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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year to you all. We seem to be making fast progress through January already!

On behalf of everyone at Worcestershire Children First I would like to express our congratulations to the following who have been recognised in His Majesty The King's New Year's Honours List.

Susan Hornby, Co-Founder and Head Teacher at The Bridge School in Malvern has been awarded an MBE for services to disadvantaged children; Sarah Vaughan, Deputy Head Teacher at Perryfields Primary Pupil Referral Unit in Worcester an MBE for services to education; and Karen Humphries, Assessor and Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager at Nunnery Wood High School in Worcester a BEM for services to young people.

Well done to Susan, Sarah and Karen on your achievements.

A reminder that the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, will be holding her first live online session on Tuesday 16th January at 4pm. At the session she will provide an update on her focus for the coming term as well as hear from you on your priorities and answer questions on a range of topics. If you are able, please do [sign up to attend](#).

[UK Youth Parliament's Make Your Mark 2024 \(youtube.com\)](#) gives all young people aged 11-18 in the UK the chance to have a say on the biggest issues facing young people. Registration for Make Your Mark 2024 is now closed with voting set to take place from Monday 29th January to Friday 8th March 2024. If you haven't registered but would still like to take part, our Youth Voice Team can arrange a visit/assembly and bring everything you need to host a paper ballot including a presentation to students. To arrange a paper ballot, please email: youthvoiceteam@worschildrenfirst.org.uk.

And finally the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust are looking for new members for their Youth Board. By becoming a member of the Youth Board, students will have an opportunity to help shape the way in which NHS services are delivered and provide a forum to share insights and views. If you have any pupils aged 14 and over who are interested in health and wellbeing, please share the following [promotional poster and screensaver](#) which include more information including details how they can sign up.

Wishing you all the best for the Spring Term.

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Latest education news and updates

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts – National Attendance Campaign

During the spring term government are running a national school attendance campaign to promote ‘moments matter, attendance counts’.

A [new toolkit](#) with more details of the campaign and resources can be used by schools to support a warm welcome for children, young people and families. This is in addition to existing resources including [guidance on mild illness](#), [a letter from the Chief Medical Officer](#), [support for children who are anxious about school](#), and a [toolkit to help schools communicate with families on attendance](#).

The DfE have also committed to introducing legislation in the coming months that will mean all schools will be required to share their daily pupil attendance data. The DfE are encouraging schools that haven’t yet signed up to join the 88% of schools nationally that are already [sharing daily attendance data](#) and accessing the Monitor Your School Attendance tool, via the [‘View your education data’](#) service. This service enables schools to view up-to-date pupil level attendance data and comparisons.

Attendance Hubs

Schools are invited to register if they have an interest in being supported by a school attendance hub, led by senior leaders in schools with strong attendance practice from around the country. Hubs will share their successful strategies and resources for improving attendance and aim to support other schools to improve their approach to managing attendance.

Primary and secondary school leaders can register an interest in joining an attendance hub by completing this [application form](#) by **15th January 2024**.

You can [find out more about attendance hubs here](#).

Children Who Cannot Attend School (CCAS)

The [CCAS webpage](#) is now live and can be accessed by clicking the Children Who Cannot Attend School button on the [Inclusion In Educational Settings](#) pages of the WCF website.

The CCAS webpage links to relevant documents including Worcestershire’s CCAS Policy Statement, which is a concise version of the CCAS Guide & Terms of Reference document which has been circulated to schools.

Guidance for settings following the death of a child or staff member

This guidance has been updated with input from Public Health and Health colleagues. It contains procedural guidance and information about support services that can be accessed in the unfortunate event of the death of a child or staff member. This guidance should be used to inform settings' emergency responses procedures.

[Download guidance for settings following the death of a child or staff member](#)

Child Employment: The Facts

We have identified a need to raise awareness on the basics of child employment and have prepared the following do's and the don'ts. We would appreciate it if you can kindly share this information with staff in your setting.

