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Our Ref: CV170

Date: 18th October 2023

Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we fast approach the Autumn half-term break, I hope that your week has started well.

Attendance is a key priority for all schools, the Department for Education and Ofsted. In collaboration with Haybridge Teaching School I am pleased to announce an exciting CPD opportunity targeted at attendance in schools. **Empowering Schools To Build An Attendance Culture** is a new exclusive conference taking place on Wednesday 15th November 2023. Further information, including details how to book, can be found on page 4 of this bulletin. Many thanks to Four Stones Multi Academy Trust for collaborating with us to broaden this opportunity.

In today's bulletin you can also find details of a number of attendance related training courses now on offer from us to support schools in the continued drive to promote regular attendance.

Last week, I heard about the WI National Campaign on 'Clear Rivers for People and Wildlife' and was asked to share with you details of the Severn Trent Educational Schools Programme and their range of resources for primary schools, secondary schools and colleges. The Education Teams at Severn Trent are also available to help out with in-school and remote learning. Book one of their sessions and you'll learn all about the important job they do and how a healthy sewer can help the environment. To find out more and book a session, please visit the [Severn Trent Education Zone](#).

Following World Mental Health Day last week (10th October) I wanted to share with our primary settings details of two new mental wellbeing resources for pupils aged 5–11 that have been created by Better Health and accredited by the PSHE Association and the NHS. **What is wellbeing? assembly** and **Self-care resource** can help young people understand the meaning of wellbeing and explore activities to help them feel good and boost their physical and mental health. These are both available to download for free on the [School Zone website](#).

And finally, I would like to bring to your attention an important article on page 9 regarding proactive suicide prevention - online challenges and how to prevent young people accessing them. Online challenges can result in serious harm and unhelpful media coverage and attention on social media platforms can draw attention to these challenges. Please read the article for advice, guidance and actions for your setting or alternatively you can also [listen to the advice online](#).

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest education news and updates

Using WONDE to send us pupil data

We emailed out to all schools, a couple of weeks ago about allowing some of the data you send to the DfE, to be shared with us via Wonde. This is a separate agreement to what you have signed up to with the DfE. This data feeds all of our work for School attendance support, Virtual Schools, Operation Encompass, Free School Meals, Early Help, Supporting Families First, etc.

Progress so far:

- 98 schools return the data sharing agreements back to us
- 87 schools have been sent a notification by Wonde to accept the connection with Worcestershire
- 66 schools have approved the connection
- 15 schools have had their data successfully imported into our system.

We are undertaking some test and checks with the data from these schools, and will finish configuring the rest of the schools who have approved the connection as soon as we possibly can.

Arbor, Bromcom, ScholarPack & Horizon schools – when we complete this connection, we will stop asking your staff to send us regular files, it will be completely automated.

SIMS schools – SIMS will stop sending us data over the Christmas break through the legacy set up as part of your next upgrade. You will have two options to continue to send us data: agree the Wonde connection, or be asked on a regular basis to generate a file from SIMS and send it to us on the Children's Services portal, ideally weekly.

We request all schools to be switched over to this connection by Christmas break. If you need another copy of the data sharing agreement or letter that went out, please request a copy from support@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

Learning Support Team

A reminder that our Learning Support Team are available to offer observations and advice for pupils in nurseries attached to academies or maintained schools. As they are regularly in schools, they are aware of the next steps when these children leave their nursery settings, and can advise on what can be put in place to better prepare them for those next steps.

If you are interested, please contact the team via email at LST@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk. They can advise on what they can offer your setting and how much time you would need to purchase.

Empowering Schools to Build An Attendance Culture

We are excited to announce an exciting CPD opportunity, in collaboration with Haybridge Teaching School, targeted at attendance in schools. "Empowering Schools To Build An Attendance Culture" is a new, ground-breaking programme pioneered by Wayne Harris; Wayne is a distinguished attendance leader with a remarkable track record in enhancing attendance rates in both Primary and Secondary school settings. From September 2023, he is spearheading this programme, and with over a decade of experience, his expertise has propelled him to the forefront of attendance improvement strategies.

