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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your week has started well.

As the Easter holidays fast approach, I would like to inform schools that access to the Edenred Portal for eligible students to receive free school meal vouchers is now open. Schools will have access to the portal to place orders until Friday 12 April 2024. All vouchers issued during this period will have a validity period of one month from the date of delivery. For more information on the scheme please see page 6 of this bulletin.

Yesterday (11 March), you will have hopefully received an email from the Department for Education regarding the end of the 2022 to 2023 performance data cycle, and the closure of the current [DfE School and College Tables Information](#) website on 28 March 2024. Please access the website before 3pm on 28 March to download any data you require from the 2022 to 2023 academic year. The new service will use [DfE sign-in](#) so they are encouraging settings to sign up if you have not already done so. Further details of the 2023 to 2024 service will be sent to headteachers in mid-April. After 28 March any performance data queries should be directed to DfE National Helpline via [this contact form](#) or by telephone: 0370 000 2288.

The Worcestershire Literary Festival has just announced its **Young Writers Competition 2024**. This competition is open to students in school years 3 to 12 and calls for a 300-word piece inspired by this year's theme: "clues". You can find out more by referring to the [competition flyer](#) or by visiting the [Worcestershire Litfest & Fringe website](#) where you can download the information pack for entry details. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday 30 April.

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest attendance news and updates

Minister for Schools shares latest support to Improve School Attendance

On 29 February 2024 the DfE [announced reforms](#) to support schools and local authorities as they continue to drive up attendance. The DfE have:

- updated Working together to improve school attendance guidance which will become statutory from August, ensuring clearer roles for all
- made regulations to mandate data sharing, and modernise attendance and admission registers, giving access to near-live data and allowing targeted support to be put in place as early as possible
- provided a new National Framework for Penalty Notices to improve consistency across the country
- appointed a new National Attendance Ambassador to support the sector

The Minister for Schools Damian Hinds has written a [letter to schools](#) to explain what this announcement will mean.

Further information from the DfE and LAs will be shared over the coming months.

WCF Attendance Training and Resources

Virtual Website Walkthrough Session

If you are new to attendance or haven't yet found time to look at WCFs available attendance website resources, you are invited to join our next 45-minute virtual walkthrough session on Monday 11 March 1-1.45pm. Add the date to your diary and [Click here to join the meeting](#) on the day.

The Education Endowment Fund and Attendance

The EEF's six key themed strategies for supporting school attendance and evidenced based practices provide useful resources for attendance leaders. The link also details some of the most recent approaches being trialled by schools: [EEF supporting-attendance](#)

NEW School Attendance Training Dates - now open for booking!

As the 'working together to Improve School Attendance' guidance becomes statutory in August we have added further training dates for the following courses to ensure availability for schools who may not have yet attended:

New to Attendance/Attendance refresher

This is a 2-part course aimed for attendance officers/staff working in schools with new dates available for 13th and 20th June.

Managing School Attendance – Supporting Senior Leaders and Attendance Leads

This is a 2-part course aimed to support senior leaders in managing statutory attendance requirements with new dates available for 11th and 18th June.

All further course details and information on how to book your place on either course can be found by following the link and searching attendance: [Courses Search \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#)

DfE Attendance campaign updates 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'

The DfE have recently added further attendance toolkit resources for schools to use as part of the 'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts' campaign and share the following message:

*Thank you for your continued effort and hard work to ensure pupils in your area attend school regularly, and for your support for the Government's campaign to remind families that **moments matter, attendance counts**. The national attendance communications campaign, aimed at parents and carers, first launched in January to help schools and local authorities continue to meet this incredibly important challenge.*

[Here](#) is the updated toolkit for schools to use over the spring term. This includes new downloadable short videos to share on social media.

The campaign forms one part of our wider strategy to increase attendance. It is focused on 'avoidable absence' – odd days lost because of mild colds or coughs. It is not focused on children or families where there are more complex barriers to attending school, such as pupils with long term medical conditions or special educational needs and disabilities, who require additional support. For families facing those complex barriers to attendance, schools are expected to have sensitive conversations with children and families and work with them to put support in place for their individual needs.

We have used valuable stakeholder feedback to refine the campaign messages. Families have also told us that alongside the campaign messages, they would like their local area to signpost to local support offers.