- **No child may be employed without a permit issued by the local authority in whose area they are working.** If the employer does not obtain a permit, they are committing an offence in law. There is no fee for the permit.
- A child requires a permit for any part-time employment until they cease to be of compulsory school age (on the last Friday in June of the school year in which they turn 16). The minimum age of employment is 13.
- This includes work in a family business, or unpaid assistance in a trade or occupation which is carried on for profit, as well as paid employment. It does not include "work experience" arranged by a child's school as part of their education.
- The employment of children in Worcestershire is governed by local Byelaws which place restrictions on the type of work a child may do; and by Working Time Regulations which restrict the hours when they may do that work.
- Any person who wishes to employ a child is required to make an application for a permit, by completing and submitting an application form, within one week of the commencement of the child's employment.
- No child may be employed before 7.00am or after 7.00pm; this applies at all times of the year.
- During term time a child may be employed for up to 12 hours in any one week, but not more than 2 hours (which may include one hour in the morning between 7.00am and 8.00am) on any single school day. A child may work longer hours during school holidays subject to the Working Time Regulations.
- A child may only be employed in light work which is not likely to be harmful to their health, safety or development, or their ability to take full advantage of their education.

- **Permitted** categories of employment **include**:
 - Newspaper delivery (but a child cannot collect money);
 - Shop assistant;
 - Waiting on or washing up in a cafe/restaurant (subject to certain conditions);
 - Shampooing, sweeping up and other light duties in a hairdressers;
 - Office clerical work.

- **Prohibited** categories of employment for a child **include**:
 - Commercial kitchen (e.g. fish and chip shop, cooking area of cafe/restaurant);
 - Preparation of food (including butchery);
 - Industrial undertaking (e.g. factory, garage, warehouse);
 - Personal care (residential or nursing home);
 - Entertainment premises (although a child may take part in a performance under separate legislation).

The above lists are not exhaustive: a fuller description can be found in the Worcestershire County Council Byelaws, which, along with the Working Time Regulations and employment permit application form, are available to download from our website:

[Children in employment and entertainment | Worcestershire County Council](#)

For any queries about the employment of children in Worcestershire, please contact Ben Westwood, Child Employment & Entertainment Officer via email on bwestwood@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk or call 01905 844361.

JOURNEYING FORWARD: Headship Coaching Offer from University of Worcester

This programme is available if you are within the first 5 years of headship and offers a safe, supportive environment to explore your leadership journey alongside experienced facilitators. The programme will consist of:

- 4 X Collaborative Leadership Meets - facilitated face to face.
- Access to research, leadership tools and strategies.
- Optional-Group Coaching Circles- online.
- Optional reciprocal visits to settings involved.

1st Meeting: 10am-2pm on 31 January 2024 at St John's Campus, Worcester
Dates for the following 3 meetings will be confirmed shortly after the first one.

For more information including details how to sign up for the offer, please download the [Journeying Forward programme flyer](#).

Cyber Security Briefings

The Regional Cyber Crime Unit for the West Midlands are delivering Cyber Choices Briefings for adults working with young people. The topics will include:

- The makeup of the Regional Cyber Crime Unit / Team Cyber UK and the various staff roles.
- All sections of the Computer Misuse Act with examples of how this sits within the Law.
- Explain the difference between legal and illegal cyber activity.
- The referral mechanism and how adults can refer into the team for one-to-one support of a young person.
- How they promote legal and ethical cyber opportunities.

You are welcome to invite the relevant staff from your school/college to join the following briefing in January using the link below:

Wednesday 31st January 2024, 3pm – 4.30pm

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 364 448 129 056

Passcode: mLcufD

Early Years Inclusion Process

Have you visited the [Early Years Inclusion Process webpage](#)? The webpage contains information regarding the process and includes frequently asked questions (FAQs).

I submitted a notification for a child, and I did not receive the intended outcome?

