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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a good week.

Last Thursday (9th May), the Leader of Worcestershire County Council, Councillor Simon Geraghty, announced changes to his Cabinet team. One of the key changes for schools is Councillor David Chambers who replaces Councillor Tracey Onslow as Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education.

David was elected to Worcestershire County Council in 2021 having previously served as a District Councillor in Malvern Hills for 8 years, including 2 years as its Leader. David has a passion for education at all levels, vocational and academic, and strives for the best standards to enable every child to reach their full potential. He has spent most of his professional career working in education which has included 3 years lecturing in Fiji as part of Britain's Aid Programme following Independence and for 2 years was employed by the U.N., training government employees in Burma.

On behalf of you all I would like to welcome David to the role and echo the Leader's comments by thanking Tracey for doing a fantastic job as lead for Education as wish her all the best as she moves forward to become the Conservative Group's nomination for County Council Chairman. [Read announcement on new Cabinet in full.](#)

In case you have missed it, there have been a few important updates issued since the last bulletin that I want to bring to your attention. Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust have recently written to settings to provide an update on the current challenges faced by the Paediatric Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Specialist Play Service in Worcestershire. If you haven't already received a copy of the letter you can download it from our [Google Drive](#).

The National Crime Agency has issued an alert to education professionals following a considerable increase in global cases of financially motivated sexual extortion. Please visit the [CEOP Education's website](#) to download a copy of the alert and a template letter for parents and carers with advice on how to talk to their child about financially motivated sexual extortion, and how to support them if they become a victim.

And finally, the Department for Education has recently published an update to its [guidance on school uniforms](#) which includes procurement advice and accompanying templates.

Wishing you all the best.

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Latest education news and updates

Free School Meal Vouchers - Summer Mid-Term Break

During the Summer mid-term holiday this May, 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 13 May 2024** until **Friday 7 Jun 2024**. This will allow a window for placing orders for the holiday.

Vouchers cannot exceed **£15** 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, email 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 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@worcschildrenfirst.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.

Academy Sponsor Competition for new Redditch First School

A reminder that the Academy Sponsor Free School Presumption Competition for the new first school in Foxlydiate, Redditch is now open.

The competition will be tendered in accordance with the Council’s procurement procedures and follow the Department for Education Free School Presumption Process.

Please note you must be registered as a multi-academy trust by the close of the competition on 14th June 2024 to be considered.

For the latest information please visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/firstschoolredditch or register on [In-Tend](#) to express an interest using tender reference number WCC 00003913.

Protective Security and Preparedness for Education Settings

For the attention of Head Teachers and Business Managers

Action needed:

- Share the Actions Counters Terrorism training with all staff
- Review current critical incident plans and Prevent guidance

You will be aware of the recent non-statutory guidance published by the [Department for Education](#) providing advice to help educational setting to become better prepared and able to respond to terrorism and other major incidents.

At the same time Protect UK have also issued guidance and an Actions Counters Terrorism (ACT) for Education free e-learning package. The bespoke training aimed at all staff working in education settings aims to underpin the above guidance. The package has been developed by the Department for Education in collaboration with the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office using core principles such as Run, Hide, Tell, the HOT Protocol and the Power of Hello.

[ACT for Education | ProtectUK](#)

Noting all of the above and following a number of recent incidents involving schools around the country including the incident in West Wales where two teachers and a student were injured. The Worcestershire County Council Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team is encouraging all establishments to review their current plans and ensure staff are aware of them to enable effective preparedness, response and recovery to any incident including evacuation, invacuation and lockdowns.

This serves as a reminder to also review your Prevent guidance and understanding of the risk. If you have any queries or require further support, please contact the EP&BC team at emergencyplanningstaff@worcestershire.gov.uk.

For Educational establishments signed up to the Critical Incident SLA, thank you for completing the recent Schools Response Survey. For those settings yet to complete the survey please do take the time to consider sending a response. This is your opportunity to shape future support and training available to you.

If you are not signed up to the critical incident SLA, but would like further information please contact emergencyplanningstaff@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE) update

This committee meets termly and brings together members of local faith communities, teachers and the local authority to support on matters related to the teaching of religious education, producing an agreed syllabus, and on collective worship in schools.