Enabling families to readily find your schools contact information so they know who to talk to in your school for support with any attendance concerns, and additionally ensuring your school's early help offer is updated regularly and is easily accessible to parents via your social media posts and website, will continue to best support families whereby barriers may be impacting attendance.

Monitor your School Attendance - WONDE

There are 2 upcoming webinars for schools:

- 19th March - webinar for schools who are not yet sharing their data [sign up here](#)
- 24th April - webinar for schools, trusts and LAs - [Sign up here](#)

Attendance Data Research:

If you would like to be part of the research using 'Monitor your school attendance' tool - [sign up here](#).

For General Support please contact the Wonde Support Team via email: support@wonde.com

Latest education news and updates

Edenred Portal access will be available for the Easter Holidays

During the Easter Holiday, eligible students will receive free school meals through the voucher system provided by Edenred. Edenred is the council's contracted provider to issue free school meal vouchers for the school holidays, and no other platforms are authorised to issue them. All vouchers issued during this period will have a validity period of **one month from the date of delivery. Schools are instructed to issue vouchers only for the corresponding holiday period.**

Schools will have access to the Edenred portal from **Monday 11 March 2024** until **Friday 12 April 2024**. This will allow a window for placing orders for the holiday.

Vouchers cannot exceed **£30** per eligible FSM pupil for the whole period (£15 per week).

Vouchers are **not available** for nursery age children or 6th form students (vouchers to be issued to years reception to year 11, providing the child is aged 4 and above after 31 Aug 23), and vouchers must not be ordered to replace term time meals.

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

Please ensure you have the correct recipient email address and that parent/carers are notified they will be in receipt of a voucher to ensure they are expecting it and do not leave vouchers to expire. **To help monitor the vouchers issued under this scheme please can you ensure you include the URN or UKPRN for the school when placing the order.**

No voucher which has previously been ordered and expired can be re-issued by schools. For any queries regarding the re-issuing of vouchers contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk.

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

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

- Forgotten password – please reset your password using [password reset](#)
- Forgotten email address – contact FSMHolidayVouchers@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk and we will advise of the email address your account is set up with.
- Edenred [user guide](#) – including supermarket details and how to order.
- Order “pending” – you will need to agree to the terms and conditions and confirm your order for it to be processed.
- Order “held” – we will ensure any held orders are released.

- “Ordering window is closed” – please check you are logged into the correct portal. The DfE portal is closed, but the WCC portal is open.
- Redeem eCodes – Visit the Edenred [redeem eCodes webpage](#). Please note, we are unable to control which supermarkets you can redeem vouchers at.
- Once a voucher has been redeemed by a parent/carer, we are unable to assist with errors with the eCode itself. Queries will need to be directed either to the supermarket or Edenred. Please advise the parent/carer to check all the supporting information on their voucher email before raising a query.
- Parent/carer FAQ’s can be found here: [Parent Carer FAQs](#)

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

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

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

Ofsted Deep Dives in primary science - free webinar

Eleanor Belfield, HMI Ofsted Subject lead for science will be delivering a webinar on “Ofsted: A Focus on Primary Science” – dispelling myths, sharing insights...

This webinar will be free to attend and will be on MS Teams on 20th March 15.30-17.00.

Once booked in you will be sent an MS Form to complete so Eleanor can see what the main needs are. Book your place at: <https://www.stem.org.uk/cpd/534667/ofsted-focus-primary-science>

New HAF website launching soon

HAF is moving to a new website soon! More details to follow within the next few days including launch date. This new website will require you to re-register – however, if your children have previously been verified on the old website this process will be sped up by entering your child's HAF code.

Make sure you have your child's HAF code written down somewhere safe for when the new website launches.

To find your child's HAF code, log in to <https://www.haf-it.co.uk/> and go to 'My Children'. If you are on your phone, click on your name at the top right first, then 'My Children'. The code will be under your child's name.

If your child does not have a code, you do not need to do anything – just wait for the new website to launch. Your child will still need to be eligible for benefits related free school meals to register.

Date that bookings open for Easter will be announced soon.

Early Years in Schools

Ofsted have put together a useful video to support early years staff/leaders in schools in preparing for Ofsted: The webinar discusses early years education in schools, focusing on communication and language. It discusses what inspectors look at on inspection, including the use of phonics. It also explores deep dives in the early years and shares insights from research.

