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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all having a good week.

With the warm weather expected to continue into early next week, we'd like to remind you of the [top tips for working in hot conditions](#) that were previously shared by our colleagues in the Health & Safety Team.

On Wednesday (25th June), the [Department for Education published its latest information and actions for councils, academies, schools, colleges and further education providers](#). The update includes information on the universal infant free school meals conditions of grant for 2025-26 – the allocations will apply the updated per meal rate of £2.61.

The government is taking steps to strengthen recognition of the school workforce by establishing the School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB) – a dedicated platform for negotiating pay and conditions for support staff. A consultation launched on 11th June seeks views on which staff the SSSNB should cover. The consultation closes on 18th July. For more information visit: [Setting up the School Support Staff Negotiating Body \(SSSNB\) - GOV.UK](#).

Our colleagues in Public Health have produced a comprehensive information pack for education settings to provide information and resources for health protection risks which can occur over the summer months. [Download Summer Health Protection Information Pack](#).

And finally, we're pleased to share details of several upcoming conferences taking place this autumn, designed to support school leaders, staff, and governors across a range of key priorities. These events offer valuable opportunities for professional development, collaboration, and inspiration. Download our [autumn conference flyer](#) for more information.

Wishing you all the best.

Contents

Latest Education News and Updates	3
School Transition	3
School Leavers	4
HAF Summer booking system now open	4
CATCH: Children and Trauma Community Hub	5
Family Fun and Support Worcestershire	6
Health and Safety Webinar for Schools	7
Getting the Most from Evolve+	7
Help improve websites for children, young people and families	8
Latest SEND News and Updates	9
Update on Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)	9
Updated on the SEND and AP Change Programme	9
Latest Council News and Updates	10
Children's Social Care Reform – 'Families First for Children'	10
Latest Public Health News and Updates	13
Mental Health Policy template for schools.....	13
New Guidance: Management of Asthma in Schools.....	13
Help your pupils build confidence over the summer holidays!	14
Latest News from Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub.....	15
Essential Information for ECT and Mentor Registration	15
Latest Local News and Updates.....	16
Help to keep your pupils reading this summer!.....	16

Latest Education News and Updates

School Transition

Starting at a new school can be an exciting but challenging time for children, parent/carers and schools alike. In ensuring smooth and successful transitions, schools are reminded of the following good practice and legal requirements:

- If a parent accepts an offer with the school place allocated, the child/young person must be placed on the expected admissions and attendance register.
- Schools are required to put on roll by the first day of term and follow non-attendance processes if the child/young person fails to attend.
- If a parent wishes to reject the offer, an alternative education must be confirmed and in place before a rejection is accepted. The Admissions team will support this process. If an alternative education cannot be confirmed, the original allocated place at the school remains, and the child/young person must be placed on the expected registers.
- Schools are required to put on roll by the first day of term and follow non-attendance processes if the child/young person fails to attend.
- If a parent neither accepts or declines the offer, a school place is allocated, and the child/young person is placed on the expected list.
- Schools are required to put on roll by the first day of term and follow non-attendance processes if the child/young person fails to attend.
- If, in specific circumstances, a child is not going to be able to attend the allocated school place, and parents cannot provide an alternative education option:
 - The Allocated School is expected to engage with the parents to establish the reasons, encourage and support with attendance elsewhere, update the Admissions team and advise the parents to do the same. Schools can also advise the CME team at cme@worcestershire.gov.uk.
 - The LA Admissions team will discuss alternative education options with the parents and will remind them of their parental responsibilities under the Education Act as well as the risk and consequences of becoming CME. Parents and schools will also be advised that unless an alternative education is identified a place can still be allocated at the school offered. In such circumstances the Admissions team will liaise with the CME team, who will monitor attendance/admissions in the new academic year and action as appropriate.

School Leavers

As we approach the end of the academic year, many children will be making the phased transition to Middle or High school. Schools should not normally need to notify WCC of these children. However, in certain cases schools are requested to submit a Leavers Form if they are aware of any child who is due to make a statutory transition at the end of the academic year but:

- does not have an agreed destination,
- is leaving the county/country,
- is moving to the independent sector,
- parents have chosen to Electively Home Educate (EHE).