There is a Primary and a Secondary conference being held this term, and more details can be found here:

- [Worcestershire Primary RE Conference 2024 \(natre.org.uk\)](https://natre.org.uk)
- [Three Counties Secondary RE Conference](#)

Thank you to all schools who provided School Workforce Census related to RE. A fruitful discussion took place at our recent SACRE meeting recognising the good practice and effective provision in RE. (This included an understanding that RE provision is sometimes included in a broader Philosophy/Ethics offer so not always apparent in the Work force audit.)

If your school would like support for RE then please do contact Chris Giles via email at: GL@southbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk who is based at South Bromsgrove High School and the Lead for the [West Midlands RE Hub](#).

Latest attendance news and updates

Graduated Response to Preventing Exclusions

Following consultation, we are pleased to launch Worcestershire's 'Graduated Response to Preventing Exclusions'.

Thank you to everyone who contributed feedback and suggestions to refine this document.

The 'Graduated Response to Preventing Exclusions' outlines Worcestershire-specific actions, interventions and support in promoting inclusion at a universal, targeted and specialist level.

The 'Graduated Response to Preventing Exclusions' can be found on the Inclusion in Educational Settings webpages via the link below:

[Exclusions and fair access | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Latest SEND news and updates

New National Professional Qualification for SENCOs

On 22 April 2024, the Department for Education amended the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Regulations. The changes introduce the new National Professional Qualification for SEN Co-ordinators (NPQ for SENCOs) as the mandatory SENCO qualification from 1 September 2024.

They have published the following [guidance on the transition arrangements](#).

The [NPQ for SENCOs](#) will play a key role in achieving our ambition to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND by ensuring SENCOs consistently receive high-quality, evidence-based training.

Scholarship funding will be available for participants undertaking the new mandatory NPQ for SENCOs in autumn 2024. [Register your interest here](#).

They want to find out more from those interested in registering for the new NPQ for SENCOs. If you are a current or aspiring SENCO, or simply interested in the course (or know a colleague who may be interested) please support by [completing the survey](#).

Dyslexia Support Tutors Required

Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association (HWDA) are looking for Dyslexia Support Tutors for their workshops in Bromsgrove and Worcester.

Are you passionate about teaching children with dyslexia? Would you like to support and tutor at one of their wonderful, child-friendly teaching workshops? If you have an interest in training as a dyslexia specialist, they have the following vacancies and would love to hear from you. They offer competitive rates of pay, including holiday pay, and provide opportunities for CPD.

Bromsgrove Workshop - The Wendron Centre, Bromsgrove, B60 2BQ.

Fridays after school weekly in term-time 4:30pm – 6:45pm

Sally Arblaster: seniortutorbromsgrove@hwda.org.uk

Worcester Workshop - Woodland Room, Worcester Woods Countryside Park, WR5 2LG

Saturday mornings weekly in term-time 9:00am – 12:30pm

Margaret Comerford: seniortutorworcester@hwda.org.uk

For more information please download the [HWDA Dyslexia Support Tutors advert](#), contact the relevant Senior Tutor on the details above or email Katrina Kear-Wood at president@hwda.org.uk.

www.hwda.org.uk

Latest health and wellbeing news and updates

Suicide Attempts Guidance

Within the WCF Suicide Attempts Guidance document issued in March 2024 there are two working documents for schools to use; a blank safety plan and an attempts monitoring spreadsheet. These can now be accessed directly from the [Children's Services Portal](#) and from our [Google Drive](#).

Maternal Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination uptake

There has been a continued increase in whooping cough cases at the start of this year, with 553 confirmed in England in January, compared with 858 cases for the whole of 2023. Newly published data has shown that uptake of the Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine has declined by 13.6% in recent years.

Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, arises when bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis* cause an infection in the lungs and airways. Whooping Cough can affect people at all ages but can be life threatening to babies, this can be prevented by the pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine which is offered to women who are pregnant.

Before the introduction of routine immunisation in the 1950s, we used to experience large epidemics of whooping cough every two to three years which affected tens of thousands of people and caused many deaths. Following exceptionally low levels of cases during the pandemic we are now beginning to see an increase.

