

SEND News Bulletin

Issue: December 2023

Welcome

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Worcestershire SEND News Bulletin.

It was great to see so many SENCOs joining the SENCO Network Locality meetings at the end of November – the sessions received positive feedback, particularly how much SENCOs valued the opportunity to talk face-to-face with other SENCOs and share their experiences.

We hope to welcome even more SENCOs to join the next round of SENCO Network Locality meetings in March 2024, further details can be found on page 4. Please remember, these valuable networking opportunities are an integral part of a SENCO's professional development.

In this bulletin you will find information and updates from a range of national and local service providers and support teams. We encourage you to read and share with relevant colleagues within your school. We hope that you find the information useful and would welcome any feedback you may have.

Thank you again for your continued hard work, we wish you all an enjoyable Christmas break and hope you manage some rest in and amongst the festivities!

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Director for All Age Disability (0-25)

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NATIONAL NEWS & UPDATES

Mandatory qualification for SENCOs

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

A national professional qualification for SENCOs is replacing the existing qualification, as announced in the [SEND and alternative provision improvement plan](#). Teaching of the national professional qualification will become the mandatory qualification for SENCOs from September 2024 and the requirement to complete training within 3 years of appointment will continue to apply

The NPQ for [SENCOs content framework](#) sets out what participants should know and be able to do after completing the qualification. SENCOs who have successfully completed the NASENCO will not be required to complete the new national professional qualification.

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

Kooth Update

Thank you for all your support in helping us raise awareness of Kooth this year. So far this year, more than **130,000 children and young people** have signed up to Kooth, and there have been over **1.1 million logins** to the website.

As our services are commissioned by your ICB or local authority, they are free to use, completely anonymous, and don't have any thresholds or waiting lists. These features are crucial: our recent [report](#) found **97%** of young people surveyed said it was important they could be **anonymous** on Kooth, and **95%** said it was important or very important there were **no long waiting lists** to chat with a practitioner.

We're still here for young people and adults over the Christmas holidays. We offer slightly reduced [chat hours](#) around the Christmas and New Year period, but our team is still available to support individuals every day. Here are some helpful resources:

- **Support guides for young people:** Share our [6 new support guides for young people](#), which offer helpful advice and information on social anxiety, eating difficulties, self-injury, suicidal thoughts, and safety plans, in addition to a young person's experience on Kooth.
- **New social media assets:** Check out our brand-new [digital posters and video assets](#), as well as our [suggested tweets and templates](#), which you can share on your website and social media channels.

We'll be running a new KoothTalks webinar programme in 2024! Watch this space for more details on our 2024 webinars, including topics such as **self-harm, eating difficulties, and Muslim faith and mental health**. Did you miss any of our 2023 KoothTalks webinars? [Click on this link to our Vimeo account](#) to check out our bank of past webinars from this year.

LOCAL NEWS & UPDATES

Worcestershire SENCo Network

As previously shared, we have made the majority of SENCo Network events **FREE** to remove any financial barriers preventing attendance. There is no longer the requirement for your school or Trust to purchase an SLA.

As always, we try to make these events as accessible to all as possible. The SENCo Network Locality meetings in November were very well received and initial feedback about the new format was overwhelmingly positive. SENCos particularly valued the opportunity to talk, collaborate and problem solve with other SENCos and professionals from specialist support services.

We look forward to welcoming even more SENCos to the SENCo Network Locality meetings in the Spring Term!

To ensure we are able to maintain an oversight of attendance at both the online and face-to-face locality events, we do require you to **book your place** via the WCF CPD Portal using the link below. You can search each event by the name or course code – please try to attend the Locality Meeting where your school is based where possible.

The virtual briefing sessions will be recorded and made available to SENCos who have **booked a place** but are not able to attend the live session.

The proposed date for the Summer Term **“Inclusion Conference”** is **Tuesday 18th June 2024** so please pop this date in your diary! This will be the only event that will have a cost attached - further details will be shared during the Spring Term.

