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## Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that you all had a relaxing half-term break.

It's not too late to attend our Spring 2024 Headteacher Briefing is taking place this afternoon (Thursday 22 February 1pm to 4pm). This free to attend briefing will be delivered virtually on MS Teams and is suitable for all Headteachers and / or Deputy Headteachers in Worcestershire. Book your place via [WCF:CPD](#) using your school CPD Leader login details and search course code 10191. If you encounter any issues when booking, please contact Charlotte in the Conference Team directly by emailing [conferences@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:conferences@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

This week (19 February) the Department for Education announced that [mobile phones are set to be prohibited in schools in England as part of the government's plan to minimise disruption and improve behaviour in classrooms](#). Schools will be supported to prohibit mobile phone use with examples of different approaches including banning phones from the school premises, handing in phones on arrival at school, and keeping phones securely locked away at school. [Download guidance to help head teachers in prohibiting the use of mobile phones throughout the school day, including at break times](#).

A reminder that the Department for Education is offering a grant of £1,200 for eligible state-funded schools and colleges in England to train a senior mental health lead to develop and implement a whole school or college approach to mental health and wellbeing. This training is not compulsory, but it is part of the government's commitment to offer this training to all eligible schools and colleges by 2025. Eligible settings can apply for a senior mental health lead training grant to commence training by 31 July 2024. Find out more via this link: [Senior mental health lead training - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Wishing you all the best.

## Contents

<b>Latest education news and updates .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Wraparound Programme.....	3
Navigating difficult conversations in schools and colleges in times of conflict.....	3
Annual School Finance Conference 2024 .....	3
The Protection of Premises (Terrorism) Bill .....	4
Early Years Inclusion Process .....	6
Early Years Inclusion Supplement Funding .....	7
<b>Latest health news and updates.....</b>	<b>8</b>
Worcestershire Integrated Sexual Health (WISH).....	8
The Internet, Suicide and Self-Harm FREE webinar .....	8
Contaminated vapes .....	9
HWW Young People’s Health and Emotional Wellbeing Survey - Reminder .....	10
<b>Latest news from School Teaching Hubs.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub .....	11
<b>Latest government news and updates.....</b>	<b>12</b>
Childcare support is expanding.....	12
Updated non-statutory guidance for flexible working in schools .....	12
<b>Latest training news and conferences .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Training Team reminders.....	13
ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistants .....	14
Supporting children’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing in the classroom.....	15
Effective deployment of Teaching Assistants .....	15
Educational Psychology training .....	16
<b>Other local news and events.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Make Your Mark 2024 .....	17
Worcestershire Skills Show 2024 .....	17
KS2 Careers Offer.....	18
Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGs).....	18
Join Sustrans Big Walk and Walk Wheel Challenge .....	19

## Latest education news and updates

### Wraparound Programme

The DfE have now published the [Wraparound Childcare: guidance for schools and trusts in England](#).

The guidance outlines the expectations on schools, as well as the important role that PVI settings will play in meeting the Governments' ambition of accessible, affordable, sustainable and high-quality wraparound provision for all families who need it by September 2026.

Sharon Jones (Early Years Improvement Adviser) will be providing advice regarding the Wraparound Programme, if you have any questions or want to discuss your plans for wraparound, please email [sjones20@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:sjones20@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk).

### Navigating difficult conversations in schools and colleges in times of conflict

School leaders face the challenges of navigating sensitive and controversial topical issues in their schools every day. Wars and conflicts create difficult conversations in classrooms.

This free webinar offers leaders the chance to explore practices from partners and educators that have worked in some contexts, around navigating contentious topics in schools, including ongoing conflicts in Israel and Palestine.

The webinar is organised by the @Together4H campaign under @TogetherCoalition, and will feature a range of speakers from the @AssociationforCitizenshipTeaching, @faithbeliefforum, @Facinghistoryuk, and Solutions Not Sides.

**4pm - 5pm, Wednesday 28 February 2024**

[Register for a place on the free webinar](#)

### Annual School Finance Conference 2024

Jointly delivered by Worcestershire Children First and Worcestershire County Council, the Annual School Finance Conference is taking place on **Thursday 14 March**.