It's vital that pregnant women get vaccinated to protect their babies from birth and parents ensure infants receive their vaccines at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age or as soon as possible after that if their vaccines are delayed. Pregnant women are encouraged to contact their GP surgery or antenatal clinic for more information.

For additional support please see UKHSA [communications assets](#) to encourage pregnant women to get vaccinated.

Further information can be found at the following links

- [Whooping cough - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- [Whooping cough infections rise - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Scarlet Fever and invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

As we would expect to see at this time of year, cases of Scarlet Fever and invasive Group A Strep are rising. Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by Streptococcus pyogenes or group A Streptococcus (GAS). It is not usually serious but should be treated with antibiotics to reduce the risk of complications (such as pneumonia) and spread to others.

The early symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea, and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours, the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and be pale around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a bright red 'strawberry' tongue.

Invasive Group A Strep (iGAS)

The same bacteria which cause scarlet fever can also cause a range of other types of infection such as skin infections (impetigo) and sore throat. In very rare cases, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). Whilst still uncommon, there has been an increase in iGAS cases this year, particularly in children under 10 years old. It is very rare for children with scarlet fever to develop iGAS infection. Parents are advised to trust their judgement when their child is unwell; if their child seriously deteriorates, they should speak to their GP or call 111 for advice.

What should you do if you have cases of scarlet fever or iGAS

As per national [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-protection-in-children-and-young-people-settings-including-education) guidance, please follow below steps:

- Exclude the individual(s) diagnosed with scarlet fever infection until 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment.
- For impetigo infection-exclude the individual until lesions are crusted or healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
- For any individuals diagnosed with chicken pox, exclude for at least 5 days from onset of rash and until all blisters have crusted over. Please share following link to chicken pox information with staff and parents [Chickenpox - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chicken-pox/)
- Advise parent or carer to keep their child at home and seek advice from their general practitioner if their child is symptomatic.
- Encourage children, young people and staff to implement good [hand hygiene](#) practices (poster attached).
- Encourage staff, children and young people to implement good [respiratory hygiene](#) practices (poster attached).
- Make sure that all cuts, scrapes, and wounds are cleaned and covered.
- Carry out regular cleaning throughout the day, especially hand contact surfaces. See link to guidance [Preventing and controlling infections - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/preventing-and-controlling-infections) and [Managing Outbreaks and Incidents](#).
- Events can go ahead as long as the school has undertaken a risk assessment and parents are advised to keep unwell children at home.

You can also find Strep A information translated into a range of languages at this link. [Translated Information Packs | Group A Strep | Campaign Resource Centre \(dhsc.gov.uk\)](#)

Also further advice can be found at **Should I keep my child off school/nursery** poster, and other resources are available for free [here](#).

The following website has information/ games/ lesson plans to teach children about infections and infection control. <http://www.e-bug.eu/>

When should I report cases to UKHSA

Please contact UKHSA 0344 225 3560 option 2:

- If you have one or more cases of chickenpox or flu in the same class that has scarlet fever/strep A
- If you are a setting that is dedicated to children who are clinically vulnerable
- If the outbreak continues over 2 weeks despite of you taking the steps above to control it
- If anyone is admitted to hospital or is very poorly (or there is a death)
- If you have further issues that are making it difficult to manage the outbreak

Further resources

[Health Protection in children and young people settings, including education](#) - section on scarlet fever.

Animal Attraction Visits

As the weather improves, many families may be planning trips to petting farms, zoos, and other animal attractions. This makes it a good time to highlight the importance of maintaining good hand hygiene as we are seeing an increasing number of infections following farm visits.

Many animals can carry parasites and germs that make people poorly, and can cause serious complications particularly in young children, pregnant women, and elderly or immunocompromised people. Evidence shows that cases of infection by parasites or germs such as *E. coli* O157 and *Cryptosporidium* **often increase at times of the year when children are handling animals and feeding lambs at petting farms.**

Cryptosporidium is a parasite and can be caught from sheep, cows, goats but especially lambs, goat kids and calves, and from other livestock to humans through contact with infected faeces and other body fluids. This can happen even if the animals look healthy.