Additionally, if you are a school expecting a new child to start with you in September who does not attend, you are legally required to make all reasonable enquiries to confirm their whereabouts and safety. Schools are required to follow their usual non-attendance processes to engage with parent/carers to ascertain the reasons for absence, and to offer support to overcome any barriers preventing engagement. On occasion where you are advised the child or young person is no longer due to attend your school, or you are unable to make the required contact despite extensive efforts to do so, please inform the CME team via cme@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Please note: It remains an ongoing statutory requirement that all schools are expected to advise the LA of any in-year leavers, selecting a legal reason for removing from roll via the Children's Services Portal. This is the expected method of notifying the local authority of school leavers and should always be completed even if another service/team in the authority has also been advised.

HAF Summer booking system now open

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Summer 2025 booking system is now open. Please find below the key information for sharing with families in your school community.

Information for families: HAF Summer bookings now open

The HAF Summer Programme will run from 22nd July to 29th August, offering an exciting range of free activities for eligible children and young people across Worcestershire. Whether your child enjoys sports camps, performing arts, theatre workshops, day trips, youth groups, team challenges, or circus skills, there are lots of activities running throughout Worcestershire this summer.

You can download the [HAF Summer What's On Guide](#) for a full list of activities. Please note, activity listings may be updated – for the latest information, [check the HAF website](#) or follow [HAF on Facebook](#) for regular updates.

You must be registered to access the booking site. Please [click on the registration link to sign up](#) (verification checks can take up to 4 working days, so it is recommended to register as soon as possible). Once your account has been verified, you will receive login details via email and can then view the activities available and book up to 16 activity sessions per child.

CATCH: Children and Trauma Community Hub

Worcestershire Virtual School are offering a fully funded annual subscription to [CATCH: Children and Trauma Community Hub](#). This online support platform provides high-quality tools and e-learning courses to support children who have experienced early life trauma and are now under an Adoption, Special Guardianship Order, or Child Arrangements Order. The resources available for educators include:

- **Education toolkit for schools**
- **Trauma in the curriculum**
- **Trauma and attachment in the classroom**
- **E-Learning courses:**
 - Attachment for education professionals covering:
 - Secure attachment
 - Insecure attachments
 - The impact of trauma
 - Shame
 - Empathy
 - Supporting behaviour changes from an attachment-based perspective.
 - Behaviour interventions
 - Goodbyes and transitions
 - Primary school: The importance of play
 - Trauma Informed Pedagogies
 - Introduction to Trauma Informed Pedagogies
 - Introduction to Polyvagal Theory
 - Trauma and Attachment Informed Educational Practices
 - Retributive and Restoration Behavioural Approaches
 - Neuropsychology and Executive Functioning
 - Neurodiversity and Inclusion
 - Trauma Informed Roles
 - The Role of Play
 - Applying Trauma informed Practice – Roles, Environment & Curriculum
 - Trauma Informed & Responsive Systems
- Upcoming webinars include:
 - Introduction to Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance (EBSNA) - neurodiversity based
 - Introduction to EBSNA - attachment and trauma based
 - Introduction to EBSNA - emotional/anxiety based
 - How schools can support children with EBSNA

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please email Jade Busby (Previously Looked After Children Advisor): jbusby@worcestershire.gov.uk

Family Fun and Support Worcestershire

Action: Please share widely with your parents in advance of the summer holidays

The What's on for families has been updated to include loads of activities over the summer in Worcestershire (with lots of free events too!)

Family Fun and Support Worcestershire is a large directory of activities, events and sessions for families with children aged 0-16 years as well as support and classes for expectant parents.

Please click on the leaflet below to find out more, visit the website and follow the Facebook page.

[Family Fun and Support Website](#)

[Facebook - familyfunandsupportworcestershire](#)



Family Fun & Support Worcestershire

SUMMER HOLS *Sorted!*

FIND **WHAT'S ON** IN WORCESTERSHIRE!