Have you submitted a notification to the Early Years Inclusion Process where you have not received the intended outcome? In some cases, the Early Years Inclusion Process may have discharged a child earlier than expected. If this is the case, please re-submit the [Health / Provider Notification Form](#) including additional information in the 'Child's Voice' section.

If you have any questions regarding the Early Years Inclusion Process, please contact us via email at eynotification@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk and include your name, email address and telephone number along with your query and we will get back to you.

Early Years Inclusion Supplement Funding

The Early Years Inclusion Funding Supplement deadline for any new children for Spring Term 2023/24 applications is Friday 19th January 2024. All Inclusion Supplement Applications are online and can be found at: [Online inclusion funding application process | Worcestershire County Council](#)

This funding is applied for once an academic year. Payments received begin the term which you have applied for, and will continue for subsequent terms, until the end of that same academic year. Payments will be received at the end of each term, in line with your NEF payments for each term, and will be shown on your NEF statements.

Criteria is available in the 'Inclusion Funding Criteria' at:

[Online inclusion funding application process | Worcestershire County Council](#)

The providers must:

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

Exceptional Funding

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

Any questions regarding Inclusion funding, please contact eyinclusion@wocrschildrenfirst.org.uk and provide your name, email address and telephone number for us to answer your queries.

Latest news and updates from Teaching Hubs

Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

NPQ in Leading Primary Mathematics (NPQLPM)

We are excited to announce that, in partnership with Teach First, Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub are offering the [National Professional Qualification for Leading Primary Maths](#)

Applications are open until the 2 February 2024.

[Find out more information on the NPQ for Leading Primary Mathematics](#)

[Register for a national professional qualification \(NPQ\)](#)

NPQ in Leading Primary Mathematics (NPQLPM)

Become an expert in developing mathematics in your school.

Begin your application by registering with the DfE below.

- ✓ Develop as a specialist in your role.
- ✓ Gain the skills for successful leadership.
- ✓ Learn to support colleagues effectively.
- ✓ Get free one-to-one support and coaching.
- ✓ Join a passionate network striving for educational equality.
- ✓ Access DfE scholarship funding (available to all state school teachers and leaders).



National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) - Spring 2024 Cohort

Registration for our Spring 2024 cohort is now open, with the deadline for applications being 5 February 2024.

We are delighted to offer the following courses: NPQ for Executive Leadership, NPQ for Headship, NPQ for Senior Leadership.

We will also be offering the following courses through our Shires Partner Hub: NPQ for Leading Teaching, NPQ for Leading Behaviour and Culture and NPQ for Leading Teacher Development.

[Apply for an NPQ](#)

Places are limited for these NPQs, so please apply soon to avoid disappointment.

Funding

Funding for NPQs is only confirmed for the 2023-24 cohorts. The DfE are yet to share funding models from Autumn 2024 onwards.

You may be eligible for additional targeted support funding to release staff for NPQ sessions for the 2023-24 cohorts. [Find out if you are eligible for NPQ funding.](#)

Maximising the Impact of CPD

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

What is covered?

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

Who is it for?

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

How will it run?

- We plan to offer online and face to face options

When will it run?

- We will run this session several times throughout the year
- The online session is scheduled for Friday 2nd February or Friday 12th April
- The face-to-face session is scheduled for Monday 26th February or Friday 21st June. The cost is £10 per delegate for this face-to-face workshop
- Please indicate on the form when you would prefer to attend

[Express an interest in attending the Maximising the Impact of CPD workshop.](#)

Latest health news and updates

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccinations

Can you please share the following important message with your parents and carers

An increasing number of measles cases are continuing to be seen across the country. While Worcestershire has one of the best rates for uptake, some children who haven't had their MMR could be at risk of getting this serious illness.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are given to make sure we have the best protection from measles. The first dose is given at 12 months of age and the second dose is given at three years and four months, before starting school. For anybody who did not receive the full vaccination course, your own GP will be able to provide a catch up MMR vaccination.