The conference will include representatives from a number of teams including School Finance Team, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, HR & Payroll and more. Guest speaker Rebecca Beaver (Schools Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) and ISBL Regional Lead for the West Midlands) will be talking about the SRMA programme and provide details of all the resources available to schools through the ESFA.

For more information including details how to book your place, please download the [Annual School Finance Conference flyer](#).

## The Protection of Premises (Terrorism) Bill

The Protection of Premises (Terrorism) Bill is about making locations and open spaces safer in case of a terrorist attack. It is also known as Martyn's Law, or the Protect Duty.

In summary this is about places and locations that conduct certain activities putting plans in place to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.

In order to fit into the duty the locations have to be involved in certain categories including education and childcare.

The duty also applies to certain events that have public capacity of over 100 people; 100 to 799 will fall under a standard tier and 800+ an enhanced tier.

Owing to some of the complexities involved, there is a consultation on proposed activity in the standard tier. Initially the duty looked at specific training in terrorism related matters for all standard duty holders, however now the indication is that reasonably practicable measures should be put in place to deal with an attack, such as:

- Evacuation - how to get out of a building
- Invocation - how to bring people into a building
- Lockdown - how to secure the premises
- Communication - how to alert staff and customers to a threat

### [Martyn's Law overview and what you need to know \(ProtectUK\)](#)

There are a number of webinars that are currently being released which relate to this (see details on page 5). Although the webinar is around the standard tier, it is recognised that your area of work may fall into the enhanced tier - or even be too small i.e. under 100 people, it is useful to be aware of the forthcoming legislation.

There is also a consultation which the Home Office are encouraging people to contribute to, this will close on 18 March 2024: [Martyn's Law: standard tier consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

In the next few months, the Community Safety Team will be creating a dedicated webpage on the Worcestershire County Council website which will have more information on the duty.

## Protection of Premises (Terrorism) Bill Webinars

Date	Time	Audience	Teams link
27 February	11:30am-12:30pm	Local Authorities and Public Services	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 344 930 968 441 Passcode: jUUQd6 <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <b>Join with a video conferencing device</b> <a href="mailto:547874328@t.plcm.vc">547874328@t.plcm.vc</a> Video Conference ID: 129 320 899 5 <a href="#">Alternate VTC instructions</a> <a href="#">Learn More</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a>
28 February	10:30-11:30am	All Sectors	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 313 184 942 59 Passcode: E7JWwM <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <b>Join with a video conferencing device</b> <a href="mailto:547874328@t.plcm.vc">547874328@t.plcm.vc</a> Video Conference ID: 128 459 967 8 <a href="#">Alternate VTC instructions</a> <a href="#">Learn More</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a>
29 February	10-11am	All Sectors	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 312 106 114 230 Passcode: RN8Ywt <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <b>Join with a video conferencing device</b> <a href="mailto:547874328@t.plcm.vc">547874328@t.plcm.vc</a> Video Conference ID: 124 815 899 7 <a href="#">Alternate VTC instructions</a> <a href="#">Learn More</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a>
7 March	2-3pm	All Sectors	<a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 338 064 951 804 Passcode: iraBbR <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <b>Join with a video conferencing device</b> <a href="mailto:547874328@t.plcm.vc">547874328@t.plcm.vc</a> Video Conference ID: 122 788 648 9 <a href="#">Alternate VTC instructions</a> <a href="#">Learn More</a>   <a href="#">Meeting options</a>

## Early Years Inclusion Process

The Early Years Inclusion Process and the system to submit Early Years Inclusion Notifications launched on 1 November 2023. Since then we have received 139 new notifications for children under 5 in Worcestershire.

Out of those 139 children the outcomes so far are:

- 75 children are being supported by the Early Years Inclusion Team (EYIT)
- 20 children are being supported by the Complex Communication Team (CCN)
- 15 children are being supported by an Early Years Language Class (EYLC)
- 29 children continue to have their needs met and are supported by their early years' provider. No further action is therefore required from the Early Years Inclusion Process.

We are continually reviewing our processes and welcome feedback from parents and professionals.

If you have received support from WCF Inclusion Support Services since the 1 November 2023, we would love to hear from you!