U5's	5-16yrs	Whole Family!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FREE events• Stay & Play• Messy & Sensory Play• Outdoor Play• And more....	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FREE events• Outdoor activities• Arts, Sports & Music• Teen socials & classes• And more....	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FREE events• Family Fun days• Family shows• Family Festivals• And more...

familyfunandsupport.com

Supported by **worcestershire** county council

BEST START WORCESTERSHIRE

Health and Safety Webinar for Schools

The WCC Health and Safety Team are holding an online Health and Safety Webinar for Schools on Monday 30th June from 10am to 11.30am. The link for the Webinar is as follows:

[Health and Safety Webinar for Schools](#)

This online H&S Webinar for Schools is open for all Heads/SLTs/Site Managers and Health and Safety Governors to attend, and we will be covering the following topics:

Slips/trips and falls - We have the UK expert on slip safety attending the webinar

Lessons learnt from insurance claims

Utilising psychology to positively influence health and safety that can help to provide the highest standards of education - we have the U.K.'s expert on Behavioural Science and Performance

Psychology attending

We do hope you can join us on this webinar.

Getting the Most from Evolve+

As part of the EVOLVE Partner Programme, our schools have access to enhanced visit management tools through EVOLVE+. To help everyone make the most of this opportunity, two webinars are being offered: one for current EVOLVE+ users and one for schools not currently using EVOLVE+.

EVOLVE+ Refresher Training

This 30-minute EVOLVE+ Refresher Training webinar will help you to get the most from the enhanced system. The session is being delivered on the following dates:

[Tuesday 8th July at 9.30am](#)

[Wednesday 9th July at 3.30pm](#)

Please click on the above links to register your place on the webinar.

An Introduction to EVOLVE+ Benefits

You are invited to attend an EVOLVE+ webinar where the benefits of upgrading and the additional features you would have access to will be fully explained. You'll discover how EVOLVE+ streamlines multiple processes, enhances communication, improves monitoring, and saves time and money. The session is being delivered on the following dates:

[Wednesday 9th July at 9.30am](#)

[Thursday 10th July at 3.30pm](#)

Please click on the above links to register your place on the webinar.

Help improve websites for children, young people and families

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust are asking children, young people, parents, carers, and professionals to share their feedback on our websites.

- www.hacw.nhs.uk
- www.camhs.hacw.nhs.uk

They want to understand:

- How you find out about their services
- How you access support
- What information and content you would like to see more of

Your feedback will help make their website more useful and accessible to the young people and families they support.

Have your say by completing their survey: [Survey for NHS Children, Young People, Families Website](#)

To help promote the survey you can download a selection of posters and social media assets from our [Google Drive](#).

Latest SEND News and Updates

Update on Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

In May, Worcestershire County Council, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum representatives launched Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) in Worcestershire.

PINS is a national programme for 2025/26 which aims to work in partnership with primary schools, parent carer forums and local services to develop inclusive provision and improving learning environments to better meet the needs of all pupils and improve outcomes for children with neurodiverse needs.

First, Primary and Middle schools were invited to make an expression of interest, and we can confirm that we have made offers to 35 schools across the Local Authority. The full list will be published on the SEND Local Offer website in due course.

We're looking forward to an exciting fast paced few months working in partnership with schools and their parent carers delivering a core and bespoke package of neurodiversity training and parent carer coproduction events.

Updated on the SEND and AP Change Programme

The DfE has confirmed that there will be an extension of the Change Programme until March 2026. We are currently working with DfE to understand the new areas that we are being asked to test and how we can continue to implement and embed strategies to support and promote Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision and a 3-tier model of Alternative Provision. We look forward to sharing more detail with school leaders at Headteacher's briefing and through other forthcoming events.

Through Phase 2 of the programme, we began working with the University of Worcester to develop inclusive provision through change making leadership. The DfE are looking to us for practice-based evidence to develop the inclusive provision approach across Local Authorities. 40 school leaders are on a leadership programme that will enable a clear vision for Worcestershire about ordinarily available inclusive provision in our schools. There are two cohorts of system representatives working on this programme, with a view to having an ordinarily available inclusive provision approach shared in September 2026 for all schools in Worcestershire.

Latest Council News and Updates

Children's Social Care Reform – 'Families First for Children'

As of 1 April 2025, all local authorities are required to begin working with partners to design and start transforming the way we work together.

Introduction – what is the reform?