For this programme, we are inviting colleagues to our exclusive conference, taking place on **Wednesday 15th November 2023**. This will be at **The De Montfort School, Evesham** and will run as a **half-day event (9am - 12:30pm)**. The following key sessions will be covered:

Part 1: The Post Pandemic World

Part 2: Exploring the Attendance Professional Development Model

Part 3: Creating a New Culture

To book onto this unmissable event, please use the Eventbrite link, where you will also find more information on what is covered in each of the above sessions:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/worcester-children-first-empowering-schools-to-build-an-attendance-culture-tickets-730283777437?aff=oddtcreator>

* The deadline for booking places is 4pm on Wednesday 8th November 2023.

Latest news from Teaching School Hubs

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

NPQs

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub is working in proud partnership with the Shires Mat to run NPQ sessions in Warwickshire and Worcestershire. More information can be found on our website:

<https://teachingschool.tgacademy.org.uk/national-professional-qualifications-npqs/shires-mat-partner-hub/>

The final deadline for registration for the Autumn cohort of NPQs is 18th October 2023. This is the last year of confirmed funding, so apply soon to avoid disappointment! Register for an NPQ here:

https://www.tfaforms.com/5042230?tfa_23=tudor

Registration for Appropriate Body

The deadline for registering your ECTs for the September cohort is 18th October 2023. After this we cannot backdate their inductions to the start of the academic year, which may result in them having a longer induction period. Please ensure that all ECTs are registered with the DfE as well as with an Appropriate Body.

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Early Career Framework

The Early Career Framework (ECF) represents a package of support for new entrants to the teaching profession over a two year period. Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub, in partnership with Ambition Institute, will support schools in providing:

- A structured and funded 2-year package of high-quality professional development
- Access to a blended learning and instructional coaching programme, designed to target the 5 key areas of teacher practice:
 - Behaviour Management
 - Pedagogy
 - Curriculum
 - Assessment
 - Professional Behaviours

For more information please download the [TSH Flyer](#)

Latest SEND news and updates

Worcestershire SEND Strategy

Our Worcestershire Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has been developed, by the Local Area Partnership, for the period of 2023 to 2026. The Strategy was approved at Cabinet on 28th September 2023.

The strategy will drive an ambitious programme of work overseen by the All-Age Disability and SEND Partnership Board to change how we work with children and young people with SEND and their parents and carers.

For more information and to download a copy of the strategy, please visit:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendstrategy>

Worcestershire Life Beyond School Inclusive Careers Event

This year's Worcestershire Life Beyond School Inclusive Careers Event is taking place on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at Worcester Warriors Sixways Stadium.

After the success of last year's Life Beyond School event, which was well received and had such a positive impact for hundreds of local students, we are thrilled to be able to do it again this year.

Our Life Beyond School event is for all students that hold an EHCP across Worcestershire or attend a SEND, AP or PRU school. It will give students the opportunity to engage with local colleges, training providers, employers and local community services and to discover their next steps, in an inclusive setting.

This year, Parents and Carers will be able to attend the event throughout the day. They will be required to register for tickets and an allocated time slot through Eventbrite.

We would appreciate it if you could share the [attached poster](#) on social media, through your internal comms with parents and put up in school.

Tickets can be booked here: [Life Beyond School Inclusive Event 2023 Tickets, Wed 25 Oct 2023 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

We are also happy to share the latest issue of Life Beyond School with you. This magazine provides information and guidance on student's next steps in their life beyond school. Our magazine shares uplifting case studies, local, inclusive providers and fun careers activities, to support local schools, students and their families.