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	Redditch	Free	CPD code: SCH 10421 / 84390
SENCo Network Locality Meeting: Worcester & Malvern		14 March 2024	1.30pm to 4pm	Worcester	Free	CPD code: SCH 10421 / 84391
SENCo Network Locality Meeting: Wyre Forest & Wychavon		18 March 2024	1.30pm to 4pm	Nr. Ombersley, North Worcester	Free	CPD code: SCH 10421 / 84392

Course title	Overview	Date	Time	Location	Cost	CPD codes
SENCo Network Briefing	National and local SEND updates to ensure SENCos are aware of latest information and initiatives to support delivery of high quality SEND provision in schools and settings.	23 January 2024	3.30pm to 5pm	Virtual	Free	CPD code: 10178 / 83866
SENCo Network Briefing		7 May 2024	3.30pm to 5pm	Virtual	Free	CPD code: 10178 / 83867

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

Inclusion in Education Settings Website: Attendance Resources and Information

We are pleased to share Worcestershire's refreshed Inclusion in Education Settings website: [Inclusion in Educational Settings | Worcestershire County Council](#)

This features lots of information to promote and support inclusion and inclusive practice in educational settings, as well as resources for schools.

There is a new tile on Attendance and CME with lots of resources available and good practice guidance for schools to use.

Attendance Helpline

Worcestershire Children First's school attendance helpline is open from 9-12.30 and 1-4.30 every day during term time. Please do give us a call on 01905 844 440 if we can assist with any attendance queries or questions you may have.

Refreshed, revamped SEND Local Offer

During 2023 we have been working with SEND families and colleagues to co-produce and redesign our [SEND Local Offer](#) website. We want it to be a useful space for families to help them and answer their questions. Please have a look at it and show it to your families. As you know, the Local Offer should provide information about provision families can expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have a Special Educational Need (SEN) or are disabled, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans.

We held a series of workshops with parent carers, young people, professionals who work with SEND families, along with colleagues from WCF to find out what sort of information families needed and how they wanted the site to look. Throughout the summer we worked in the background developing the new look and content.

The new site went live in November 2023, it isn't finished, but we felt it was at a point where we could make it live and then continue to add to it over the coming months.

The first thing you'll notice is the way it looks; we have used more pictures and videos so it's more inviting. The information is now organised by age group to make it easier to navigate and more useful to parents and professionals. Each age-related section has a "What's Next" page so parents can help prepare for the next stage in their young person's life.

The new site contains all the information from the old one, along with lots of new content, which families have told us they would find useful.

New content includes amongst others:

- Information to help with transitions.
- Where to go if you have concerns about your child's development.
- A 'What next' section which highlights how things might change as a child moves into the next age group, so families can be prepared.
- More information about the choices available for young people 16 and above.
- Where to go if you're not happy about something.
- Information about EHCP annual reviews, particularly the year nine review.
- Preparing for Adulthood outcomes, what they are and tools to help with planning.

Some content is replicated across all the age sections, because it's relevant no matter what the age of the child or young person, and then other information is age specific.

Work on developing the site is continuing and we're keen to hear from you about what you think about the new look, what you find useful and what else, if anything, you'd like to see. We want it to be a useful space for families to help them and answer their questions.

If you would like a walk-through of the new website, or have any feedback about the new website, please contact localoffer@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

You can visit the new site here: [SEND Local Offer](#).

Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association: Training Opportunity

Are you passionate about teaching children with dyslexia? Would you like to support and tutor at one of our wonderful, child-friendly teaching workshops? If so, HWDA have the following vacancies starting from January 2024 and would love to hear from you.

The Wendron Centre, Bromsgrove: Friday after school weekly in term-time 4:30pm - 6:45pm
Experienced tutors of Key Stage 2 Literacy Skills, English GCSE and Study Skills required.

For information please contact Katrina Kear-Wood, President HWDA at: president@hwda.org.uk

For the latest news from HWDA please read their [December 2023 newsletter](#).

Update regarding Early Years RETA Funding

Most children with SEND should have their needs met within the Schools Notional SEN funding and within SEN Support. Children with SEND will need a carefully planned transition in liaison with parent carers, early years provider and school setting to ensure that all information is shared including needs identified, provision required and what is working well. Some children with SEND may require an enhanced transition package to ensure the next setting is fully aware of needs and is supported in planning on how to meet these.