In February 2023, the Government published *Stable Homes, Built on Love* - an implementation strategy and consultation outlining reforms to children's social care. This was in response to several key reviews from 2022:

- The Independent Review of Children's Social Care
- The Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's investigation into the deaths of Star Hobson and Arthur Labinjo-Hughes
- The Competition and Markets Authority's market study into children's social care

These reviews are driving changes in how children's services and our multi-agency partners work differently with children, young people, and their families.

In December 2023 the Government published "Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023" which guides multi agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children.

In November 2024 the Department for Education published "Keeping Children Safe, Helping Families Thrive, breaking down the barriers to opportunity.

Whilst it is parents and carers who have the primary care for their children, local authorities, working with partner organisations and agencies, have specific duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. The Children Act 1989 sets out specific enquiries if they believe a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm. The Director of Children Services and the Lead Member for children services in local authorities are the key points of professional and political accountability, with responsibility for the effective delivery of those functions.

However, guidance applies to all organisations and agencies who have functions relating to children e.g. all local authorities, ICB', police and all of the organisations and agencies working with children.

The Children's and Wellbeing and Schools Bill has been introduced and is currently going through parliament, with stages in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. The bill must pass through both before it can become law. This bill aims to improve child welfare and education standards in England. It includes provisions for strengthening social care, supporting care leavers, regulating social work agencies and legally recognising Kinship. The bill also addresses school level education including curriculum changes, teaching standards in academies and financial oversight for social care providers.

Social care reforms Pathfinders

Across the UK 10 Local Authority children's services became "Pathfinders". This meant they and key partners worked closely with the DFE to develop and trial their own local models of practice in line with the social care reforms. Within the West Midlands region, we have three pathfinder local authorities Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Warwickshire who are still implementing the reforms but are providing advice and support to all LA's.

As of 1 April 2025, all local authorities are required to begin working with partners to design and start transforming the way we work together - drawing on local knowledge to improve outcomes for children, young people, and their families. Here in Worcestershire children's services, we are up and running in our design phase with our teams and partners.

What will this look like in Worcestershire?

In Worcestershire, we want to start with our 'Family Help' model which brings together our targeted family support (level 3 needs) and children in need (level 4 needs). This is called Families First for Children as this will be a new approach and service delivery for our families. We aim to achieve:

- whole family working recognising both adult and children's needs impacting on the family
- enabling families to care for their own children well and be supported to do so
- prevention of escalation of need to child protection or becoming looked after wherever possible and safe to do so
- preventing families being passed across children's services teams, wherever possible when their needs change
- one single child and family assessment which will be updated when their needs change, preventing families from having to repeat their story
- multi-disciplinary teams with practitioners working together to provide direct intervention and support to the family using evidence-based models of intervention
- team around the family meetings to review the single-family plan deletion here with families and their network
- Family Network meetings – bringing the families wider support networks to help and support the family
- working with families building on their strengths using our signs of safety approach. Creating change, building new skills and resilience
- expanding our Family Group decision making offer for edge of care, pre proceedings, proceedings and reunification home.

The Education Safeguarding Subgroup (Head Teacher Group) of the Safeguarding Board agreed this week to make a priority for next year the implementation of these reforms in terms of understanding and communicating the impact on education.

For more information, please view the Government and DfE guidance and information specific to the Children's social care reforms:

- February 2023 [Guide for children and young people: Stable Homes, Built on Love - GOV.UK](#)
- December 2023 [Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)
- [Children's social care: national framework - GOV.UK](#)
- November 2024 [Keeping children safe, helping families thrive - GOV.UK](#)
- March 2025 [Families First Partnership programme - GOV.UK](#)
- May 2025 [Families First Partnership programme - GOV.UK](#)

Latest Public Health News and Updates

Mental Health Policy template for schools

The mental health policy template was launched at the beginning of February with 40 schools joining the introductory webinar which explained the template and suggestions for its use both for schools with a mental health policy and those without. Feedback on the policy template, accompanying audit tool and webinar was very positive.

You can access the template and audit tool on the [Google Drive](#).

To support the roll out of the policy template Public Health colleagues will be delivering a repeat of the webinar for those schools that were unable to attend.

Please register to join the webinar that will run on Tuesday 1st July 2024 4-5pm via the following link: [Training and Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\) | Worcestershire County Council](#)

New Guidance: Management of Asthma in Schools

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board have recently produced Guidance on the Management of Asthma in Schools. The guidance can be accessed from our [Google Drive](#).