### How do I give feedback on the process?

Parents and carers are encouraged to give feedback on the Early Years Inclusion Process via the [parent/carer online form](#).

Providers are encouraged to give feedback on the Early Years Inclusion Process via [the provider online form](#).

### Frequently Asked Questions

We have a Frequently asked question document, which we update following any feedback. This can be found on our [Early Years Inclusion website](#)

### How do I submit a new notification to the Early Years Inclusion Process?

New notifications must be submitted via the [Liquidlogic portal](#). Any notifications submitted by other methods of communication will not be accepted.

### Do you have a question?

If you have any questions regarding the Early Years Inclusion Process, please email us at: [eynotification@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:eynotification@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk). Please email us your name, email address and telephone number along with your query and we will get back to you.

## Early Years Inclusion Supplement Funding

### Exceptional Funding

We have had an increased number of providers choosing 'Exceptional Funding' when submitting their NEF 'Actuals', who have not applied and / or met criteria for Exceptional Funding. Please be aware that exceptional funding requires an application form and criteria must be met. There are no exceptions and failure to do so will result in no funding being awarded.

### Monitoring Inclusion Supplement Funding

The deadline for the Spring Term funding monitoring is **1 - 15 March 2024**.

Providers must please note the following:

- For both GR4 Challenge and Exceptional funding applications, the providers **must return the termly** Inclusion Supplement Monitoring form. There is no exception.
- The document is an online forms document only. No other version will be accepted without prior authorisation.
- These forms are only available within a window each academic year.
  - Autumn Term: 1 - 15 November
  - Spring Term: 1 - 15 March
  - Summer Term: 1 - 15 June
- These forms are available on our Early Years Inclusion website [Early Years Inclusion website](#)
- The aim of the monitoring process is to monitor the impact of the funding upon the child's progress in the **same term** of which you are completing it.
- **Failure to submit your monitoring form will result in funding being withheld.**

If you have any questions regarding Inclusion Funding, email: [eyinclusion@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:eyinclusion@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) and include your name, email address and telephone number for us to answer your queries.

**The Early Years Inclusion Funding Supplement deadline for any new children for Summer Term 23/24 applications is 2 March 2024.**

All Inclusion Supplement Applications are online and can be found on our [Early Years Inclusion website](#).

This funding is applied for once an academic year for children who receive NEF and once a term for any children who are too young to receive NEF. Payments received begin the term which you have applied for, and will continue for subsequent terms, until the end of that same academic year (unless you are completing the termly application). Payments will be received at the end of each term, in line with your NEF payments for each term, and will be shown on your NEF statements.

Criteria is available in the 'Inclusion Funding Criteria' on our [Early Years Inclusion website](#).

## Latest health news and updates

### Worcestershire Integrated Sexual Health (WISH)

**Can you please share the following information with your pastoral teams, welfare staff, PSHE leads and communications team.**

**WISH** is undertaking a review of their website: [www.knowyourstuff.nhs.uk](http://www.knowyourstuff.nhs.uk) to ensure the information they provide is accessible and useful for patients and professionals.

Please would you complete their survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/53xDdPDznd>

This survey is anonymous, online and should only take a few minutes.

Please can you also share the [poster/flyers and social media tiles \(available on the Google Drive\)](#) with:

- staff team
- parents/carers
- young people
- networks / contacts
- social media platforms and website

WISH are keen to hear from people from a range of backgrounds so please share widely.

The survey is open until 31 March 2024.

### The Internet, Suicide and Self-Harm FREE webinar

**Can you please share the following information with your senior mental health leads, pastoral leads, PSHE leads and welfare staff.**

Are you confident in talking to young people who may be using the internet in relation to their self-harm or suicidal feelings?

This free training webinar will support you to gain the skills and confidence to talk to young people about how their online use may affect their wellbeing.

- Tuesday 5 March 12.30pm - 2pm
- Thursday 7 March 10.30am - 12pm

Please register using the link in the [Samaritans webinar flyer \(available on Google Drive\)](#).



## Contaminated vapes

**For the attention of Pastoral Leads, Welfare Leads and PSHE Leads, please share the following message widely with all staff, parents, carers and young people.**

Cranstoun provide drug and alcohol services in Worcestershire, including to young people through their Here4YOUth service.