The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective combined vaccine that protects against three serious illnesses: Measles, Mumps and Rubella.

Overall, Worcestershire has an excellent uptake of the MMR vaccine; for 5 year olds, the county shows as having an uptake of 96.4% (1 dose) and 91.3% (2 doses). The 1 dose figure is joint highest in the West Midlands region and the 2 dose uptake is the outright highest in the region.

Having the vaccine protects not only the child but also reduces the spread of the disease. This relies on as many people as possible being vaccinated and is why Public Health experts in the county are keen to continue to encourage all children to be vaccinated.

Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes. It usually starts with cold-like symptoms which can include a high temperature, a runny or blocked nose, sneezing, a cough, sore red eyes and a rash. It spreads very quickly to non-immune children and adults who are unvaccinated or have not previously been infected.

If anyone has symptoms of measles, please stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. Do not go to GP surgeries or A & E departments so the illness isn't spread to others.

For more information on measles and the MMR vaccine please visit: [Measles - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

The Solihull Approach - Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing

If you're interested or worried about your child's mental health and wellbeing, then this course is for you. Parents/ carers can learn more about the importance relationships in your child's life to help shape their mental health and wellbeing, and teaching them important emotional skills they will use throughout life.

Parents/ carers can take this short course to help you to connect with your child and provide the best support to nurture confidence, resilience and empathy, setting them up to thrive, the FREE ['Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing' 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

New Toolkit for Targeted Mental Health Support in Schools and Colleges

FAO: Pastoral Leads, SENCOs

[Anna Freud Mentally Healthy Schools](#) has produced a new interactive library of targeted support options that schools and colleges might offer. It is designed to help you to identify forms of evidence-based targeted support to meet the needs of your students that other schools and/or colleges have demonstrated can be effective. The tool outlines forms of targeted support and associated evidence using the most recent evidence reviews published by NICE. [Targeted support: Mentally Healthy Schools](#) guide and toolkit can be used as part of your whole school approach to mental health.

The toolkit provides:

- A guide to help schools and colleges develop effective targeted mental wellbeing support. This includes topics such as:
 - Understanding your setting
 - Identifying appropriate targeted support
 - Introducing targeted mental wellbeing support
 - Evaluating, sustaining and adapting targeted support
- A targeted support tool:
 - Includes filterable evidence-based tools by relevant categories (e.g., educational phase, age, outcomes, delivery method).

The toolkit is well worth exploring to support the work you are delivering in school.

Workplace Health Programme

With New Year resolutions still at the front of our minds, now might be the time to find out about the new workplace health programme '**Work Well Live Better**' commissioned by Worcestershire County Council Public Health.

The key focus is to support workplaces across Worcestershire to improve the health and wellbeing of their employees by taking a preventative approach.

Please click on the link below to watch the promotional video to find out more about the new programme and how to join the Work Well Live Better Network.

[Worcestershire Work Well Live Better Programme \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Being part of the Workplace Wellbeing Network gives access to valuable resources, including training, events, and peer support. This will enable schools and colleges to take meaningful steps towards improving employee health and wellbeing, whilst showcasing their commitment.

The resources available will help:

- Support employees with tangible actions and encouraging positive steps towards improving health and wellbeing.
- Effectively, empathetically, and fairly support those returning to work after a period of absence with the latest advice and guidance on how to navigate this transition.
- Highlight your reputation as a school or college who looks after their people.

The benefits of being part of the network are:

- Access to a workplace health needs assessment to identify your needs and what support and resources are available to meet these needs.
- Access to high impact and accredited resources to use straight away.
- Invites to an exclusive events calendar, which will be full of relevant topics, have exclusive speakers which are experts in their fields, and the opportunity to network.

Next Steps:

- Visit www.workwelllivebetter.co.uk to have a look around the website.
- If your school or college wishes to join the network, please contact Optima via this email: workwelllivebetter@optima-uk.com for additional instructions on how to become a member.