Sadly, children in the UK still die as a result of asthma. These deaths are avoidable. Good management of asthma is crucial for avoiding asthma deaths and can reduce school absences of which asthma accounts for 18%. The guidance includes information for schools about:

- A school asthma policy
- asthma register
- asthma lead
- immediate access to inhalers for pupils
- having an up-to-date asthma action plan for all pupils with asthma
- emergency inhalers held by schools
- staff training
- promotion of asthma awareness

Emergency admissions for children and young people with asthma increases in September each year so attention to the guidance prior to the new school year is recommended.

There will be two free webinars to support the guidance including the issues associated with asthma in schools, action needed and preventative approaches.

- Monday 22nd September 3.30pm - 4.30pm
- Friday 3rd October 9.15am - 10.15am

[Book your place on the Asthma Management in Schools webinar](#)

Help your pupils build confidence over the summer holidays!

The summer holidays are a great opportunity for parents/carers to use Lumi Nova to support their children with common worries during this time.

Whether it's the start of a new school year, transitioning to a new school / class or making new friends, Lumi Nova offers a wide range of goals to support children build confidence.

Use the transition and summer themed assets to remind parents that Lumi Nova can be used over the summer holidays. The pack includes:

- Posters for newsletters or display
- Social media images for your school's page
- Parent letter / newsletter content

Why not also schedule some Back-to-School Assets to be shared with families as the new school year starts!



[Download the Transition / Summer Resources from Google Drive](#)

To request a physical pack of free resources to hand out at the end of term, please contact the team at luminova@bfb-labs.com.

Latest News from Tudor Grange Teaching School Hub

Essential Information for ECT and Mentor Registration

Please see below the following important information if you have an ECT at your school from September 2025.

ECTE Changes from September 2025:

- September 2025 will see the implementation of the ECTE (Early Career Teacher Entitlement).
- There will be significant changes to the ECT CPD Training programme.
- There will be significant changes to the ECT Mentor experience.
- There are some statutory updates regarding induction and Appropriate Body services.

To find out more details please do the following:

- Follow this [link](#) to the 'Early Career Teacher Entitlement' section of our website.
- Ensure a school leader attends our remaining webinars on Thursday 10 July. The link for this meeting can be found [here](#).

Registration of ECTs and Mentors:

- The DfE service will open registration fully on 30th June.
- From this date, you should be able to register all participants fully for the next academic year.
- It is important that everyone is registered as soon as possible, preferably before September to ensure all communication is in place for the new academic year and to ensure participants are able to access everything they need.
- Follow this [link](#) to the 'Register an ECT' section on our website for more information.

Latest Local News and Updates

Help to keep your pupils reading this summer!

Worcestershire's Libraries, in partnership with The Reading Agency, invite all schools to support this year's Summer Reading Challenge, the UK's biggest reading programme for children aged 4–11.

Why it matters?

We are facing a national crisis in children's reading. Recent research shows that only 1 in 3 children and young people now enjoy reading, a drop of 33% since 2005, and 1 in 4 children in the UK cannot read well by age 11. However, when children enjoy reading, they read more often — boosting confidence, wellbeing, and learning outcomes.

Taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge helps to prevent the holiday reading 'dip', keeps children reading and ready for the new school year, supports smooth transitions between year groups and key stages, and makes reading a fun, social, and inspiring part of their summer. This year's theme: Story Garden, launching Saturday 5 July at libraries across Worcestershire, Story Garden celebrates outdoor adventures and magical storytelling, brought to life with illustrations by Dapo Adeola.

How your school can help

- Engage parents & pupils by sending them the [Summer Reading Challenge flyer](#)
- Encourage all pupils to sign up at their local library
- Book a free assembly from your local library team by emailing: LibrariesHQ@worcestershire.gov.uk
- Set the Summer Reading Challenge as homework for the holidays, and celebrate pupils success in September

How to sign up

The Challenge runs in all libraries from Saturday 5 July throughout the summer holidays. Children can sign up at their local library, borrow books, take part in fun activities, and collect free rewards and incentives along the way. For more information visit our [Summer Reading Challenge webpage](#).



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