You can download the magazine here:

[Choice Magazine - Life Beyond School, Autumn 2023 \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

Latest health news and updates

ReStart a Heart Day

Monday 16th October was ReStart a Heart Day and now is a great time to start planning how to use the BHF resources developed for schools to teach CPR to all pupils.

Use this link [Teach CPR in your school for free with Classroom RevivR - BHF](#) to access Classroom RevivR, the BHF's free, interactive tool, including lesson plan, to help students learn lifesaving skills in CPR and defibrillation in the classroom.

You can also check if your school defibrillator is registered on The Circuit website here: [Defib finder – find the defibrillators nearest you](#). Once registered the ambulance service know it is available in an emergency.

Because most out of hospital cardiac arrests occur in the home, please also share on your website, parent newsletters, social media and with your staff the 15 minute CPR online training that parents can access to keep themselves up to date with CPR [Learn CPR in 15 minutes | RevivR | BHF - BHF](#)

Children's Appetites Survey (Primary Aged Children)

As part of the wider healthier weight agenda, Public Health are supporting this survey for parents for primary aged children.

Please share this survey with your parents through your newsletters, parent texts and other media.

We are supporting the University of Cambridge with a study of the appetites of Primary School-aged children. To support this work we are inviting you to take part in a short (10-15 minute) online survey. The findings will help health professionals to identify and support children with unusually high or low appetites and to create new guidance on healthy patterns of eating and weight gain.

For more information and to take part, please see: [Appetypes: Survey of Appetite Types in Primary School Children - MRC Epidemiology Unit \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

Mental Health Waiting Times - National Consultation

Please share widely with your staff, pastoral teams, young people and their families

For the first time, the NHS, nationally, is launching a month-long online conversation on children and young people's mental health, with a focus on gathering learning and ideas on how we can improve waiting times and make services more accessible.

Join the conversation about reducing waiting times for children and young people's mental health services.

Using the Solving Together platform partners involved in the children and young people's mental health pathway, professionals, children and young people and their families can have a say about this critical issue – with a focus on **collecting ideas and best practice** for ways to make our NHS services better in the future. Use this link to share your ideas: <https://solvingtogether.crowdacity.com/>

The work will then continue with teams across the country to prototype and test the most promising ideas.

The conversations are now live until 3rd November and the NHS wants to hear from you, so please share this link widely through your newsletters, websites, parent text messages, pupil forums, tutor groups and social media <https://solvingtogether.crowdacity.com/>

SchoolScreener

Health needs are assessed as children progress through their school life to promote early identification and offer intervention to help children and young people meet their full potential. Screening is commissioned by Public Health and is a universal offer to all students in Reception, Year 6, and Year 9 as part of the Department of Health, Healthy Child Programme. It is carried out through completion of a digital questionnaire through the confidential 'SchoolScreener' self-registration portal.

During the academic year 2023-24 the Public Health Nursing Team will be offering Health Needs Assessments to all children and young people in:

- Reception: January-May 2024
- Year 6: May-July 2024 (after SATS week)
- Year 9: Sept-Dec 2023

Letters will be sent to the school office email address for distribution to head teachers, heads of year, parents/carers, and students with clear instructions.

Schools will be contacted by the service to request class list data which will be entered into SchoolScreener to complete the screening. For Years 9 and Year 6 they will contact schools to plan and facilitate sessions within the school's computer suite. On occasions it may be necessary to send letters to students for completion at other times, although it is proven that uptake is significantly reduced when this happens, affecting the ability to identify unmet health needs and offer support.

For more information please download the [SchoolScreener information letter](#).

Alternatively please contact your Public Health Nurse via the One Number 01905 520032.

There is also a useful video on the following link: [Schools' Information Update: Health Needs Assessments - SchoolScreener](#)

If you would like more information to add to your school website, please contact: [Laura Gregory, Marketing and Service Improvement Officer, Starting Well Partnership](#).