They recently issued a warning about contaminated vapes: [Drug Alert - Contaminated Vapes \(Cranstoun\)](#).

Please would you share with parents/carers and staff the following information:

- It is illegal to sell vapes to anyone under the age of 18 years old, please report all underage sales here: [Tip us off at Trading Standards | Worcestershire County Council](#)
- THC is the shortened name for the active ingredient found in cannabis
- Vapes containing THC are illegal in the UK and there is little evidence that any illegal vapes sold as containing THC actually do. Instead these vapes can contain a very strong synthetic cannabis-type drug called “Spice” so anyone told that a vape contains “weed” will find that it is likely that the vape does not contain this, it is more likely to contain Spice.
- Spice can be highly dangerous and vapes containing Spice should not be used in the same way as nicotine containing vapes. The effects of synthetic cannabinoids (Spice) are very different from cannabis.
- The safest option is to not use vapes, tobacco, alcohol or other drugs. For those who do chose to use a so-called THC vape, they should consider the following safety advice:
  - For a new batch or type the advice is to inhale once and very gently without breath holding, breathe normally and not deeply. Assess the effects before using any more.
  - Call an ambulance if you are worried about someone and the effects of a THC vape. You won't get into trouble for getting help but you may save a life.
  - Never use alone or in a confined space eg a car, under the duvet
  - Do not startle someone using a THC/Spice vape, be reassuring and keep them calm
  - Do not film or share photos/videos of anyone under the influence
  - Do not play games or take loads to show off
  - Do not use all at once
  - Do not leave someone with a stranger, watch their possessions
  - Do not accept vapes from other people
  - If using a refillable vape, always fill your own
  - Buy legitimate vape brands and liquids.

Further information can be found here: [Synthetic cannabinoids | Effects and Risks | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](#)

For adults, self-referral for drug and alcohol dependency or usage can be accessed here [Alcohol & other drugs Self-Referral Form - Cranstoun](#) For young people (self-referral of professional referral) here: [Worcestershire Here4YOUth - Cranstoun](#). The service is free and non-judgmental.

## HWW Young People's Health and Emotional Wellbeing Survey - Reminder

Healthwatch Worcestershire have launched their latest young people's survey and would really appreciate your support in helping them to hear from as many young people (aged 13-25) in Worcestershire as possible.

This year they will be looking at young people's experiences of:

- Accessing the information and support around health and emotional wellbeing available to them, both in person and online.
- Seeking help and support for their emotional health and wellbeing, including their gender identity and/or neurodiversity.

The online survey contains links to age appropriate local and national emotional support services and is designed to be informative as well as giving young people a chance to feedback.

Please see below copy that can be used for circulation to pupils, parents and carers.

A survey poster is also available to download and display from our [Google Drive](#).

### **Young People's Health and Emotional Wellbeing Survey**

Healthwatch Worcestershire finds out what people think about health and social care services. They use this information to tell those who run the services how they can be improved.

They want to hear the views and experiences of young people (age 13 to 25) in Worcestershire. In particular they want to hear about the experiences of accessing help with their emotional wellbeing, as well as accessing support for issues around gender identity and/or neurodiversity.

The survey is anonymous and confidential – responses will be combined and used to create a report which will be publicly available on their website later this year.

The survey can be completed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YP24live> and will be running throughout February 2024.

If you require paper copies of the survey and prepaid reply envelopes, please call 01386 550264 or email [info@healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk). Printed copies of the survey can be returned using Freepost to: Freepost RTEE-GKAT-SRLR, Healthwatch Worcestershire, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 1PT.

## Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

### Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

#### NPQs

Applications are now closed for the Spring 2024 cohorts. More information will be released in the summer term about how to sign up for the Autumn 24 cohorts, which will include the new NPQ SENDCo!

#### Maximising the Impact of CPD

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub and Tudor Grange Research Hub are collaborating to deliver a workshop for you to support with maximising the impact of your staff professional development.