[Ofsted Early Years in Schools July 2023](#)

Other Ofsted videos which can support staff/ leaders in the early years include a 4-part series on the importance of language and communication.

[Ofsted part 1 The importance of communication and language](#)

[Ofsted part 2 A curriculum for communication and language](#)

[Ofsted part 3 Making progress through knowing and remembering more](#)

[Ofsted part 4 how we look at communication and language on inspection](#)

Communication to LA Maintained School regarding additional DFC

You may have already seen that the Department for Education (DfE) are making additional capital funding for schools to improve energy efficiency in 2022-23. A total of £447 million is being made available Nationally.

The funding is being made available to institutions already eligible for Devolved Formula Capital (DFC) allocations in the financial year 2022-23. This includes eligible maintained nursery, first, primary, middle, high, secondary and special schools, academies and free schools, pupil referral units, non-maintained special schools, sixth form colleges and specialist post 16 institutions.

Schools can decide how best to invest the capital funding on **energy efficiency measures**. Where they judge this is not appropriate based on local circumstances, they have discretion to spend this on other capital projects.

Worcestershire County Council encourages School Governing Bodies to also consider, as per the [Worcestershire County Council Scheme for Financing Schools September 2023](#), their **responsibility to maintain and repair** priorities identified from the **latest School Condition Survey** that are not included in the annual Education Capital Maintenance Programme.

Your additional DFC allocation has been uploaded to the Children Services Portal, if you are a school holds your own DFC this allocation sheet is only for reference as you will receive the funding in the normal way by the DfE.

The department has published [guidance on sensible steps for reducing energy use and works to improve energy efficiency of your buildings](#).

A visual from the draft Worcestershire County Council's Sustainability Design and Estate Guide, that may help you consider suitable schemes is available to download from [Google Drive](#).

The DfE expect schools to spend the funding in the financial year 2022 to 2023. However, normal terms of DFC apply. These terms are set out in the [condition grants spend guidance](#). Further details and the allocations for individual schools are available here: [School capital funding - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

School Condition Surveys for LA Maintained schools are commissioned by the Local Authority on a rolling 3 year programme. If you haven't received a copy of the latest Condition Survey then contact propertyrequests@worcestershire.gov.uk to request the latest version.

Each year the Local Authority review the Condition Surveys and prioritise the most urgent and major works. Likely schemes include works that keep schools safe, open and weather tight and therefore the programme will major on heating, roof, window projects and asbestos works. The Education Capital Programme will be published in late February each year when the capital grant from the DfE has been announced and the County Council has approved its budget. If a school has a project listed on the programme the County Council requirement is for a contribution of 10% of total costs. However, this will be assessed on an individual school basis including any ceiling cap agreed taking due consideration of the school's financial position.

Safety of wall mounted AV devices

There was a recent serious incident in another local authority school where a piece of audio-visual equipment fell onto a pupil, this incident was that serious that the Health and Safety Executive are investigating. As a result of this we have done a health and safety alert to highlight and advise on what mitigation measures to put in place.

The [AV equipment hazard note for Worcestershire schools](#) includes details what happened and what needs to be done. Some of the information is quite technical, so I'd encourage you to contact your property agent for further guidance.

Please confirm below, by return email to healthandsafety@worcestershire.gov.uk (by end April 2024) that your setting has completed all the actions required in the 'Safety of wall mounted audio-visual devices' actions that are in blue text below.

- 1. Your Name:**
- 2. Your job role / position:**
- 3. School / Name:**
- 4. DFES Number:**
- 5. Please highlight below what status your school is**
 - **Maintained school:**
 - **Academy:**
- 6. The school has completed all the actions in the 'Safety of wall mounted audio-visual devices' safety message:**

Yes
No
- 7. Add any comments below:**

Your confirmation will be recorded by the Health and Safety Team and discussed at the next WCC main Health and Safety committee meeting.

If you have any further questions regarding this message, please email healthandsafety@worcestershire.gov.uk

Senior Mental Health Lead Training Grant

The latest data for the take-up of the DfE's senior mental health lead training grant has now been published and over 15,000 schools and colleges across the country have already benefitted from the offer.

The latest figures show take-up across Worcestershire is 74%, compared to 70% across the Midlands, and approximately 67% of state-funded schools and colleges nationally.