You can also catch germs from animal bedding and fencing or by stroking their fur. It is also possible that infection can be picked up from other contaminated surfaces for example farm gates, boots and clothing. Symptoms of *Cryptosporidium* generally begin 2 to 10 days (average 7 days) after becoming infected with the parasite. Symptoms include watery diarrhoea, stomach cramps or pain.

It is important to remember to wash hands regularly with liquid soap and warm water, especially:

- Before handling any animals
- Immediately after you have had contact with animals
- After you have visited the animals in their enclosure (even if you have not touched the animals)
- Before eating or drinking
- After sitting on the ground, or on bales of hay etc.
- At the end of your visit
- After you remove wellies, footwear, or other clothing

Please remember even if animals haven't been touched, hands may be contaminated by touching fences or other surfaces in areas with animals / sitting on and touching grass that is contaminated in country parks or farmland.

Clothing worn to the farm can also become contaminated with germs, these germs can transfer back onto your hands after you have washed them. Remembering to rewash your hands after touching clothing and after removing wellies, footwear or other clothing will help to reduce the risk of infection.

Washing hands with liquid soap and warm running water is the most effective way to remove germs. Hands should be washed immediately after you have had contact with animals or the areas where they have been, at the end of your visit and when removing footwear or other clothing following your visit. Dry your hands; ideally, with paper towels. Hand gels or wipes are not a substitute for washing your hands after visiting a farm, due to the types of germs you might be exposed to. These germs may not cause animals to be visibly ill so it's difficult to tell whether an animal is infected, especially when they look clean and healthy.

The following key tips can be shared with families:

General advice to animal attraction visitors

- Even if animals look clean and healthy, they can carry a number of infections that may be harmful to people, especially children and pregnant women
- Cases of gastro-intestinal infections associated with animals generally increase during spring and lambing season, and also summer when people are on holiday
- If planning a group visit to a farm or zoo, make sure you've considered all the risks and provided the right advice before the visit
- Clothing can easily become contaminated. Even after you wash your hands, germs can transfer back onto your hands if you touch your clothing.
- It is important to remain diligent when visiting animal attractions and to take every precaution possible to keep you and your family safe.

Things you should do when visiting an attraction with animals

- Follow any rules and guidelines provided by the farm staff and maintain safe distances from animals to ensure your safety and the wellbeing of the animals
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water after you have touched animals, fences, or other surfaces where animals may have been, and dry your hands with paper towels
- Supervise children closely and ensure that they wash their hands thoroughly using liquid soap and warm running water
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating or drinking
- When visiting a farm, only eat and drink in picnic areas or cafes
- Try to avoid wearing open-toed shoes. At the end of your visit remove and clean boots or shoes and clean pushchair wheels. Then wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water
- If you have held or had contact with an animal wash clothing at 40C or hotter when you return home.
- If a dummy is dropped on the ground it will need to be sterilized

Things you should not do when visiting an attraction with animals

- Touching your face or mouth while petting animals or walking around the farm
- Kissing or putting your face close to farm animals eating or drinking while touching animals or walking around the farm; this includes avoiding eating sweets, crisps or chewing gum
- Eating anything that has fallen on the floor
- Using sanitising gels or wipes instead of washing hands with liquid soap and warm running water. Sanitising gels and wipes do not remove the type of bugs found on farms effectively

If you are planning a school or group visit to a farm, you also need to make sure that you've considered all the risks and taken steps to manage them. [Guidance is available](#) to help schools and teachers do this.

If you or anyone is sick or has diarrhoea within two weeks of visiting a farm, they should contact their GP or NHS111 as soon as possible.

Anyone who has experienced sickness or diarrhoea after visiting a farm could pass the illness on to others, so they should not attend work, school, or nursery until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours. However, with infections from some bugs, extra tests may be needed to ensure they have fully recovered and will not pass on the infection to others before starting back at work, school, or nursery. People who handle food, children under 5 years and those who work closely with people who may be vulnerable to infections should discuss with their GP or local health protection team before returning to work, school, or nursery. You should also not go swimming or take your child swimming while suffering from diarrhoea and for 2 weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped

[Access further information regarding farm visits on the UKHSA blog.](#)

[Access further advice and guidance on Cryptosporidium.](#)

Design Your Ugly Bug returns for a second year

As part of their 'Clean Hands, Safe Hands' campaign Worcestershire County Council's Public Health team are continuing to promote good handwashing. The team are asking schools to help encourage children to get creative and design their own 'ugly bug'. All the ugly bugs will feature on a gallery on the County Council's website and social media.