Proactive Suicide Prevention: Online Challenges - Prevent young people accessing them

Suicide is complex and rarely the result of one thing. Online challenges can result in serious harm. Unhelpful media coverage and attention on social media platforms can draw attention to these challenges. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Samaritans, internet safety groups and social media platforms collaborate regularly to limit the accessibility of this type of content and take steps to address concerns around potential risks posed and prevent the risk of contagion, particularly to young people.

Please share the following actions within your setting.

- **DO NOT refer to or draw attention to** specific online challenges, you may become aware of, to avoid inadvertently advertising these to young people
- **Promote general online safety messages** - **DO NOT name** specific games/challenges.
- **Let young people share** what they are playing online or express their concerns about distressing material they may have seen – LISTEN, **DO NOT ASK** but DO OFFER support about what to do.
- If you have any concerns or questions about emails you have been forwarded or information that has been shared with you please do not hesitate to contact the Online Harms Advisory Service at Samaritans, onlineharms@samaritans.org and copy in the Suicide Prevention Team SuicidePreventionProgramme@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Consider installing the [R;pple](#) software on school computers and recommend this to parents/carers.
- Take an “always on” approach to providing information and signposting about online safety.

Online harms guidance pages for those supporting others can be found using this link: [Helping the people you support | Internet, Suicide and Self-harm \(samaritans.org\)](#)

If you or anyone you know is struggling, please support them and signpost to the following sources of help:

- In the case of immediate risk to life, call 999 or go to A&E
- Refer to their GP in addition to...
- Samaritans, call 116 123
- PAYRUS Hopeline for anyone under the age of 35 or those concerned about a younger person. Open 24/7. Call: 0800 068 4141 Text: 07860039967 Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org
- School Public Health Nurse, ChatHealth, text 0750733170, Mon – Fri 9-5pm for confidential health advice. www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/school-health-nursing/
- Text “WOO” to 85258 for free 24/7 confidential text support
- KOOH for online chat support www.kooth.com/

Latest Government updates

Prevent duty guidance has been updated

The [Prevent duty guidance](#) has been updated to reflect several recommendations of the [Independent Review of Prevent](#). This includes changes to the guidance for education settings.

There are no new legal requirements or responsibilities for education settings and changes are not anticipated to come into effect until 31st December 2023, at the earliest.

[Read more about the key changes, how they affect different phases of education and what support is available.](#)

[Download Prevent duty guidance refresh stakeholder pack for schools](#)

Prevent Themed Training Sessions

The Department for Education invite you to attend the following themed Prevent training sessions. The aim of these sessions is to raise awareness of the different themes across the Education sector in the West Midlands. To begin this series of webinars, please use the link below:

- [Islamist - 3rd November 2023](#)

Mobile phone use to be banned in schools in England

On 2 October, the [Department for Education \(DfE\) announced that mobile phone use should be banned in schools in England to improve behaviour](#). New guidance from DfE will support head teachers in banning mobile phone use throughout the school day, including at break times, to tackle behaviour and online bullying while improving attention during lessons.

Access free financial education training for teachers and school leaders

The [Money and Pensions Service](#) is working with partners to offer free financial education training for teachers and school leaders between now and March 2024. A range of options are available to help education settings deliver quality learning about money.

Follow the links to find out more about:

- The LifeSavers' flexible [financial education programme for primary schools](#).
- Young Money financial education professional learning for [school leaders and teachers in primary and secondary schools](#).
- Financial education training and resources for alternative provision settings from the LifeSavers programme and the National Literacy Trust – for [primary](#) and for [secondary](#) ages.

Latest funding news

Kellogg's School Breakfast Club Grants: Autumn 2023 Funding Round

Kellogg's, in partnership with Forever Manchester, is offering grants of up to £1,000 to schools across the UK to help fund breakfast clubs and ensure that children who need it most receive a morning meal.