#### What is covered?

- How to implement lasting change
- How to utilise NPQ -trained staff to support with trust/school improvement plans
- How CPD can support progression/ talent mapping
- How to plan for and measure impact successfully

#### Who is it for?

- Trust Leaders
- Head teachers/School Leaders
- Teaching and Learning Leads

#### How will it run?

- We are offering online and face to face options. There is a nominal cost of £10 per participant for the face to face sessions but the online session is free.

#### When will it run?

- We will run several sessions throughout the year. Currently, the following dates have been scheduled:

#### **Face to Face Sessions**

Monday 26 February 9am – 12 noon

Friday 21 June 9:30am - 12:30pm

#### **Online**

Friday 12 April 10am - 12 noon

For more information including details how to book please download the [Maximising the Impact of CPD flyer](#) or alternatively [click here](#) to express your interest and indicate when you would prefer to attend.

## Latest government news and updates

### Childcare support is expanding

Working families can now get more help with their childcare costs. Applications for 15 hours funded childcare are now open for eligible working parents in England with a child who turns two on or before 31st March. Parents can apply for their hours on gov.uk to get their code and then share it with their childcare provider. To continue receiving the government support, they will need to reconfirm their details every three months on their gov.uk account.

From September 2024, 15 hours funded childcare will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old. From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare. This comes alongside the existing government childcare support, including 30 hours for 3-and 4-year-olds, Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit Childcare. Parents might be able to use more than one offer to help with their childcare costs.

The [Childcare Choices website has lots of resources](#) to help share this information with parents, including a [downloadable leaflet](#), [printable poster](#), and [social media images](#).

We would be grateful if you could share this information with parents to help them access the available childcare support. Parents can visit the Childcare Choices website to see what support they might be eligible for, now and in the future, and apply for the relevant eligibility codes:

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

### Updated non-statutory guidance for flexible working in schools

Last week (13 February), the Department for Education published [updated non-statutory guidance for employers and staff who want to make arrangements for flexible working](#).

This guidance is for:

- employers developing flexible working policies or processing flexible working requests including, headteachers, governors, chief executive officers, local governing bodies and trustees
- school employees requesting flexible working
- councils providing human resources advice to maintained schools about flexible working

[Access further information on flexible working resources for teachers and schools](#)

## Latest training news and conferences

### Training Team reminders

The Training Team would like to remind education settings of the following but also ask that you share this with other staff and colleagues.

#### Certificates

Certificates for training are issued directly from CPD and will go to the same email address the confirmation email went to. The email address for CPD is [cap-donotreply@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cap-donotreply@worcestershire.gov.uk)

#### Training Directories

There are a number of [training directories](#) that detail the training offered from a variety of teams within WCF, these are updated monthly to reflect changes.

#### Booking courses

You can book our course via [WCF:CPD](#) using your school / settings CPD leader login details. If you are unsure of who has these login details, please contact the Training Team on 01905 844 420 or email [workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk) to check.

The CPD user guide is split into sections based upon FAQs and available on our [Education Services Training website](#).

#### Terms & Conditions

Once a booking is made you are then adhering to WCF training's Terms & Conditions as such if you are unsure of what these are then they can be found on our [Education Services Training website](#) - select the terms & conditions drop down box.

#### Resources

If your course requires resources to be downloaded and accessible during the training, then to support this approx. 10 days before you will receive a reminder email of your training. Within this email, details of how to access the resources will be provided and this is via a google drive link. Please ensure you liaise with your IT department if necessary to ensure access to the google drive is not blocked.

For courses where resources are issued afterwards, based upon attendance, then these will be either issued via a google drive link, or documents attached to an evaluation email from CPD for your course.

## ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

The ELSA programme has been widely adopted as an evidence-based early intervention for children and young people in over 100 local authorities in the UK. ELSAs attend training days and group supervision sessions led by EP's. They will be trained to plan and deliver individualised programmes of support for children to develop their emotional literacy, including; Awareness of own and other people's emotions, Management of stress, grief, anger and conflict, Development of social interaction skills and Promotion of a realistic self-concept and self-esteem.