The DfE are keen to encourage further take up of the grant across the country, as having a trained senior mental health lead in a setting plays an important role in the whole school/college approach benefitting the mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people. This is a great opportunity for schools and colleges to access funded training which offers full flexibility to meet the needs of the individual setting.

If you haven't already taken up this opportunity, we encourage you to do so.

[Download Senior Mental Health Lead Training Grant Flyer](#)

Full details of the grant and how to apply can also be found on the DfE website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/senior-mental-health-lead-training>

Latest SEND news and updates

SENCo Network Locality meetings

Please be reminded that this term's SENCo Network Locality meetings are scheduled over the next couple of weeks. If you haven't already booked a place, it's not too late to attend!

If you are not able to attend the Network meeting linked to your locality, you are welcome to attend on one of the alternative dates.

Course title	Overview	Date	Time	Location	Cost	CPD codes
SENCo Network Locality Meeting: Bromsgrove & Redditch	These sessions will include opportunities for CPD (informed by locality requirements), phase specific workshops and facilitated networking. The purpose of these groups will be to facilitate peer-to-peer support through a solutions-focused approach encouraging SENCos to discuss specific cases to obtain ideas from colleagues and other professionals in the room in order to move things forward for the child or young person. The latter will be facilitated by members from WCF services.	13 March 2024	1.30pm to 4pm	Arrow Vale Academy Redditch	Free	CPD code: SCH 10421 / 84390
SENCo Network Locality Meeting: Worcester & Malvern		14 March 2024	1.30pm to 4pm	Cranham Primary School Worcester	Free	CPD code: SCH 10421 / 84391
SENCo Network Locality Meeting: Wyre Forest & Wychavon		18 March 2024	1.30pm to 4pm	Kings Hawford School Nr. Ombersley	Free	CPD code: SCH 10421 / 84392

Book directly via [WCF:CPD](#) using your specific school login details. Confirmations are emailed directly to the delegate and will provide all venue information.

If you encounter issues when booking, please contact the training team directly on 01905 844 420 or email workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming meetings!

SEND and AP Change Programme - New Draft EHCP template

Currently Worcestershire are involved in a regional SEND Change Programme where we are being asked to trial a new EHCP template issued by the DfE. The aim is to improve the quality of plans and thus better supporting children and young people to enjoy maximum possible independence in adulthood. It will also make it easier for partners and professionals to work in consistent ways with shared language, especially those who work across different local areas.

As part of this programme, we will be issuing 80 plans in March/April on the new template. By trialling the new template this does not mean that any of our legal duties change, they remain the same.

We will also be seeking feedback from schools, parents/carers, young people and professionals.

More information about the Change Programme can be found on our Local Offer website at: [SEND and Alternative Provision \(AP\) Change Programme | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

They are pleased to announce that they have received reaccreditation as a Teaching School Hub and look forward to continuing working with colleagues over the next four years on ECF, NPQs and AB.

Initial Teacher Training

As part of the ITT Market Review, all Teaching School Hubs have an increased role in supporting ITT providers within our region to offer ITT placements, Intensive Training and Practice Placements and map school engagement. The link to the ITT survey commissioned by the West Midlands Teaching School Hub is below, and we are asking if someone from every school across WM1 could complete it. Responses will remain confidential and will only be shared with the DfE. Results will be used solely for the purpose of improving teacher training in our area.

[Initial Teacher Training School engagement National Survey](#)

ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming date for the Twilight Clinic in the Spring term for Year 2 ECTs. Details for this will be sent closer to the time.

- Thursday 21st March 2024 – Year 2 ECT Clinic 5

The next face-to-face conferences are due to take place in the Summer term. You can book onto these now using the link below. www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh

NPQ Update

Applications for the Spring 2024 cohort closed on the 5 February. These programmes are fully funded by the DfE for academic year 2023-24. Please see the Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub website for further details: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/npq/>

For colleagues interested in the NPQ leading Primary Maths, please contact Catherine Atkinson at Rivers MAT via email at: catkinson@riverscofe.co.uk.

The Spring 2023-24 cohorts are now underway. Registrations for Autumn 2024 will open shortly.