The new Early Years Inclusion Process has been designed to support the enhanced transition process in several ways:

- Supporting early identification of needs so that targeted provision can be put in place and closely monitored and reviewed over time.
- Additional support from Inclusion Support Services to provide specialist support through the graduated response. If these professionals are involved at point of transition they will be involved in the transition process.
- Ensuring that children who require an EHC needs assessment have this requested prior to transition.

With the above in place, all children's needs should have been identified prior to transition and therefore will have their needs met either within ordinarily available resources, or with additional provision outlined in an EHCP. Therefore, from Summer Term 2024 RETA funding is no longer available to settings as it is not required to support the transition process.

If you already have RETA funding in place for those children who started Reception in September 2023, extensions for Spring Term 2024 can be applied for.

There will be low incident occasions where children have not been known to services prior to starting school, and who present with complex needs. In these cases schools should follow the graduated response utilising their notional SEN budget.

Paediatric Occupational Therapy

The Paediatric Occupational Therapy service has updated [referral guidelines and criteria](#) which explains who can refer and for what reasons.

The Paediatric OT and Physiotherapy services also have a new joint referral form.

These can be found on the Children's Therapy Hub website: www.hacw.nhs.uk/paediatric-therapy

There is also a tab you can go straight to in order to refer to OT or Physiotherapy: [Make a referral into one of our children's therapy services | Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](#)

WCF Learning Support Team Update

The Dyslexia Show is taking place in Birmingham towards the end of next term. To register to visit on Friday 15th or Saturday 16th March please visit: <https://dyslexia.show/>

There are a large number of workshops throughout the two days, but these tend to get booked up quite quickly. There will also be the opportunity to look at new resources and programmes to help dyslexic learners.

As mentioned at the SENCO Network meetings, the Learning Support Team are now offering support and advice for pupils who find it difficult to concentrate and focus on their learning. We can offer advice and support to teachers with children in their class who display impulsive behaviour, have difficulty organising themselves, are easily distracted or struggle to follow instructions.

This could involve observation and/or formal assessment.

If you have a pupil in your school who is new to English but who you suspect also has a learning difficulty, the EAL team can now complete an assessment that will look at their processing speed, phonological processing, memory and underlying literacy skills without relying on language competency. A recent assessment produced feedback from the setting: *This will be invaluable to us going forward.*

If you would like to discuss this further, please email EAL@worschildrenfirst.org.uk

Positive mental wellbeing in educational settings: SEMH Route Map

We have worked with providers across Worcestershire to develop an interactive route map for educational settings that provides them with information on support and services available to promote positive wellbeing in children and young people, from Universal to Specialist. The new route map can be found on the [Inclusion in Educational Settings website](#) under 'Professionals toolkit' or by directly clicking this link: [Worcestershire Mental Health Route Map for Educational Settings.](#)

Groups, Activities and Short Breaks Provision Online Portal

On behalf of our Parent Carer Forum, Families in Partnership, can you please help promote the following short survey to help find out about families' experiences of short breaks and activities. Families in Partnership want to hear from you about your experiences booking and using Groups, Activities and Short Breaks Provision across Worcestershire for your child/young person.

The following data collection is completely anonymous, and we will feed this back to Worcestershire Children First who are developing their provision to ensure that it is easily accessible, with a variety of opportunities across the spectrum of needs. They aim to do this through a One Stop Shop Online Portal where you review and book group activities and short breaks. Some services will be available without assessments whereas others will require an assessment to identify level of support needed.

[Short breaks & activities survey](#)

[Download Families in Partnership Survey Flyer](#)

ADHD medication update from H&W Health and Care NHS Trust

As you may be aware there is currently a national shortage of some ADHD medications. This is a result of manufacturing issues and increased global demand. Current national guidance advises clinicians not to switch patients to alternative medications, which may be frustrating for many young people, their families and adults within Herefordshire and Worcestershire. We want to give assurance that steps are being taken at a national level to resolve this situation as quickly as possible and it is anticipated that stocks of most ADHD medications will return to normal by early 2024.

During this time, some young people who are without their medication may find it harder to concentrate at school. It must be remembered that medication is not the only way to treatment/manage ADHD, and children should not be excluded from accessing education on the basis of not being able to source medication. There are lots of resources available online detailing supportive behavioural techniques that can be used to help, and we kindly ask that you direct families to these resources.

