

## SEND News Bulletin

Issue: July 2023

### Welcome

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the final edition of the Worcestershire SEND News Bulletin for this academic year.

Firstly we would like to begin by expressing our thanks and appreciation for all the work you do to support children and young people across the county. There is a lot of positive work happening in Worcestershire and at a time of increased demand.

In this bulletin you will find important information about the future design of the Worcestershire SENCo Network. With the exception of the Summer Term Conference, all SENCo Network events will be FREE for schools to attend – our aim is to enable ALL Worcestershire SENCos to join this supportive community and participate in collaborative networking opportunities. Also, please don't forget to complete the annual [WCF SENCo Survey](#) to help create services and support that SENCOs would find most useful. The survey only takes 10 minutes to complete and closes at the end of term.

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## NATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

### Mandatory qualification for SENCOs

On 5 July the Department for Education published information about the mandatory qualifications special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) must gain within 3 years of taking up their post.

A national professional qualification for SENCOs is replacing the existing qualification, as announced in the [SEND and alternative provision improvement plan](#). Teaching of the national professional qualification will begin in autumn 2024. The 'transition to national professional qualification' document has more information about this new qualification and the requirements that SENCOs must meet.

[Read government announcement on mandatory qualification for SENCOs](#)

### Kooth Update

For professionals supporting



Spring 1 National and Local SEND Updates

In respect of the SEND Team Managers there have been the following changes due to staff that will be



The Pathway and supporting Matrix are closely linked to the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) to help schools and settings to demonstrate how their practice fulfils key Ofsted criteria and can be integrated into your Self Evaluation Forms (SEF).

To access free ARC membership and recognise your Trauma informed and Attachment aware practice please contact Worcester Virtual School: [virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:virtualschool@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## **2. RADY: Raising Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters**

RADY is a well-established, proven approach to improving academic outcomes.

'RADY's power lies in its ability to shift teacher perspectives on disadvantage and to refocus school staff and leaders on what is important in teaching and learning w6 (h (i)14 (m@)14 (t i)4 (e)4 (nt)8 (us)l(e)3 (s)6 ( )10



## Children Missing Education

Following the reorganisation of our services, we are looking to improve our response to children and young people identified as not ordinarily able to attend education (for example because of illness, anxiety or exclusion) or are already in receipt of or will likely require suitable alternative education (as per our S19 duties). Over the summer school break, we intend to use this time to review details of cases and plan the method of response and coordination for this cohort of pupils in a clearer way and to the appropriate .

We are aware the level of notification and need has escalated significantly, and staff are working hard to respond and manage. To support with this, I am requesting that with **immediate effect direct contact by phone or email with members of the Vulnerable Learners team including Matt Pooler, Karen Taylor, Sarah Flanagan and Michelle Fowler in relation to children who are unable to attend school is replaced with sending your notification of new cases or requests or questions about existing cases via the Children's Portal (as should be normal practice) or if you are not set up to use this use [cme@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:cme@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) this is the CME inbox that is the normal point of contact for colleagues who do not have access to the Portal.**

We are trying hard to reduce significant duplication that is occurring and delay of response by this ask that you use a central point of contact. These contact points and methods have been in operation continuously and we need have a more consistent approach to using them.

This does not affect any other duties the whole service responds to, such as children not on a school roll, EHE, Exclusions, Prosecutions, Post 16 therefore you can contact staff/team emails to discuss these cases as required and as you have been.

Please be reminded also that if you have an education issue relating to a child open to a social worker and there is not another education lead professional involved please contact Kerry Lawrence – Adviser for Children with a Social worker [KLawrence5@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:KLawrence5@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) or where the child has an EHCP it is important that the relevant SEN inbox is alerted if the child is not able to attend education [sennorth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:sennorth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) or [sensouth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:sensouth@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

Many thanks for your understanding and support as we review our process for receiving information and responding to requests in a more timely manner.

## New Special Free School for pupils with Autism in Malvern

The Department for Education (DfE) have approved the Worcestershire Children First application to open a new special free school in September 2026, providing 120 places for pupils aged 5 to 19 who have autism spectrum disorder.

The school will support children who are unable to attend mainstream provision, but who can access a mainstream curriculum with dedicated support in smaller class sizes.

### Indicative Timeline

Now to Summer 2026	Design and construction of the new school site
9th May	DfE publish 'How To Apply Guidance' and school specification, for Academy Trusts interested in applying to run the new school
31st August	DfE Application window closes
September/October	Assessment of Trust applications by DfE and WCF
November/December	Interviews of Trusts by DfE and WCF
January 2024	Successful Trust announced
September 2026	New school opens

Collaborative working with stakeholders will continue throughout the life of the project to ensure that where necessary, options for the relocation or colocation of existing users of the site in Malvern are

## Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Celebration

We are delighted that 26 schools within Worcestershire are engaged with the Inclusion Quality Mark.