Latest Government News and Updates

Consultation on Gender Questioning Children guidance

On 19th December 2023, the Department for Education [published non-statutory guidance](#) for schools and colleges on how best to support pupils questioning their gender in schools and colleges.

The focus of this is to provide practical advice for schools and colleges to help them make decisions regarding children who are questioning their gender, in a way that prioritises safeguarding, and parents' central role in their children's lives.

This is draft guidance for consultation and so they would like to encourage schools, colleges, parents and the sector to engage with the consultation process, which will run for 12 weeks until 12th March 2024.

For further information please visit gov.uk for the [press notice](#) and [full draft guidance and consultation](#).

Consultation on the Advanced British Standard qualification framework

On 14th December 2023 the Department for Education launched a consultation to shape the development of the new Advanced British Standard (ABS) qualification framework for 16 to 19-year-olds.

The ABS will build upon the best elements of A levels and T Levels, forming a new single qualification framework. Students will study maths and English until age 18 and have the chance to study a broader range of subjects set within a new Baccalaureate style qualification framework.

They are seeking a wide range of views to help shape the design and implementation of the ABS qualification framework.

[Respond to the consultation](#) by 20th March 2024.

New British Sign Language GCSE heading for classrooms

Pupils across the country will soon be able to take the British Sign Language (BSL) GCSE as the [subject content](#) was published on Thursday 21st December, providing pupils with an important life skill and advancing inclusivity within education.

With the aim to have exam board syllabuses approved from September 2025, the BSL GCSE will teach students to effectively communicate using BSL and provide an understanding of the history of BSL in the UK.

[Read announcement from DfE on new British Sign Language GCSE in full](#)

Latest Training News and Conferences

Training Directory

To support Schools and Settings across Worcestershire we have a number of training directories available. Each provide a quick and easy way to see what is available, delivered by various teams within WCF, to help plan your team's training needs. Training Directories are updated regularly to reflect course changes, and are organised as follows:

- Early Years: covering those working within 0 to 5 years predominantly in the EYFS sector
- Governor Services: training to support governing boards
- Safeguarding: Specifically the safeguarding offer to schools
- Schools: covering reception onwards
- Worcestershire Virtual Schools

Training Directories can be found on the main [Education Services website \(opens in new window\)](#)

Don't forget if there are any courses listed that you would prefer to have delivered "in-house" to all of your team then get in touch with the training team by calling 01905 844 420 / workforcesupport@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk to discuss.

Join our mailing list

To keep up to date with the latest courses and events offered by the Early Years team or wider services within Worcestershire Children First, then why not join our mailing list.

To join use this link <https://newzapp.co.uk/clients/forms/wcf/> - enter your details and select your preferred categories.

Once you have successfully signed up you will begin to receive marketing emails relevant to your interests on the latest training, conferences, education services and news.

At any point you can update your preferences or unsubscribe.

TIAAS Network Meeting

Our first TIAAS network meeting is an opportunity to come together, share what's working well and co-construct the Worcestershire TIAAS (Trauma Informed Attachment Aware settings) Pathway.

Open to all schools / settings regardless of whether or not they attended the Introduction to Worcestershire TIAAS Pathway.

- Cost: Free and a maximum of two delegates per school / setting
- 28th February 2024, 3.45pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10444 / 84199
- Book via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your school CPD Leader login details

What is going on in the World of EAL

A 90-minute session to support staff working in schools / nurseries that support children with EAL (English as an additional language). The session will be comprised of three parts - training, updates and sharing of good practice.

- Cost: £21.50 + VAT
- 11th March 2024, 3pm to 4.30pm, Worcester, course code: SCH 10449 / 84272
- Book via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your school CPD Leader login details

Supporting children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing in the classroom

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

During the 90 minutes, we will be looking at everyday practical strategies, that can be easily implemented and used, to help not only those children who dysregulate, but all children in the classroom. The strategies will help adults to support those children who require a different approach, in order to make their school day more successful and a positive experience. It is important that children are emotionally regulated and understand their emotions, which in turn will not only positively impact their educational experience but will also help support a productive classroom environment.