AB Update

Schools can still register ECTs for the Appropriate Body using the link below. Where ECTs are starting their induction midway through a term or are on short term supply contract, they must complete one full term in order for this to count towards their induction. Anything less than one full term does not count. [Early Career Teacher and Appropriate Body Registration Form 2023-24](#)

If schools are unsure then please contact Andy Duffy, the Teaching School Hub Director via email at: ad@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

NPQs

If you or a colleague are interested in undertaking an NPQ in 2024-25, please fill in an [expression of interest](#).

Maximising the Impact of CPD

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub and Tudor Grange Research Hub are collaborating to deliver a [Maximising the Impact of CPD workshop](#) for you to support with maximising the impact of your staff professional development.

Online: Friday 12th April 10am - 12 noon

Face to Face Sessions: Friday 21st June 9.30am - 12.30pm

To attend please [express your interest](#) and indicate when you would prefer to attend.

Early Career Framework

If you are working with us for Early Career Framework, emails have recently been sent to ECTs, Mentors and Induction Tutors regarding the learning blocks that should be completed by **Friday 22 March**. This deadline is set by the DfE and it not flexible. It is important that engagement criteria is met to evidence participation on the programme and secure funding.

For your information, these are the blocks that each cohort need to complete:

- April 2022 - blocks 11 and 12
- September 2022 - blocks 9 and 10
- January 2023 - blocks 7 and 8
- April 2023 - blocks 5 and 6
- September 2023 - blocks 3 and 4
- January 2024 - blocks 1 and 2

Information will be sent shortly regarding the Summer Term events for ECTs and Mentors.

Latest government news and updates

Laws to protect children from sexual abuse

On 21 February, the government announced [plans for a legal requirement for anyone in regulated activity relating to children, including teachers or healthcare professionals, to report it if they know a child is being sexually abused](#). This is being brought forward by the Home Office.

Those who fail to report child sexual abuse they are aware of, falling short of their legal duties, face being barred from working with young people.

Anyone who actively protects child sexual abusers – by intentionally blocking others from reporting or covering up the crime – could go to prison for seven years.

By making mandatory reporting a legal requirement, the government is delivering on a key recommendation in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse report to protect children from harm.

The new measures will be introduced as amendments at report stage of the [Criminal Justice Bill](#) in the House of Commons and will apply in England.

Latest training news and conferences

Introduction to Education - PLAC Information Session for Parents and Carers

Warwickshire and Worcestershire Virtual Schools are delivering an online information session for the parents and carers of children who are previously looked on Tuesday 30 April, 10am – 11.30am.

This 1½ hour session will be held on MS Teams is a repeat of the information session that took place during the spring term of 2023.

Topics will include:

- The role of the Designated Teacher
- Choosing a school
- Transition support
- Pupil Premium Plus
- SEND – signposting for your local authority
- DfE guidance for Virtual Schools (in relation to children who are previously looked after)

To book onto the course, please follow the link below to complete a short form with registration and contact information.

[Book your place on the Introduction to Education session](#)

For more information, please download the [Introduction to Education - PLAC Information Session flyer](#)

Training taking place in April 2024

- Book and Brew! Upper Key Stage 2 (years 5 and 6)
- Building an effective early year's curriculum (webcast)
- Creating an Autism Friendly Classroom: Secondary
- Creating effective partnerships with parents & pupils to promote learning
- Managing allegations
- Mental Health Awareness Training
- Planning a Learning walk (webcast)
- Schools Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Supporting Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing in the Classroom
- Supporting behaviour through positive communication (webcast)
- Understanding the Single Central Record
- Using visual tools to reflect on social situations

Further information of each course / webcast can be found on [WCF:CPD](#). Our full range of Training can be found within our various training directories, which are updated regularly to capture new courses, on our [Education Services website](#).

Early Years webcasts as an alternative training approach

The Early Years Team have a range of five webcasts that are aimed at early years settings caring for children aged 0-4 years old and are suitable for schools who provide early years provision prior to reception class.

We know many schools and settings will be looking at budgets and deciding on what training must take priority in the forthcoming months and ultimately who must attend training. Managers / Owners / Leaders will be thinking we all need the same training and understanding, so what can I do to access training that is cost effective, value for money, relevant, efficient, easy to use and where we can access support afterwards. **Then consider access accessing an Early Years webcast.**

Each webcast ranges from 55 to 90 minutes in duration, is a single video file that can be watched as either a staff meeting or individually, watched as many times as you/ your staff require or want to, has been designed to allow you to pause to undertake specific activities and have breaks, or split into smaller bitesize portions to undertake over several staff meetings.