There are 2 schools who have recently achieved the Inclusive School Award:

Parkside Middle School.  
Somers Park Primary School.

and join Pitmaston Primary School and The Beacon PRU who already hold the award. Furthermore we have 5 more schools now hold the IQM Centre of Excellence award:

1. Arrow Vale Academy
2. Meadows First School
3. Tudor Grange Academy, Redditch
4. Westacre Middle School
5. St Bede's Catholic Middle School

These join our 3 existing schools Flagship Schools:

1. Bengeworth CE Academy.
2. Christopher Whitehead First School

At the moment a cohort 2 is not planned . However this is not a problem because EEF are changing their way of working –

## Art Competition for SEND Students

**For the attention of all Special Schools and settings with a Mainstream Autism Base.**

Our All Age Disability Service are looking at new logos for both the SEND Local Offer and Short Breaks. The logos will be used within the Local Offer which is being relaunched in the Autumn.

We would really like it if these could be designed by the children and young people that use the services, and so we are running this as a competition, and we would love your students to enter.

Local Offer Logo - design to be based on "What is the best thing about Worcestershire?" To be drawn using the map of Worcestershire template available on [Google Tf1.45 0.917106,10.7z](https://www.google.com/maps/@52.145054,0.917106,10.7z)

## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Bookings are now open for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme! Places are free for children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals (FSM) with over 70 different activity clubs to choose from.



Parents/carers will need to inform the school or education setting that they are intending to submit a referral to the ADHD Pathway and have completed section 1 of the referral process. Parent/carers will then need to request that section 2, is completed by the school or education setting. Both sections of the referral need to be completed, otherwise the referral will not be reviewed.

The referral form are available to be completed digitally via the [Community Paediatrics ADHD webpages](#)

For parents/carers unable to access the referral form online, paper copies can be obtained from Schools and GPs and once completed posted to: Community Paediatrics Service, Covercroft Centre, Colman Road, Droitwich, WR9 8QU

A [leaflet and flyer](#) have been created to help explain the new pathway to parents/carers.

## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### SENCo Leadership Development Programme

Our leadership programme has been designed and developed around the SEN Code of Practice, Ofsted Education Inspection Framework and SEND best practice to ensure schools are meeting their statutory duties and provide highly effective support for children and young people with SEND.

The programme will equip participants with skills to develop a more strategic approach to leading SEND/Inclusion. Participants will be enabled to reflect on current practices and identify how approaches can be adapted to greater influence the quality of provision and develop a wholly inclusive culture. This programme has been designed to provide practical support SENCos/Inclusion Leaders in their role, to gain:

- a better understanding of their leadership role and influence in developing whole school policy, practice and culture
- leadership knowledge, skills and confidence to engage more purposefully with school leaders and wider partners
- access to a range of practical tools, approaches and resources to implement the Graduated Response and monitor and evaluate the impact of provision on pupil outcomes
- an understanding of how the SENCo can d



# Autism/CCN Training

## Online training from the Educational Psychology Team - Autumn Term 2023

### ADHD

An introduction to ADHD and strategies that might be beneficial to children and young people with ADHD.

[Monday 25 September 2023, 3.30-5pm](#)

### 'On Wednesdays we wear pink'

The psychology of friendship. Mean girls, BFF, frenemies, bromances and everything in between

Aims of this course are:

- To use psychological theory to support our understanding of friendship in young adolescents (aiming at Year Groups 5 to 8 ).
- To provide some strategies and suggestions for form tutors/pastoral staff/year heads/teaching assistants around supporting students experiencing challenges with friendship

[Tuesday 3 October 2023, 1.30-2.30pm and repeated 3.30-4.30pm.](#)

Participants only need to attend one session.

Book your place via the links above for visit [CPD portal](#).

### Early Help Partnership Training

Early Help Partnership have Reducing Parental Conflict Training for staff members on the following dates:

- Thursday 10th August 2023 10am – 11:30am
- Thursday 2nd November 2023 11:30am – 1pm

Harmony at Home is Worcestershire's approach to the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) initiative in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and organisations from our multi-agency Reference group.

This training will cover parental conflict, which can range from a lack of warmth and emotional distance, right through to swearing and shouting, and is known to be a risk factor for poor child outcomes, particularly when conflict is frequent, intense and poorly resolved. There is growing understanding and awareness of the need to address and reduce parental conflict that sits below a domestic abuse or violence threshold.

If you or anyone in your team would like to attend please book on through the link and follow the booking details below: [CourseDetail \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/course-detail)

**Course booking instructions:**

1. do you have an account – choose 'no thanks'
2. course price - click in public circle
3. alh lic 2 (h)6n0.0d10 ( 2 (h)6d4 (ni) t0.0h10 ( i0 (b)6 (u)-4 (rs)2 (e)-1 (1 p)-4 0(rs),3ti)14 (o)n (e)-1 (1

## **\*\*Shine a Light\*\*** – sharing effective practice

It is always affirming to see Worcestershire schools recognised on the national stage for their work in driving cultural change and creating supportive learning environments to promote positive behaviour in schools. **Perryfields Primary PRU**