[Download the create your own ugly bug form](#)

All ugly bugs designs can be posted to Public Health, Worcestershire County Council, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP or digital copies can be emailed to PHcomms@worcestershire.gov.uk

There are more resources such as activity packs, posters, and information on the following website:

[Clean hands, safe hands | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Starting Well Partnership - Parenting and Community Teams

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust have produced the following poster with details of their various websites and QR codes which provides details of support, advice, courses, groups and workshops available for families and schools.

[Download Parenting and Community Teams poster](#)

Latest news from School Teaching Hubs

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

ECF and AB Support Events

They regularly offer online sessions to support you with ECT induction and delivering the Early Career Framework. Please see below the events that they are offering:

Headteacher Briefings

These sessions will provide clarity on registration for AB and ECF for Autumn 2024, together with providing information on costings, statutory guidance and roles and responsibilities of school stakeholders. They encourage you to attend one of these briefings to ensure you are fully aware of your statutory obligations as well as other key details to enable you to best serve your ECTs in your schools.

Currently, there are briefings taking place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 21st May 12:00-13:00
- Tuesday 4th June 08:30-09:30
- Wednesday 12th June 15:30-16:30
- Tuesday 18th June 13:00-14:00
- Tuesday 25th June 08:30-09:30
- Monday 1st July 15:30-16:30
- Tuesday 9th July 12:00-13:00

How to Write a Formal Assessment

These sessions will provide information on how to write a formal assessment during the ECT induction period. The briefings are taking place on the following dates:

- Tuesday 21st May 08:30-09:30
- Monday 3rd June 15:00-16:00
- Friday 7th June 12:00-13:00
- Monday 10th June 08:30-09:30
- Tuesday 18th June 15:30-16:30

You can sign up for these events on their [Eventbrite](#) page.

NPQs

Did you know your school might be eligible for fully-funded NPQ scholarships? Contact them to find out more at tsh@tgacademy.org.uk.

NPQ SENDCO

They are now taking expressions of interest for the NPQ SENDCO running from October 2024. This qualification is mandatory for all SENCOs within their first three years in post (unless they already have a NASENCO). There are fully-funded DfE scholarships available for teachers in state-funded schools.

For more information and to sign up, please visit the [Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub website](#).

NPQ Briefings

These sessions will explain more about the National Professional Qualifications, providing details on which NPQs they are running, what is involved in doing an NPQ and what the benefits are to schools and participants. These briefings are scheduled for:

- Monday 10th June 16:00-16:30
- Friday 14th June 12:30-13:00
- Tuesday 18th June 08:30-09:00

You can sign up for these sessions on their [Eventbrite](#) page.

NPQEHCO

They are now taking expressions of interest for the NPQ Early Headship Coaching Offer. This is a 12 month, bespoke programme of support for new headteachers. Please download the [NPQEHCO flyer](#) for more information regarding this NPQ.

Research Schools Network Article

Please see below a link to a Research Schools Network Article regarding leadership learning on NPQ programmes.

[Implementation matters: leadership learning on NPQ programmes and putting evidence into practice in schools](#)

Latest training news and conferences

Education Services Directory 2024 to 2025

We have recently updated and published our [2024/25 Education Services Directory](#). The directory provides an overview of the traded education services offered through Worcestershire Children First.

Our safeguarding and attendance services can help to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and assist in attendance related concerns.

To help remove barriers to learning, effectively support emotional health and wellbeing and SEND and ensure your pupils participate, learn and make progress, our expert Inclusion and SEND practitioners and our specialist teachers can provide a range of intervention, group approaches and consultancy.

We offer challenge and support across our range of quality and improvement services to help you to drive improvements, assess and raise standards and deliver a high-quality education.

We aim to provide a bespoke and responsible service which supports your needs and is based on a national framework in the local context. Please email schoolservices@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk if you have identified any areas of support not listed in this directory that you think we could offer support with.