- [Mind Mate](#)
- [nhs.uk - ADHD](#)
- [Choice and Medication – guidance on conditions and medication for people in Herefordshire and Worcestershire](#)
- [Young Minds](#)
- [Young Minds - ADHD guidance](#)
- [ADHD UK](#)

Unfortunately Herefordshire and Worcestershire CAMHS, and the Worcestershire Community Paediatric Service are also unable to source medication, therefore we kindly ask that families are not directed to our teams when seeking support in obtaining medication. Should this position change, we endeavour to provide a further update.

Exploring the Experiences of Culturally Deaf Parents and Hearing School Staff

Ruby Noble, a Trainee Educational Psychologist on placement with Worcestershire Children First, is exploring the experiences of culturally Deaf parents and hearing school staff of collaborating with one another for their doctoral research.

They are aiming to conduct online interviews with school staff to explore their experiences of interacting and collaborating with culturally Deaf parents (i.e. parents who are Deaf and whose preferred method of communication is British Sign Language) of children in their schools. This would take place on Microsoft Teams and would last for around one hour. The date and time would be agreed at a later point depending on the availability of those involved. The interview would be recorded using the Teams function so that it can be transcribed, but the video would be deleted once transcription is complete. The transcription would be anonymised. They would also like to interview Deaf parents individually in person or online with the support of a British Sign Language interpreter to explore their experiences.

More information on the parent and staff participation can be found in the links below:

[Parent Participation Information Video - Google Drive](#)
[Download Participate Information Sheets - Google Drive](#)

If you have any potential participants: Deaf parents whose preferred language is British Sign Language; and hearing school staff (either teaching staff or pastoral staff) who are currently working with Deaf parents in a school setting or have worked with Deaf parents in a school setting in the last five years, please get in touch with Ruby via email at rxn110@student.bham.ac.uk.

Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

Free Training for Parents/Carers & Professionals

[Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS](#) offer FREE training to local education, health and social care professionals, children, young people, and parents/ carers to increase knowledge of Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND).

SENDIASS have published new workshop dates for the new year and would appreciate your help in informing the families that you support about the following opportunities. **You can download a flyer as either a [PDF](#) or an [image](#) for you to distribute to families or share in your newsletters.**

Workshops currently available for **Parent Carers:**

- [What you need to know if your child has an additional need/ disability- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What does a good Education Health & Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? – HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Who are SENDIASS and how can they support me? Online Information Session- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Autism and Me \(developed by autistic young people\)- HW SENDIASS](#)

Workshops currently available for **Professionals**:

- [Autism & Me \(Developed by Autistic Young People\) Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Herefordshire and Worcestershire SENDIASS Online Information Session for Professionals](#)
- [Special Educational Needs \(SEN\) Support and The Graduated Response in Schools Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [What Does a Good Education Health and Care Plan \(EHCP\) look like? Workshop for Professionals- HW SENDIASS](#)
- [Parent Carer Engagement in Schools Workshop for Professionals \(Worcestershire\)- HW SENDIASS](#)

All sessions are interactive, enabling participants to ask questions.

Find dates and book online using the links above or follow [HW SENDIASS Training-Eventbrite](#).

If you have any questions about the workshops or would like to host a session at your setting, please contact SENDIASSTraining@worcestershire.gov.uk for more information.

New Service Leaflet

SENDIASS have a new leaflet explaining their service. You can find a link to download it on the [SENDIASS How We Can Help webpage](#) or alternatively download a copy from [Google Drive](#).

If you require hard copies for your setting or to distribute to families, please email sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk detailing how many copies you would like and the address of your setting.

SENDIASS Christmas Office hours

The SENDIASS adviceline will be closed from 22nd December and will reopen at 8.30am on 8th January 2024. The SENDIASS team wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Contact SENDIASS

For free, impartial information, advice and support on matters relating to children and young people who have or may have SEND, contact SENDIASS on 01905 768153 Monday-Friday 8.30am-4pm or email sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk

For regular Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) updates, sign up to the SENDIASS mailing list by clicking the sign-up link on their [SENDIASS Contact page](#) or follow them on social media:

- [Facebook-HWSENDIASS](#)
- [X-HWSENDIASS](#)
- [Instagram-HWSENDIASS](#)

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NASEN SEND CPD Units

Last week, NASEN launched four more brand new online SEND CPD units in partnership with Real Group Training.