Depending upon the duration of the webcast prices vary from £20+VAT to £30+VAT and are for the whole staff team. What do we offer:

- **Building an effective Early Years Curriculum, course code: 10458:** This 90-minute webcast is designed to watch with your teams as we break down the elements of what forms a good curriculum. A curriculum which meets the needs of your children, families, staff and wider community. For early years settings due inspection this can be a great reflective tool to ensure you can articulate your settings curriculum during inspection. This webcast is aimed at early years settings caring for children aged 0-4 years old and is suitable for schools who provide early years provision prior to reception class.
- **NEW: Planning an effective learning walk, course code: 10464:** This 55-minute webcast walks you through how to tell the unique story of your setting in a meaningful and effective way. Accompanied by the 'Learning walk: Telling your story tool' you will have the tools required to plan and deliver your bespoke learning walk effectively and confidently.
- **Digital Technology in the Early Years, course code: 10316:** This 90-minute webcast will consider research, policy, and statistics about the digital world and what this means for children, families, and educators. A deep dive into this complex subject so we are better able to embrace digital technology as a tool to support learning and an opportunity to teach children to keep themselves safe.
- **Supporting Behaviour through Positive Communication, course code: 103855:** This 70-minute webcast will instigate reflection and thought about how best to promote positive behaviour through our communication. It is designed for you to pause as you wish so you are able to engage in professional discussion, exploring current thinking around this emotive subject.
- **Relating Safeguarding themes to the Early Years, course code: 10289:** This 55-minute webcast considers safeguarding themes; PREVENT, FGM, County Lines and Domestic Abuse through the early year's lens, focusing on what we can do as early years educators to safeguard children and families.

Educational Psychology training available during the summer term 2024

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

- Cost: £28 + VAT
- 19 June 2024, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code 10360 / 84690

Managing change and transitions:

This course aims to describe some of the reasons transitions and change can be difficult for CYP; explore how we can support CYP with change and transitions in school and the theory that underpins this and finally apply learning to think about what your setting already does to support transitions for CYP and what you might do moving forward

- Cost: £20 + VAT
- 21 May 2024, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery, course code 10466 / 84689

Coming Autumn Term 2024:

- ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistants, September 2024, Course code: 10351
- On Wednesdays we wear pink: October 2024: Course code 10357.
- Using Solution-Focused approaches with children and young people: November 2024: Course code 10358

Coming Spring Term 2025:

- Person Centred approached and planning: February 2025, Course code: 10467
- An Introduction to the Zones of Regulation curriculum and framework: February 2025, Course code 10288

Book your place on any of the above training 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

Latest fundings and grants news

DfE's Trust Capacity Fund 2023-25 Accepting Applications

The Department for Education is accepting applications until 25 June 2024 for funding to help multi-academy trusts develop their capacity and take on underperforming schools, particularly in education investment areas.

Local Academy Trust and local authority-maintained schools forming a multi-academy trust (MAT) can apply now for grants ranging from £50,000 to £100,000. Trusts need to have a growth project approved by a regional director from 1 January 2024.

Applications linked to growth projects which involve multiple schools are more likely to be successful. The funding aims to support trust growth and development across England across four strands:

- A1 (grants of between £50,000 and £750,000) for projects in which trusts will take on or form from at least five schools, one of which must be an inadequate or requires improvement school in an EIA.
- A2 (grants of between £50,000 and £500,000) for projects in which a trust will take on at least one inadequate or requires improvement school in an EIA.
- B (grants of between £50,000 and £250,000) for projects in which a trust takes on either at least one inadequate or requires improvement school outside of an EIA or any school within an EIA.
- C (grants of between £50,000 and £100,000) for trusts taking on good or outstanding schools outside of an EIA.

Activities must be focused on strengthening the trust's central capacity for the benefit of all the schools in the trust. The funding can be used for a range of activities, including:

- Establishing new central systems and processes such as IT, finance and HR.
- Training and continuing professional development for staff.
- New staffing within the central trust team.
- New staffing posts, including increases in contracted hours, salary uplift or backfill costs relating to trust wide school improvement.
- Relocation costs for moving staff to new regions.
- Specialist advice – such as IT, finance or HR advice – to build permanent capacity for growth.
- Audit fees in advance for the assurance of this grant funding.