Reminder: Academies should place their orders by 31st July to qualify for an Early Bird discount ([check eStore for details](#))

Court Process & Writing Effective Witness Statements: Guidance for schools:

This free training session will inform school staff regarding court processes and equip them with sufficient knowledge and resources to complete witness statements effectively for prosecution of cases under s444(1)/(1)A of the Education Act 1996 for unauthorised absences.

School Attendance Leads, Head teachers, School Attendance Officers, or any other school based associated staff with a key role in addressing pupil attendance, absence and welfare would be most welcome. (max 2 candidates per school) . Candidates are advised to have a good working knowledge of or, completed the Using Legal Action to Address Pupil absence: Guidance for schools training, for a better understanding of this session.

Cost: Free

- 5 June 2024, 12pm to 2pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10284 / 85192

Towards EYFSP - progress and assessment in reception

Moderation of EYFS profile assessments should be a collaborative process with colleagues. This session supports the quality assurance of teacher assessment judgements and provides a valuable opportunity for professional development. "It is important for teachers to build a shared understanding of the EG's and the EYFS statutory framework."

These sessions for teachers will enable Head teachers to meet their duty for ensuring their teachers attend training courses and moderation meetings within schools and with other schools and to use quality assurance processes to ensure that the data accurately reflects the attainment of the current cohort of children.

The prime purpose of the EYFSP information at the end of the year is to inform the Year 1 teachers of the children's strengths and areas of development so that they can meet their needs and carry on their learning. The sessions will therefore provide an opportunity to discuss and gain a shared view of the consistency and accuracy of judgements being made.

Cost: £45 + VAT per delegate

Trainer: Gill Deakin / Jane Howard

- 5 June 2024, 9am to 11.30am, Worcester, course code: SCH 10207 / 84182
- 5 June 2024, 1pm to 3.30pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10207 / 84183
- 6 June 2024, 9am to 11.30am, Wyre Forest, course code: SCH 10207 / 84184
- 5 June 2024, 1pm to 3.30pm, Wyre Forest, course code: SCH 10207 / 84185

Using Legal Action to Address Pupil absence: Guidance for schools:

This free training session, delivered by Worcestershire Children First, is intended for Worcestershire school-based staff who may need to instigate a request for legal proceedings as part of their school attendance escalation process.

The training will explore when a request for legal proceedings maybe appropriate and the requirements upon schools in making such requests. The session will focus on unauthorised pupil absence (including unauthorised leave in term time) and will provide delegates with the latest information and appropriate resources to demonstrate what is required in order for the Local Authority to consider the issuing of a penalty notice or undertake a prosecution. There will also be a brief introduction to the 'Working together to improve school attendance guidance Feb2024' and its implications for schools when it becomes statutory in Aug 2024.

School Attendance Leads, Head teachers, School Attendance Officers, or any other school based associated staff with a key role in addressing pupil attendance, absence and welfare would be most welcome. (max 2 candidates per school)

Cost: Free

- 5 June 2024, 9.15am to 11.15am, Worcester, course code: SCH 10283 / 85191

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.

Aims:

- Understanding the role of the TA using an 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 per delegate

- 24 June and 08 July 2024, 9am to, Worcester, course code: 10406 / 83747 **(please note this is the revised date for the original course dates in May 2024)**

Key Stage 1 Writing Surgery: Supporting your teacher assessment of writing at end of KS1

This session will give you the opportunity to bring the work of 3 pupils for our team of moderators to look at. They will be able to guide you as to whether you are presenting enough evidence, the right sort of evidence and what more might be needed. Whilst this is not formal moderation, the team will be able to consider judgements and offer support and guidance.

Cost: £42 + VAT per delegate

- 18 June 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, Wyre Forest, course code: SCH 10488 / 85180
- 26 June 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10488 / 85181

Key Stage 2 Writing Surgery: Supporting your teacher assessment of writing at end of KS2

This session will give you the opportunity to bring the work of 3 pupils for our team of moderators to look at. They will be able to guide you as to whether you are presenting enough evidence, the right sort of evidence and what more might be needed. Whilst this is not formal moderation, the team will be able to consider judgements and offer support and guidance.