The initial training is a mix of psychological theory and application of theory to support children and young people. The training involves discussion, activities and sharing of helpful resources. Resources to support work as an ELSA are shared. The initial training covers the following areas of emotional literacy:

- Day 1 – An Introduction to ELSA and emotional literacy
- Day 2 – Security and affiliation (sense of belonging)
- Day 3 – Self-esteem, motivation and developing feelings of competency and self-efficacy
- Day 4 – Loss and bereavement
- Day 5 – Managing emotions and social/friendship skills
- Day 6 – Active listening, therapeutic stories and measuring outcomes

Cost: £630 + VAT per person - this includes two supervision sessions (which are planned at the end of the course). Lunch is provided please ensure any dietary needs are included at the point of booking.

- Dates: 18 September, 2 October, 16 October, 6 November, 20 November and 4 December 2024
- Each session runs from 9:30am to 3:30pm and takes place in Worcester.
- CPD Course code: SCH 10351 / 84554

Feedback from previous delegates:

- I found the discussions with other trainees within the group to be very useful and gained lots of knowledge from their experience as well.
- I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the ELSA course. It was delivered well and I have taken away lots of valuable information and looking forward to putting it into practice. Thank you
- Excellent range of psychologists who led sessions. It was great to have the variety and a range of delivery styles but all engaging. Great content and interaction. I learnt a lot and felt confident to be able to deliver this to children but know where to get support to ensure I'm providing best sessions for children I work with.

## Supporting children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing in the classroom

This course is aimed at teachers and teaching assistants, in helping to support children who are experiencing difficulties accessing the school day. There is an increase in children who are struggling with their emotional wellbeing, which is impacting them and all those around them.

During the 90 minutes, we will be looking at everyday practical strategies, that can be easily implemented and used, to help not only those children who dysregulate, but all children in the classroom. The strategies will help adults to support those children who require a different approach, in order to make their school day more successful and a positive experience.

It is important that children are emotionally regulated and understand their emotions, which in turn will not only positively impact their educational experience but will also help support a productive classroom environment.

Cost: £27.50 + VAT

23 April 2024, 4pm to 5:30pm, Worcester

Course code: 10350 / 81579 (please note this date is re-arranged and was originally due to take place in March 2023)

## Effective deployment of Teaching Assistants

This is a practical, 2-part course designed for Teaching Assistants to enhance their inclusive practices within the classroom and beyond. The aims of the course are to:

- Understanding the role of the TA using evidence informed approach.
- Exploring ways of working effectively in and beyond the classroom to maximise support for all pupils.
- Exploring ways to promote independence in children's learning.
- Providing opportunities for self-reflection and auditing skill set - Promoting collaboration and sharing practice, what works well?

Cost: £100 + VAT

8 and 22 May 2024, 9am to 12pm, Worcester

Course code: SCH 10406 / 83747 (please note this is the re-arranged date and was originally taking place in March 2023)

## Educational Psychology training

We are pleased to confirm the following range of training from the Education Psychology team.

Further information on each course can be found on [CPD](#) (where bookings can also be made using your CPD Leader login details) or alternatively download the [Schools Training Directory](#) to share with colleagues who may be interested.

- Managing change and transitions: May 2024
- ADHD: June 2024
- ELSA: ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistants: Starting September 2024, over 6 days and ending December 2024
- On Wednesdays we wear pink: October 2024 – choice of two times
- Using Solution-Focused approaches with children and young people: November 2024
- An Introduction to the Zones of Regulation curriculum and framework: February 2025
- Person centred approaches and training: May 2025

Look out for further information in future bulletins.

Book your place on any of the above training and programme via [WCF: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@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk)



## Other local news and events

### Make Your Mark 2024

Worcestershire Youth Cabinet is asking for your help to give as many 11-18-year-old Worcestershire young people the chance to have their say about what's important to them. Many thanks for your support so far in sharing this opportunity if you have done so already.

They have been visiting schools and Youth Centres and so far, have spoken to over 1000 young people!

Make Your Mark voting period is open until Friday 8th March, so there is still time for more young people to get involved and have their say.

Please share the below link to 11-18 year olds in your network!

[11-18? Vote Online Now](#)

For more information please download and share the [Make Your Mark information letter](#).

### Worcestershire Skills Show 2024

The Worcestershire Skills Show is returning on 6th and 7th March to Worcester Sixways and the Inspiring Worcestershire Team are delighted to be welcoming many of our schools.