Please note that window 5 has been removed and window 4 has been extended. This is the final round. **The deadline for window 4 applications is 25 June 2024.**

[Apply for the trust capacity fund - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Grow Wild Invites Young People to Apply for £500 for a Nature Project

Grow Wild is once again offering grants of up to £500 to young people in the UK aged 14-25 to bring their nature project to life this summer. Individuals or groups of up to six people can apply for a grant to support an innovative project idea to celebrate why UK native plants and/or fungi are so special.

Organisations supporting young people with their project must be established, relevant and charitable in purpose or not for profit. This includes voluntary, youth or community groups, education bodies, arts or environmental charities, local authorities, other council bodies or health authorities.

Grant recipients will receive:

- £500 grant for the project which can be used for anything needed such as materials, equipment, resources or helpful training.
- Support and online training from Grow Wild.
- Opportunities to connect with a community of young nature enthusiasts completing projects across the UK.
- The chance to complete Kew's Young Environmental Leader Award designed to work alongside their Grow Wild project and recognise their achievements.

There is particular interest in applications from people who don't know much about UK native species.

Successful projects can be started in May 2024 and must be completed by the end of October 2024. The deadline for applications is 19 March 2024 (15:00).

[Find out more about how to apply for a Grow Wild grant](#)

Kellogg's School Breakfast Clubs Grants Programme Reopens for 2024

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 aimed at pupils between reception class and year 13 to ensure that those 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.

[Find out more about how to apply for a Kellogg's School Breakfast Club Grant](#)

Local School Nature Grants Programme

Learning Through Landscapes is offering outdoor learning training sessions and nature equipment for nurseries, schools, and other early learning providers to promote outdoor learning for children.

The Local School Nature Grants Scheme will provide a two-hour outdoor learning training session, along with an assortment of equipment up to the value of £500, including but not limited to:

- Woodland activity kits
- Growing kits
- Seed packs
- Gardening kits
- Pollinator kits
- Woodworking kits
- Seating planters
- Fireboxes

Priority will be given to applicants that include children in the decision-making process and projects that incorporate and benefit the local community.

Applicants must be employed by the school or early learning provider. Applications from PTA's, Governors, or 'Friends of' groups will not be accepted.

There are three funding rounds in 2024. The next deadline for applications is 26 April 2024

For more information, please visit: [Local School Nature Grants \(Learning through Landscapes\)](#)

Other local news and events

Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate 2024

A reminder that Worcestershire Libraries, Severn Arts and Public Health Worcestershire are looking for Worcestershire's Young Poet Laureate 2024!

If you are creative, love words and have something to say – we want to hear from you!

As Young Poet Laureate you could...

- Have your work published
- Receive mentoring from professional poets
- Gain opportunities to perform and share your work

To enter the competition, simply submit one poem on the theme change. Here are some ideas that could be used to inspire your poetry:

- What changes have you experienced in your own life?
- Can you describe a time when something around you changed?
- What other things in nature go through changes?
- If you could change into anything, what would you become?
- What are the changes you would like to make to the world?

Individuals can apply directly, or schoolteachers can submit poems created by students during a classroom session.

The competition will be judged across 3 age categories: school years 6 – 8, 9 – 11 and 12 – 13.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to perform two poems at the Young Poet Laureate final in April.

Application deadline: Monday 1 April 2024

For more information and to apply, visit www.severnarts.org.uk/ypl24

Severn Arts' Music Offer Teacher Survey

Severn Arts is surveying schools as part of its strategic planning process for the next three years. This is the first time they have reached out to schools in this way, and they would love to hear from all **school music coordinators and teachers**. Please would you complete this survey because they need to understand your experience better. This is an opportunity for you to influence their strategic planning process.

[Complete Severn Arts' Music Offer Teacher Survey](#)

They need a range of views so please answer whether you are new to your school or have worked there for a while and whether your views are positive or negative. The deadline for replies is **Friday 29 March 2024**.

Their independent evaluators, Annabel Jackson Associates Ltd, will produce a report analysing the aggregate findings across the responses. In the survey you can choose whether you would like your replies to be confidential to the evaluator or passed on to Severn Arts. Their privacy policy is available to view on their website at: [Privacy Policy | Severn Arts](#).



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