Cost: £42 + VAT per delegate

- 20 May 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10484 / 85146
- 23 May 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, Wyre Forest, course code: SCH 10484 / 85147

Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom

The Autism & Complex communications Team are pleased to announce that an additional course for Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom has been planned before the end of the Summer Term to meet demand. This fantastic two-hour course is currently being offered free to Local Authority / Academy and Free Schools.

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

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

Cost: FREE to Worcestershire Local Authority / Academy and Free – Schools max: 2 places per school
Cost: Independent Schools and other settings: £35 + VAT per delegate

- 17 June and 8 July 2024, 4pm to 5pm, virtually delivery, course code: SCH 10426 / 85165

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

Mastering Formative Assessment Conference

Calling all Headteachers, Deputies, Teachers, Subject Leaders, Assessment Leads and Curriculum Leads. Now is the time to further develop your assessment processes so you can confidently answer... 'how do I know they are learning?'

All schools in Worcestershire are developing, refining or embedding assessment processes across their curriculum. In order to support that work, School Improvement are absolutely delighted to welcome renowned author Shirley Clarke to Worcestershire.

Cost: £130pp +VAT

Reduced Price: £95.00pp +VAT for a second delegate from the same school.

For more information please download our [Mastering Formative Assessment Conference flyer](#).

[Book your place now](#)

Latest Conference Programme

Check out our latest range of Conferences available which includes:

- Inclusion Conference
- Attendance Forum
- Mastering Formative Assessment
- School Finance Conference

For more information please download our latest [Conference Programme](#) or visit [Courses Search \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](#) where you can also book your place.

For further information, please email our Conference Team: Conferences@worcscildrenfirst.org.uk

First Aid Training for Schools

Our Health & Safety colleagues in Worcestershire County Council have added a new date in July for their 3-day course combined First Aid at Work Certificate with Paediatric First Aid course.

Please download their [First Aid Courses flyer](#) for details of dates available, costs, course times and locations.

To book a place on any of their courses, please email: healthandsafety@worcestershire.gov.uk

Other local news and events

Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run: New Offer for Families

50% OFF FOR FAMILIES: Wythall & Hollywood Fun Run: Families on Track Race on 23 June

Families in Worcestershire can now get 50% off when they enter the Wythall and Hollywood Fun Run, Families on Track race on 23 June, 1pm.

The brainchild of Paula Radcliffe, Families On Track is a special race where parents, children, grandparents and other friends and family get together to complete 10k in the park as a continuous relay in laps of either 1,000m, 500m or 250m; allowing everyone to get involved.

There will also be a 5K and 10K race earlier that day too. The day isn't just about running though, Wythall Community Association are holding a fun day with food stalls, entertainment and taster sessions of other activities on offer at the park.

This offer is only available until **midnight on Sunday 2 June** and is limited. Please book early to make sure you get your 50% off.

Go to www.wythallhollywoodfunrun.org.uk to find out more and book. Alternatively use this direct link to book: <https://in.njuko.com/fot-2024?currentPage=select-competition>. When prompted use the discount code **WYTHALLFOT50%**.

NOTE: To help promote the Fun Run you can download a variety of images and posters from [Google Drive](#).

Popular Young Voices New Visions exhibition returns to Worcester Cathedral


Severn Arts' Young Voices New Visions exhibition is returning to Worcester Cathedral, opening on Sunday 26 May until Sunday 23 June. Young Voices New Visions is an annual exhibition showcasing the artistic talent of children and young people from across Worcestershire. This year it includes work from 53 local schools and 6 community groups, all responding to the theme 'The Sky Above Us and the World Beneath our Feet'.

Alongside the exhibition, there will be an exciting opportunity to be involved in a free drop-in creative arts workshop for all with Sarah Edwards, Spare Room Arts, taking place on Tuesday 28 May, 10:30am-3pm in the Chapter House, Worcester Cathedral. Workshop participants will help make a giant collaborative piece of artwork that will be hung in one of the Cathedral windows.

The exhibition will be open to visitors during normal Cathedral visiting hours, to see these time please visit Worcester Cathedral's website. www.worcestercathedral.org.uk/visit-us/opening-times

Admission to the Young Voices New Visions Exhibition is free.

For information about the exhibition visit www.severnarts.org.uk/yvvn-2024



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