- Cost: £27.50 + VAT
- 5th March 2024, 4pm to 5.30pm, Worcester, course code: 10350 / 81579
- Book via [CPD \(opens in new window\)](#) using your school CPD Leader login details

EEF Billesley Research School CPD opportunity: *Developing Effective Learning Behaviours*

Aimed at Senior leaders in Primary, Middle & Secondary Schools, course delegates will:

- Develop a deep understanding of the best evidence available around learning behaviours
- Be provided with the tools and processes to explore their school culture and practices long-term protective factors for deeper learning
- Be provided with guidance on effective implementation and opportunities to plan for positive and sustained change
- Explore real life case studies, supporting tools and share practical advice and good practice
- Consider the dynamic process and reciprocal influences needed to change a learning

Day 1: Social and Emotional Learning - 29th January 2024

Day 2: Behaviour - 15th March 2024

Day 3: Metacognition - 18th June 2024

More information including details how to book are available in the [course flyer](#).

New Leadership Opportunity exploring capacity, culture and conditions for change

The ***New Capabilities for a New World programme***, in partnership with the University of Worcester, is designed to support school leaders develop and become more conscious of their leadership capacity, create conditions to lead change in the area of inclusion in their schools, and to work collaboratively across the wider school system. It emerged from a 12 month programme supported by GMCA, the Careers and Enterprise Company, Ashoka and Edge Foundation that asked: how do I develop the capabilities to lead through complexity and change?

This is a 10 month leadership development programme commencing in March 2024. The programme is open to Headteachers or teams of 2 comprising a Principal and Senior Leader. It is open to all sectors. Places are limited.

- Your commitment is to attend 6 x 3 hour sessions (face-to-face) with additional time to review and evolve your whole school strategy for inclusion

The Programme will:

- Establish a collaborative innovation group that shares existing practice and explores new strategy for inclusion in participants' settings
- Intentionally develop your own leadership in this area through reflection and collaboration
- Use emerging learning and practice to support WCF and external partners leverage change at a system level

Intended Audience: Headteachers and SLT who can leverage change within their organisation

Interested in finding out more?

We will be holding an on-line briefing on: **Wednesday 17th January 4-5pm** to provide an overview of the programme. Please do email **Lisa Bradbury** lbradbury@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk if you wish to sign up or have any questions.

Finding my Voice

We will be hosting a webinar on January 29th 4-5pm to showcase **Finding My Voice** – a new, high impact personal development and oracy approach for children and young people supporting their ability to self-advocate - in person and on-line. It provides a whole school approach with powerful curriculum resources and teaching strategies that support young people to be fully invested in their education.

Finding My Voice, developed and tested by Rachel Higginson, has been of particular benefit for children and young people at transition points and those on the margins.

To book on the webinar please contact Lisa Bradbury: LBradbury@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk

Latest Funding News

Ormiston Trust Launches New Round of YSA Funding for Schools

The Ormiston Trust, a registered charity, supports schools and organisations that enrich young people's and families' educational experiences across England.

The Trust is now opening a new grant round for schools and academies to embed high-quality Youth Social Action (YSA) at scale. This follows a successful Ormiston Trust campaign over the last five years which has engaged over 150 schools and 10,000 students in YSA.

The funding is for schools in England to engage students at scale in delivery of a five-step youth social action model: Inspire, Explore, Plan, Act and Reflect.

Mainstream secondary and primary schools or academies in England may apply for grants of up to £5,000 to scale up or startup YSA in educational settings. The funding is tied to the number of students who will be directly and fully part of driving the YSA process. Grants will thus range from £1,250 to a maximum of £5,000.