The evening slot, 5pm to 8pm on 7th March is for parents and carers to bring their children.

This is to ensure that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to find out more about pathways and future careers by speaking to local experts.

This year they have Universities, F.E. colleges, training providers, Worcestershire Apprenticeships, Armed Forces, Police Cyber Security Unit, DRPG, National Grid, Handelsbanken and many other exciting exhibitors.

If your Careers Leader has not already done, can you please help support this event by sharing our [invite letter for parents and carers](#) by your usual communication methods.

Please also advertise the event within your school and on your social media channels using the [assets available on our Google Drive](#).

Any queries, please contact Sandra Howells, [showells@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:showells@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## KS2 Careers Offer

In January 2023, The Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) launched a primary careers programme which will run through to 2025, backed by investment from the Department for Education.

In Worcestershire, a middle school careers Hub commenced in September 2018 focused on the Careers Gatsby Benchmarks, as part of the main Inspiring Worcestershire Careers Hub which encompasses all mainstream, Middle SEND, AP schools and PRUs. All pupils in Worcestershire Year 7 and beyond are now experiencing careers education.

Our intent is to support Worcestershire's Primary Education to get ahead of the game and consider embedding careers related learning into Primary. We know young people form ideas and ambitions about their careers from an early age and yet these ambitions can be blunted by waiting for the delivery of careers education to take place until they reach secondary school.

Please download our [new KS2 Careers Offer](#) and the activity available for your students to take part in!

For more information, please contact [CEC@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:CEC@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGs)

Your support in sharing the scheme with parents and carers via your newsletters and other communication channels would be most appreciated.

### **Don't miss out on Free Home Improvements now available to Worcestershire residents**

The Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUGs) is designed to tackle colder homes that do not have mains gas central heating. Homeowners and tenants in Worcestershire could benefit from a variety of measures to help reduce energy bills including: internal and external wall insulation, loft and cavity wall insulation, air source heat pumps, solar panels, draught proofing and many more.

Worcestershire County Council is working in partnership with Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Wychavon District Councils to deliver this programme. Worcester City Council and Wyre Forest District Council are administering their own HUG2 scheme and information can be found on their websites.

To qualify, households must **not** use mains gas to heat their home, have a gross annual income of less than £31,000 with a current Home Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D to G. Funding is also available for landlords in the charity and private rented sector. Those who qualify for the scheme will undergo a free technical survey to determine the most suitable energy efficiency measures.

For more information please download the [Home Upgrade Grant flyer](#). Alternatively please visit the [HUGs webpage](#) for full eligibility and details how to register your interest or contact Act on Energy on their free advice line **0800 988 2881**.

All projects must be completed by March 2025.

## Join Sustrans Big Walk and Walk Wheel Challenge

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel 2024 is the challenge's 15th year, and they would love you to take part and help make it the largest and most successful one yet. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

The event aims to encourage more families to travel to school actively to help create healthier and happier communities. On each day of the challenge, schools compete to see who can record the greatest proportion of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school.

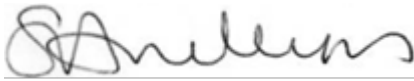
This year's challenge will run from **11 - 22 March 2024** and is free for all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN schools. Schools can choose to enter as a whole school or an individual class. A school's best five days will determine their final position, but schools can log journeys on all ten days if you wish. There are fantastic daily prizes to be won for schools if over 15% of their pupils walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on that day of the challenge. Participating in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel also contributes towards gaining Modeshift Stars accreditation.

There are lots of free resources, including curriculum linked lesson plans, which can be used in schools to ensure everyone can feel involved during Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. Pupils can help reduce air pollution and learn about the benefits of active travel for themselves, their school, their neighbourhood, and the whole planet. Additionally, they are focusing on helping schools and families overcome the barriers that prevent pupils taking active journeys to school. See their [inclusivity guide](#) for more information.

[A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best way to bring down these pollution levels. Taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and travelling actively instead of taking a car, is a great and fun way to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. Active travel is also a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which helps them to arrive to school more relaxed and alert and is great for their mental wellbeing too.

Registration is now open. For more information and to register your class or school, visit the [www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk](http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk)





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