Funded by the Department for Education as part of the Universal SEND Services programme, the new units explore the following themes:

- Understanding executive function
- Memory for learning
- Developing Maths skills
- Person centred working

They enhance the existing portfolio of 13 units which addresses aspects of Safety and Belonging, Language and Communication, SEMH, Sensory Processing and Physical Needs. The earlier releases have since been accessed by almost 12,000 professionals, with consistently positive feedback.

Life for everyone in schools and colleges is busier than ever, so NASEN have made these units as easy to access as possible by working with a range of leading specialists from the sector, condensing many years of experience and understanding into these bite-sized modules.

- Each unit takes just 20 minutes to complete
- Units give clear guidance on adaptations to teaching to help meet the needs of all learners
- There's no need to complete units in order - you can pick a choose to suit your needs
- Partially completed units can be saved, so there's no fear of 'losing' work

For anyone wanting to contextualise their learning further, NASEN offer live online discussions in the shape of our Specialist Spotlights. These often involve the specialists involved in the development of the units and are a great space in which to build on learning, to share experiences and seek advice.

[EXPLORE THE NEW UNITS](#)

[LEARN MORE ABOUT SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHTS](#)

[EXPLORE UNIVERSAL SEND SERVICES](#)

NASEN Free Webinar - The Graduated Approach and SEMH

Free access for a limited time only!

Discover the transformative world of SEND CPD on Demand with a complimentary session from nasen's advanced learning platform.

This taster webinar will consider the graduated approach in the context of social, emotional and mental health needs. The session we will cover:

- How the graduated approach works generally
- Roles and responsibilities within the graduated approach cycle
- Application of the graduated approach in the context of SEMH needs including some practical strategies for each stage of the cycle

[VIEW THE FREE SESSION](#)

FREE Early Years Training

Free Early Years DFE funded training is now accessible for practitioners within the Family Hub Network!

Embark on our 'Meeting the Needs of Every Child' training, offering Early Years practitioners, childminders, and new SENCOs a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of inclusive practice for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Early Years settings.

With a variety of flexible dates, seize the opportunity to join us throughout December 2023 and January 2024! Enhance your skills, expand your knowledge, and contribute to fostering inclusive and supportive environments for every child. Don't miss out on this enriching training opportunity!

'Meeting the Needs of Every Child' will cover the following engaging and complimentary training topics:

- Responsibilities of a setting towards children with SEND
- Role of the SENCO and the Key Person in PVI settings
- Early identification of SEND
- Effective inclusive practice strategies
- Developing positive relationships with parents and carers of children with SEND
- Access to nasen's free Early Years resources to support your journey

Before the webinar, you will receive helpful documents to aid your online training. Following the webinar, upon completing a post-webinar evaluation, you'll be issued a certificate of attendance.

Seize the chance to elevate your skills and actively contribute to meeting the diverse needs of children in your setting. Ensure your participation by registering for one of our complimentary online training sessions [here](#).

WCF Training: Power Hours focussing on the EEF 'Five-a-day' evidence-informed approaches to support all pupils, including those with SEND

SCH 10411 - Scaffolding

16/01/2024 16:00 - 17:00, Virtual Delivery

SCH 10412 - Explicit instruction

06/02/2024 16:00 - 17:00, Virtual Delivery

SCH 10413 - Flexible Groupings

20/02/2024 16:00 - 17:00, Virtual Delivery

SCH 10414 - Metacognition and self-regulation

05/03/2024 16:00 - 17:00, Virtual Delivery

SCH 10415 - Use of technology

19/03/2024 16:00 - 17:00, Virtual Delivery

Cost: £28 + VAT per person per session

Offer: If schools book a delegate to attend all of the power hour workshops then the final one will be free. The delegate does not need to be the same per workshop.

If you would like to find out more or book a place, please visit [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) and enter the course code.

WCF Autism Training

The Autism training for October 2023 to July 2024 is now available for schools to book and includes several NEW and FREE courses for this academic year. If you would like to find out more either visit [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) or download the [Schools Training Directory from our Training Website \(opens in new window\)](#)

- An introduction to Emotional Regulation for Autistic Learners
- Autism and Puberty
- Autism with Demand Avoidance caused by Anxiety
- Girls and Autism
- How to make scripts to help in social situations
- Masking and autism – **NEW AND FREE**
- Primary Schools: Creating an autism-friendly classroom - **Free**
- Secondary Schools: Creating an autism-friendly classroom – **Free**
- Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom - **NEW AND FREE**
- Using visual tools to reflect on social situations.