Applications will not be accepted from:

- Institutions that have received funding from The Ormiston Trust in the last two years.
- Those with existing or potential funding of over £500 from another #iwill campaign social action funder.
- Schools outside of England.
- Independent schools.
- Businesses.
- Voluntary, community or charitable organisations.

In addition, the following are also excluded from applying to the current round (the Trust is currently considering a separate grant round for these institutions):

- Special schools or Alternative Provision.
- A multi-academy trust (MAT) applying on behalf of a group of schools.
- Sixth form colleges.

The Trust will hold an online information session on 15 January 2024 (16:30 to 17:30) and 1 February 2024 (12:30 to 13:30). Please email samiaakram@ormistontrust.co.uk to register for this. (Please note a recorded session and presentation can be requested if you are unable to attend the session).

The grant application window opened on 4th January 2024 and closes on 22nd February 2024.

For more information please download [YSA Grants Programme Guidelines](#) or visit the [Ormiston Trust website](#).

Other local news and events

Worcestershire Reducing Parental Conflict Service

Please share the following information with your colleagues and teams.

We just wanted to remind you about referring to the Worcestershire Reducing Parental Conflict Service which is available to all parents/carers living across Worcestershire. This is a 4-to-6-week programme for BOTH parents who have already completed the Harmony at Home tools with a practitioner, AND whose relationship remains in conflict AND who wish for more specialist intervention. Parents can be living apart or together and the work focusses on the relationship between the parents, recognising their relationship is in conflict, how to resolve it and the impact on their children.

RPC criteria for referral for specialist service

- the family must have meaningfully engaged in an intervention prior to the referral for at least 4 weeks
- both parents must agree to the referral
- the family must reside in Worcestershire.
- the child(ren) of the parents must be under the age 18 or (25 if have SEND)
- the relationship must have been identified as currently in conflict and not Domestic Abuse with no domestic abuse within the last 12 months.
- the referrer must be able to continue to support the family whilst the specialist intervention takes place through learning shared by the specialist service to the referrer.
- this will be through professional case discussions, which will take place whilst the specialist intervention is taking place
- the referrer should support the family to engage meaningfully with the specialist intervention.

Four bespoke sessions are offered to parents, these are ideally completed together either in the home; community venue; Family Hub; School or virtually. Where necessary we will identify further avenues for support, to-date this has included: Supporting parents/carers with a Barnardo's Cost of Living grant to offset spiralling utility bills; referring to further parenting support; and sharing information about wider support within the local community.

To refer a family, please access this link: [Reducing Parental Conflict Targeted Requests \(worcestershirechildrenfirst.org.uk\)](https://worcestershirechildrenfirst.org.uk)

We would also like to share some positive feedback that parents have given on the Service:

- "Thank you for the information today. The magic ratio is on the fridge ready."
- "Information was all useful, it's just really difficult. We will keep trying."
- "This has been 5 stars. You have made us both stop and think. It's easier to discuss how we talk to each other with you in the room. Thank you."
- "Because you are sat here in the middle of us you've given us both the confidence to talk. We now understand it's ok to have arguments but we need to resolve them and talk about what's happened. It's really important for the girls to see us talking about things we disagree on. Thank you."

Support for families in Worcestershire

Cost of Living Support

Cost of living support and advice is available for Worcestershire families this winter. For more information and to find out what local support is available, please visit:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/costofliving

[Download Cost of Living Advice and Support Leaflet](#)

Household Support Fund

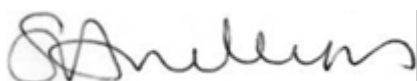
Eligible families across Worcestershire can apply for support with food, energy and wider essentials through the Household Support fund this winter. The current round of funding, provided by the Department of Work and Pensions, is available until the end of March 2024.

To find out more about the local support available, please visit:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

[Download Household Support Fund Information Leaflet](#)

Best wishes,



Sarah Wilkins

Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Place Planning

