uk to ensure your school's details are updated. Thank you.