Priority will be given to schools that either:

- Have 35% and above of children eligible for pupil premium funding (for England) and eligible for free school meals (Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales); or
- Are based in an area which is classified as falling in the 10% of most deprived areas according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Only one grant per school in each academic year is available. A limited number of grants are available, and the fund may close at short notice if oversubscribed.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

[Kellogg's Breakfast Club Grants Programme - Forever Manchester](#)

Strengthening chess in primary schools

Eligible primary schools can claim up to £2,000 to support chess provision among their pupils. This funding will help schools to:

- run regular chess activities as part of their enrichment offer
- encourage those particularly underrepresented in chess to participate, for example:
 - girls
 - pupils who are eligible for free school meals
- increase pupil participation in competitive chess opportunities

This grant is for educational settings that have primary provision in England with a percentage of pupils on free school meals at or over 57.5%.

Email your completed forms to Chess.GRANT@education.gov.uk before 12pm on 31 October 2023.

For more information, please download DfE [guidance on strengthening chess in primary schools](#)

Latest training news and conferences

School Attendance training

To support schools in the continued drive to promote regular attendance there are a number of attendance related training courses now on offer from WCF.

Attendance Themes and Effective Casework – Five Twilight sessions

This course explores school attendance through five key themes. Each session will feature professionals with specialist knowledge who will provide good practice examples to illustrate strategies schools can use to promote regular attendance and best support children, young people, parents and carers who may experience barriers preventing regular attendance.

Each session will build on from the previous one, therefore attendance for all five sessions is required.

- Attendance and Early Help
- Attendance and Safeguarding
- Attendance and Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA)
- Attendance and Trauma Informed Practice
- Attendance and Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT)

Audience: School based attendance/pastoral/family support staff

Cost: £110 + VAT per delegate

- 5 Sessions to attend: 14 November 2023, 17 January 2023, 20 February 2024, 16 April 2024 and 11 June 2024,
- Time: 4pm to 5pm
- Course code: SCH 10433 / 84004

Managing School Attendance – Supporting Senior Leaders and Attendance Leads

This course is designed to support attendance leaders to embed the requirements of the DfE 'Working together to Improve School Attendance' practices and drive the requirement of attendance becoming everyone's business as part of school culture.

The course will be delivered as two virtual sessions, via teams and will:

- Consider DfE guidance expectations and the requirements upon attendance managers.
- Explore how Ofsted consider attendance.
- Explore how data can be strategically used to assist attendance management.
- Explore self-assessment and measuring Impact.
- Provide good practice examples.
- Consider DfE guidance expectations within the Worcestershire context.

Audience: School based Attendance Leads/Senior leaders with attendance responsibility

Cost: £60 + VAT per delegate

- 11 and 18 January 2024, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10434 / 84005
- 8 and 15 March 2024, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10434 / 84006
- 18 and 25 June 2024, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10434 / 84007

New to Attendance/Attendance Refresher - for School Attendance Officers/staff

This course is designed to support attendance officers new to the role, or experienced officers seeking a refresher to ensure good practice and compliance with the updated DfE 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' expectations.

The course will be delivered as 2 virtual sessions, via teams and will:

- Outline current guidance, responsibilities and legislation relative to school attendance.
- Enable delegates to understand the role and responsibilities of an attendance officer.
- Explore the importance of accurate pupil register coding and record keeping.
- Support officers to be able to identify and action attendance patterns of concern.
- Explore good practice models of addressing persistent and severe absence.
- Enable delegates to explore the important links between attendance and safeguarding.

This course, booked in conjunction with 'Attendance Themes and Effective Casework' would enhance new Attendance Officers CPD opportunities during their first 12 months.