The Solihull Approach - Understanding your child's feelings

For parents or carers, who find themselves wanting to understand their child, and child's feelings, the FREE ['Understanding your child's feelings' course](#) can help.

This short course provides an introduction into understanding your child, their feelings and how to nurture their emotional development.

Parents can access this course for FREE by visiting [In Our Place website](#) and using the access code **PARENTSROCK**

RESOURCES

SEND Podcast

The SENDcast is a weekly podcast focusing on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

It is an effective way to keep up to date with policy changes, best practice and to improve your knowledge around SEN. The weekly podcast features a different guest or guests talking about a specific topic related to Special Educational Needs.

[Listen to SENDcast](#)

Free SEND Financial Education Resources

[NatWest MoneySense](#) is a free financial education programme for 5-18s, which offers a breadth of learning materials to support your lesson planning. MoneySense covers a wide range of topics, many of which include differentiated resources for students with SEND.

As the cost of living crisis continues, helping young people learn essential money skills is more important than ever – both for their financial and mental wellbeing. NatWest MoneySense has a selection of free and fun resources to help.

Sign up today and take the stress out of lesson planning with activities, presentations and workshops provided by MoneySense. It only takes a moment to register and start improving your students' financial education.

[Register here](#) to access the free financial education resources.

CONTACTS

SENCo Contact Details

Please ensure that we have the current email address (school/work based) for your school's SENCo/Inclusion Leader to enable them to receive ongoing communications including updates, information, Bulletins, and training opportunities.

If your SENCo/Inclusion Leader has a change of email address, please email sread@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to ensure your school's details are updated. Thank you.

****Shine a Light** - sharing effective practice**

We would like to use the SEND Bulletin as a platform to share effective inclusive practice and 'shine a light' on what is working well within Worcestershire schools and settings to improve the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Tudor Grange Academy Redditch awarded IQM Flagship Status

Congratulations to Tudor Grange Academy Redditch who have received a glowing report as part of their ongoing assessment to become an Inclusion Quality Mark school.

Inclusion Quality Mark provides schools with a nationally recognised framework to guide their inclusion journey. The IQM team help schools evaluate and measure how they are performing; empowering them to improve and grow.

IQM Flagship status recognises those unique schools who have held IQM Centre of Excellence status for at least 3 years; and played a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools.

This year Tudor Grange Redditch has looked to support schools with ASD and inclusion. Significant support has been provided to Robert Smythe Academy in Leicester who are in the process of setting up their own Autism Base. Treetops has been used as a template for their SEND unit and staff from Robert Smythe have visited Tudor Grange to see Treetops in action and to discuss and share documentation.

Tudor Grange Redditch attended the SEND Early Careers Teacher (ECT) Conference in Solihull this year and were asked to facilitate the specialist SEND group. During the conference they were able to demonstrate the QFT strategies that are used within Tudor Grange with the ASD students. Following the conference, the teachers formed a support network which meets regularly.

Tudor Grange Redditch continues to support local schools struggling to meet the needs of their students with ASD. Treetops successfully transitioned 4 students into their setting during June and July 2023 whose school places had broken down completely, ensuring these pupils were maintained within the education system, rather than needing to wait for the new academic year.

As part of the Tudor Grange Trust, Tudor Grange Redditch in Autumn 2022, hosted all the new ECT staff within their Teaching School for SEND Specialist Settings. ECTs spent a day in Tudor Grange Redditch, looking at planning, working with students in The Hive, visiting Treetops and observing the techniques and strategies employed within the school to support and manage meltdowns. Tudor Grange Redditch have also delivered sessions across the Trust about IQM and will offer to support any schools wishing to apply for the IQM Award to get the paperwork ready.

Please get in touch with Helen Pretty via email at hpretty@worcestershire.gov.uk should you wish to share a positive experience, a case study, an effective strategy or resource that has proven successful. We know that SENCOs find this peer support extremely valuable!