Audience: School attendance officers/school-based attendance staff

Cost: £60 + VAT per delegate

- 23 and 30 January 2024, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10435 / 84008
- 6 and 13 March 2024, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10435 / 84009
- 20 and 27 June 2024, 10am to 11.30am, virtual delivery, course code: SCH 10435 / 84010

How to book onto any of the above Attendance courses

- Book via CPD <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx>
- Use your CPD Leader details to book (usually held within the office)
- Confirmations go to the delegate email provided and will include ALL MS teams links for all sessions per course

'It's Happening Here' - Child On Child Sexual Violence & Harassment

Child on Child abuse in schools is happening, it's an ever increasing safeguarding concern. This masterclass will help you in your role as Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy DSL when managing allegations or Child On Child Abuse and provide you with a wider understanding of the support available in Worcestershire.

9:30am - 2pm on Thursday 23rd November - Virtual Delivery
£40.00pp +VAT

Please book via CPD: <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/>

For more information including details how to book, please download the ['IT'S HAPPENING HERE' flyer](#).

Anna Freud Learning Network

FAO: Pastoral Leads

The network is a free national network for individuals and organisations. It shares the latest research, resources and learning opportunities with those working to transform the mental health of children and young people. By joining the network, you gain access to a monthly e-newsletter, receive updates on current research, thinking and training and share your best practice with others within the Anna Freud Learning Network.

Click here to join [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families \(list-manage.com\)](https://list-manage.com)

From the network this month:

Free seminar: How education staff can support students seeking refuge and asylum

The first Schools in Mind seminar of this academic year is taking place on Tuesday 14th November, and will look at helping education staff respond to trauma in children and young people who are seeking refuge and asylum.

The seminar will be run with experts from the UK Trauma Council, which has recently developed a toolkit to support educational communities to recognise and respond to trauma. This webinar will feature some of the council's key learnings from their work with experts in this field, including those with lived experience of arriving in the UK to seek asylum.

[Book your place here](#)

Mental Health Workshop on Anxiety: Children Who Worry Excessively

Calling all primary school practitioners.

King's Worcester are holding a mental health workshop on Thursday 19th October from 9am to 11am on anxiety – children who worry excessively with Dr Kate Mason.

For further details and to book a place, please email outreach@ksw.org.uk

Other local news and events

Support children and young people to take part in The Big Ambition survey

The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people, and parents across the country.

This is an opportunity to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting. The survey will be used to encourage policymakers to think about children and young people's needs, to ensure children's voices are reflected in the decisions that will affect them in years to come.

Education settings play a critical role in enabling us to hear from as many children and young people as possible. That is why we are encouraging all settings in England to take part and let their pupils have their say on what is important to them!

To find out more head to [The Big Ambition page](#).

To take part in The Big Ambition survey visit: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition.

Mobilise Arts - Digital Theatre Zine

FAO Secondary/Middle School English, Media, Drama, PSHE Leads

Mobilise Arts have created BREATHE a free Digital Theatre Zine for schools and young people aged 11-16 years.

Digital Theatre Zine is a hybrid digital form of visual arts and performance and an innovative way to connect with young people. BREATHE is a ten-minute video featuring digital drawings, animation, spoken word, songs and music with interactive content by a diverse collective of emerging artists from Worcestershire focused around themes such as loneliness, wellbeing, anger, nature, glimmers, self-care, shame and creativity.

You can access the video and accompanying lesson plan / activity here: [Digital Theatre | Mobilise Arts Worcestershire — Mobilise](#)

Virtual School Paddle, Plod & Pedal for Charity

A huge congratulations to our Virtual School team who have raised a phenomenal £2504.75 for St. Richards Hospice.

On Saturday 30th September, the team joined forces to take on the St Richards Hospice Paddle, Plod and Pedal Challenge. Everyone who took part paddled 10 miles, walked 10 miles and cycled in an impressive 35-mile journey along the River Avon and Severn.

Some of those involved in the challenge had a personal connection due to family members being supported with love and care by the dedicated carers at the hospice who provide end-of-life care. The funds raised will be donated to St. Richard's Hospice which provides free care and support to patients, carers and their loved ones. If you want to donate, please visit the [Team's Just Giving page](#).



Best wishes,

Sarah Wilkins
Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning