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Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

A warm welcome to all new headteachers and staff joining us in Worcestershire this academic year. I trust you had a restful summer break and are returning refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

The first bulletin for this term is a bumper one - packed with updates that need your attention, action, or sharing as appropriate.

There's a new training opportunity for all professionals across Worcestershire who work with children, young people, or families. [Free, high-quality online training](#) is now available through the NHS Solihull Approach, offering flexible, self-paced courses on trauma, brain development, and attachment. Backed by the latest research in psychology and neuroscience, the training supports a trauma-informed approach and provides CPD accreditation. This training is fully funded by our Public Health team to support people who work with children and give every child the best start in life.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust would like remind schools about a pilot project that was launched by the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service on 1st August 2025. The pilot aims to enhance the health contributions to Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPCs) for children and young people attending mainstream schools and home schooled CYP, by introducing a structured, systematic process for gathering health input using a Digital Health Questionnaire via the School Screener platform. [Read more about the new pilot in their introductory letter](#).

And finally, I am pleased to share the latest update from the Worcestershire Public Health Nursing Service on health screening for school-aged children and young people. The [bulletin](#) provides an overview of key findings from the 2024/25 campaigns, outlines how identified health needs have been supported, and sets out the screening schedule for 2025/26. It also includes practical information for schools on upcoming health questionnaires and screening sessions. We encourage you to review the document and consider how the insights and support available can benefit your pupils and school community.

Wishing you all the best for the autumn term.

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Latest Council News and Updates

Local Government Reorganisation

Under Government plans for Local Government Reorganisation for two tier areas in England, Worcestershire County Council and the six district, borough, and city councils will be abolished on 1 April 2028. Local Government will be replaced by either:

- a single unitary authority for Worcestershire running all services, or
- two unitary authorities – one for the north and one for the south – with each authority responsible for all services for its part of the county

A One Worcestershire options appraisal was submitted by Worcestershire County in February 2025, showing how dividing the council into two or more new councils would be less sustainable, effective and efficient than creating one new council. We are now developing a Strategic Business Case for One Worcestershire - providing detail on the practical and financial benefits of One Worcestershire. The final Business Case will be considered during October by our Overview & Scrutiny Performance Board and Full Council before it is submitted to the Government by 28 November 2025 to support the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) in making a determination about the future of local governance.

This week, district councillors in Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills, Redditch, Worcester City and Wychavon have held Special Council meetings and agreed that their preferred option is for two unitary councils to create a South Worcestershire Council and a North Worcestershire Council. Wyre Forest District Council agreed at its meeting on 26 February 2025 to support the case for one unitary council and will consider final reorganisation proposals later in the autumn.

The five districts supporting a two unitary council option will be developing their Strategic Business Case for consideration by their respective Councils ahead of the 28 November submission deadline.

Once the Minister of State has received proposals and undertaken an online public consultation, a decision will be made on the future governance for the area - there is no set timeline for this, but in order for Parliament to approve the process, it will likely need to be soon after the new year.

Once a plan is approved, the implementation period will begin. The new unitary authority or authorities is likely to go live in April 2028, known as 'Vesting Day', and will require election of a shadow council, appointment of shadow leadership roles, and a complex program of work to bring services together to deliver for the residents and businesses in the area.

We will keep you updated as work progress and key decisions are made.

For up-to-date information relating to the government's plans and ambitions for local authorities, as well as information specific to Worcestershire, please visit: [Local government reorganisation and devolution in Worcestershire](#)

Latest Education News and Updates

Pupil Premium for Children Previously Looked After reminder

FAO: School Designated Teacher, School Business Manager and Headteachers

This is a reminder to ensure all new pupils who arrived in September in your schools, who are eligible for Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) Pupil Premium (PP), are recorded on your school records and census returns.

Schools October Census return will determine the level of funding you receive for each designation of PP.

To qualify for PLAC status children need to have been in the care of a Local Authority, before a new order of permanence; that is Adoption, Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangement Order (previously Residency Orders).

The Pupil Premium Plus funding for previously looked-after children in England for the 2025/2026 academic year is £2,630 per child.

Schools can access this funding by ensuring parents provide the necessary information and selecting the correct codes during the autumn census collection. The funding is not ringfenced for individual children but should be used to support their educational needs in consultation with parents and guardians. For further details, you can check the official [Pupil Premium guidance](#).

Inclusion in Practice Report

Following a national call for evidence to find examples of effective inclusive practice in mainstream schools, Inclusion in Practice and ImpactEd Group have published an emerging insights report laying out five principles of promising practice.

In a system navigating a complex and challenging funding backdrop, the report details how a number of schools and trusts are successfully organising practice, professional development and resources to strengthen support for all children. The five emerging principles of promising practice identified are:

1. Knowing children well, early and often.
2. High quality and evidence-informed teaching practice.
3. Coherent and expert targeted support.
4. Strengthening inclusion through relationships and partnerships.
5. Inclusion as a strategic and shared responsibility.

Whilst the call for evidence illuminates promising themes, it also showed the inconsistency in training, support, evidence-based guidance and resources that schools are navigating.

[Read the Inclusion in Practice report in full](#)

Funding for Before and After School Childcare

Are you experiencing additional demand for before and/or after-school provision? Do you have parents that are requesting later opening hours? **We can provide funding to cover your additional staffing costs to extend your wraparound provision to meet the needs of your families.**

Whilst it is still the Government's ambition to make 8am-6pm provision available to all families who need wraparound care for their primary aged children, there is new flexibility within the Wraparound Programme as we move into the final two terms of funding.

Funding is available to:

- Support any school/setting to increase their wraparound hours to at least 8am – 5:30pm daily.
- Support any school/setting that is open at least 8am-5:30pm daily to increase the number of wraparound places they have on offer, as long as it will not adversely impact the demand for other local wraparound providers.
- Support schools/settings who can evidence that there is insufficient demand for 8am – 5:30pm over 5 days per week, but who would like to extend their offer over a minimum of 3 days per week.

Funding can be used to cover staffing costs, purchase additional resources, support marketing costs to increase demand and/or to address other delivery barriers, with up to £500 per extended place available. Additional funding is also available to set-up new provision for pupils at schools without any wraparound provision.

[Apply for funding](#)

To request support or further information, please email Sharon Jones or Nicky Burford via wraparound@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Latest Attendance News and Updates

Back to School September Support – Attendance Helpline

Many schools recognise that pupils who are absent in the first week of term are often pupils that progress to have further persistent or severe levels of absence. Prioritising resources to be able to quickly identify pupils who may be missing during the first week of school, and ensuring a whole school 'support first' attendance approach is key.

Schools evidenced to be making positive impacts ensure they quickly 'notice' pupil absence, listen and respond to pupil voice, and provide timely support to work collaboratively with pupils and parents/carers to endeavour to remove any barriers that maybe preventing regular attendance.

To further support schools during the first week of September the LA attendance helpline will offer additional hours, opening daily from Tuesday 2nd – Friday 5th September between 9am -12.30 and 1-4.30pm.

From Monday 8th September the helpline will resume usual opening hours of Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9am - 12.30pm and 1pm - 4.30pm. Do call the helpline on 01905 844 440 should you require any attendance related advice, guidance or support.

Attendance Support and School Data Reporting Requirements

Virtual date for your diary via Teams

SLT attendance leads have been sent a calendar invite for this one-hour briefing.

The briefing will explain the attendance support available for your school this year and will provide information of your reporting requirements for pupils leaving and joining your school, as well as your attendance reporting responsibilities to ensure legal compliance.

There is no booking required therefore we look forward to SLT attendance leads joining us on 10th September 2.30-3.30pm either by using the calendar invite sent or using the link below:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 315 036 410 787 5

Passcode: Eu33GT3f

For Independent schools a separate session will take place on 17th September 3.30-4.30pm and can be accessed from your calendar invite or by using the teams link below:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 343 080 973 053 7

Passcode: wC25Zn2W

Both sessions will be recorded.

Attendance Conference - 30th September 2025

Join us for our annual attendance conference event open to all Worcestershire schools!

As schools continue to embed DfE 'Working together to Improve School attendance' statutory requirements to ensure attendance remains a shared priority this event will provide key updates for all SLT attendance leads working within the Worcestershire context.

This event will:

- Support school SLT attendance leads to ensure attendance remains a priority
- Feature schools sharing practices making impact
- Provide networking opportunities for all SLT attendance leads

To book your place (most relevant to your phase) please select from the links below:

[Primary/Middle deemed Primary Information and Booking](#)

[Secondary/Middle deemed Secondary Information and Booking](#)

School Attendance staff contact details

If there have been any attendance staffing changes within your school (i.e. the named SLT attendance lead, or other attendance/support staff), a change of email address, or any other contact detail updates for your school, please do let us know so we can ensure you don't miss out on key attendance updates throughout the year.

Email: Jkearney@worcestershire.gov.uk

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 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

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.

CCAS Process Updates

Over the last 12 months, the team have responded to approximately 3000 absence notifications with any needing further discussion or support being contacted by the team within days. This is a vast improvement on response times previously. As a result, the Absence Monitoring Team have been able to spend the summer holidays further reviewing some of the processes around the notifying of children who potentially need to be discussed at CCAS panel and the outcomes that followed. These improvements, listed below, have been based on our own experiences and feedback from schools, parents and other professionals.

- 1) The team have found that there is a large variation in the quality and quantity of information provided as an absence notification especially where the CCAS panel tick box is selected. To support with this and ensure we receive useful and complete information we have put together the [CCAS Supporting Information Form](#) (also available via email from ccas@worcestershire.gov.uk) that can be attached to an absence notification being completed through the ChS portal. This should be used by schools to help confirm they are supporting a child fully and are providing the information required to allow us to make a quicker decision on whether a child might need to be discussed at CCAS panel. We have tried to ensure the form is both informative whilst also hopefully not becoming a burden on schools to complete. Please note that each case is considered on its own and completing the CCAS Supporting Information Form does not necessarily guarantee a discussion at CCAS panel (especially if an alternative option is in the best interests of the child).
- 2) Following a discussion at CCAS panel, we will now send out an outcome email documenting the result and any actions for school, ourselves or other attendees. This email can and should be passed to parents for their information.
- 3) The team will be contacting schools more often to review children who are receiving support via CCAS panel/s19 – we would also request that schools contact us as soon as possible if any issues arise or the situation is not improving.

Please note schools must continue to share absence notifications, part-time/reduced timetable (and flexi-schooling) notifications, joiners and leavers.

If schools have any queries regarding the above, please contact ccas@worcestershire.gov.uk. This can also be used to enquire about representatives from the team attending upcoming Trust or Pyramid/Network Attendance Meetings to discuss the above changes further or the portal in general (we will also be contacting some schools to discuss portal usage as well).

Latest SEND News and Updates

SENCo Network Briefing

The SENCo Network is led by Louise Oland (Principal EP and Head of Inclusion Support Services), Helen Harris (School Improvement Advisor) and Lorraine Petersen OBE as a collaborative project with Chads Grove Training School.

National and local SEND updates to ensure SENCos are aware of the latest information and initiatives to support delivery of high quality SEND provision in schools and settings. This will also include input from partners and schools across Worcestershire.

There will be time for questions, answers, and opportunities to discuss specific areas of focus.

Cost: Free

- 29 September 2025, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10178 / 92188
- 2 February 2026, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10178 / 92189
- 5 May 2026, 3.30pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10178 / 92190

Book your place on the training via [CPD](#) using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided.

If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on **01905 844 420** or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk

Latest Public Health News and Updates

Clean Hands, Safe Hands

The Public Health Team at Worcestershire County Council would like to remind you of the 'Clean Hands, Safe Hands' handwashing campaign. Hand hygiene is one of the most effective and simple ways to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Instilling proper handwashing habits in children is especially crucial, as it empowers them to safeguard their own health and that of those around them. Young children, whose immune systems are still developing, are particularly susceptible to common infections found in schools, nurseries, and playgrounds. By teaching them the correct way to wash their hands and explaining why it matters, we help break the chain of transmission for illnesses, reducing absences and promoting a healthier learning environment. Early education around hand hygiene not only protects children in the present but also shapes lifelong habits that contribute to the wellbeing of entire communities.



As part of the campaign, the Public Health team are offering interactive learning sessions for schools, nurseries and sessions. The sessions will take approximately 1 hour to complete and will be carried out in person by the team.

- Each lesson will be interactive with activities for children to complete.
- These activities will include the opportunity to demonstrate effective hand washing using an Ultraviolet Lightbox. A UV gel is applied to the children's hands which they will then be asked to wash off. When they then put their hands in the lightbox any areas which they have missed will glow.
- Sessions can be carried out at any setting including schools, nurseries, colleges, day care centres and after school clubs.
- The session will be hosted by the Public Health team at each setting.
- The lessons are tailored for different age groups.
- The lessons will teach pupils why handwashing is important and how to wash and dry their hands effectively.
- The team will have 'clean hands safe hands' merchandise such as stickers and badges to give to children at the end of the lesson.

If you would like in the Public Health Team to attend your setting or have any queries please send an email to phapplications@worcestershire.gov.uk with a contact name and email address. The team will then send you a form to complete to arrange the learning session.

For more information on the Clean Hands, Safe Hands campaign, including Handwashing toolkits and activity packs, please visit [Clean hands, safe hands | Worcestershire County Council](#).

Measles

Measles continues to be a concern with recent data showing a high level of cases, leading to fears of a further surge once education settings return in September.

Measles can be a very serious infection, especially if it spreads to other parts of the body, such as the lungs or brain, and can cause pneumonia, meningitis, blindness, and seizures (fits).

Measles usually starts with cold-like symptoms, followed by a rash a few days later. Some people may also get small spots in their mouth. The rash usually starts on the face and behind the ears before spreading to the rest of the body. The spots of the measles rash are sometimes raised and join together to form blotchy patches. They're not usually itchy and look brown or red on white skin. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin.

Measles is one of the easiest diseases to catch through coughing or sneezing. It can spread quickly from person to person, especially in schools and a child with measles will infect almost all unprotected children they have contact with. The most effective way to control measles is by having 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.



MMR vaccination

Outbreaks can occur in schools when not enough children have been vaccinated.

Whilst MMR vaccines are usually delivered as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme, this may have been missed due to a number of reasons. It is never too late to catch up and parents should be encouraged to speak to their GP if they are unsure if their child has received the vaccination or to arrange for it to be given.

Response to a case

Individuals with measles infection are infectious from about 4 days before rash onset until 4 full days after the rash appears. If you suspect a child has a case of measles or you are notified of a confirmed or suspected case, please contact UKHSA immediately for support and advice on 0344 225 3560 Option 2.

Unvaccinated contacts of a confirmed case of measles

Unvaccinated individuals exposed to measles, may be advised to isolate for up to 21 days to prevent potential transmission, as the incubation period for measles can range from 7 to 21 days. UKHSA will provide clarification of isolation periods on a case-to-case basis.

Further guidance and resources about measles for educational settings:

[Measles: information for schools and healthcare centres.](#)

[Measles awareness posters](#)

[Measles warn and inform letters](#)

Publications including posters and leaflets on measles and other infectious diseases can be ordered, in bulk free of charge [here](#). Publications are available in different languages and are **delivered within 3-5 working days**.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

RSV is one of the common viruses that cause coughs and colds in winter. RSV is transmitted by large droplets and by secretions from an infected person. Infants under one year of age and the elderly are at the greatest risk of developing severe disease. While most RSV infections usually cause mild illness, infants aged less than 6 months frequently develop the most severe disease such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia, which may result in hospitalisation.



Since 1 September 2024, two new respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programmes been introduced.

Programme for pregnant women to protect infants

All women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant (the eligible cohort) on 1 September 2024, will be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. After that, pregnant women will become eligible as they reach 28 weeks gestation and remain eligible up to birth.

Programme for older adults aged 75 to 79 years old

All adults turning 75 years old on or after 1 September 2024 will be eligible for routine programme and should be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. A catch-up campaign for those already aged 75 to 79 years old on 1 September undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

More information about RSV is available below:

[Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\): symptoms, transmission, prevention, treatment - GOV.UK](#)

Further information about the RSV vaccination programme can be found here

[Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) vaccination programme - GOV.UK](#)

Influenza (Flu)

Flu is a viral infection affecting the nose, throat, and lungs, mostly during the winter months. It is far worse than an ordinary cold, which usually causes a runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes and throat irritation. Symptoms of a cold usually occur gradually without causing a fever or body aches, which usually occur with flu.

Flu can lead to serious illness, especially in children, with more than 8,000 hospitalisations last winter. Older people, those with a weakened immune system, and people with long-term health conditions are at higher risk. Over the past 2 winters, at least 18,000 deaths were associated with flu.

Children and staff with symptoms of flu such as a high temperature, cough and feeling tired and achy, should try to limit their contact with others, especially those who are vulnerable. Washing hands regularly and using and disposing of tissues in bins can help to reduce the spread of flu.

Changes to national flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2026

Community pharmacies will be now able to offer 2-3-year-olds flu vaccinations during the 2025 to 2026 flu season. Community pharmacy service delivery will begin from 1 October 2025, supplementing the offer in General Practice who will start vaccinating from the 1 September 2025, or as soon as vaccine is available.

Children under 5 have the highest hospitalisation rate from flu. Vaccination cuts the risk of hospitalisation by about two thirds. Vaccinating children also helps to protect their family as it reduces the risk of them spreading the flu virus to parents and grandparents.

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children in the UK and worldwide, and has an excellent safety record. In the last few years, the protection that children get from vaccination has been consistently higher than for adults. The vaccine is updated yearly to match flu strains, so it is recommended that children are vaccinated yearly, even if vaccinated last year.

Education and childcare settings have a vital role to play to support the routine immunisation programme including the flu vaccine. Sharing information with parents and caregivers at key points and encouraging parents to sign their consent form can help in ensuring children and their families are protected.

Pregnant women

It's recommended that all pregnant women have the flu vaccine, whatever stage of pregnancy they're at. The vaccine is free for pregnant women and has been shown to be safe during any stage of pregnancy, from the first few weeks up until labour.

Pregnancy changes how the body responds to infections such as flu. There is good evidence that pregnant women have a higher chance of developing complications if they get flu, particularly in the later stages of pregnancy. Young babies also have a higher risk of getting seriously ill if they get flu.

Having flu increases the chances of pregnant women and their babies needing intensive care.

Women who have had a flu vaccine while pregnant also pass some protection on to their babies. This lasts for the first few months after they're born, when they're particularly at risk from flu.

Further Information

- [Flu - NHS](#)
- [Annual flu programme - GOV.UK](#)
- UKHSA flu blog - [flu – UK Health Security Agency](#)
- [e-Bug](#) has a range of educational resources for ages 3 to 16 to learn about microbes, infection prevention and control, antibiotics, and vaccination.
- [Pregnancy: how to help protect you and your baby - GOV.UK](#)

Shiga Toxin producing E. coli (STEC)

The latest UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) annual data has shown a 26% rise in Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) infections in England in 2024 when compared to 2023.

STEC are bacteria that can cause gastroenteritis. In severe cases, they can cause haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS). STEC bacteria are spread through contact with animals or their faeces, consuming contaminated food or water, and from person to person.

Common symptoms of STEC include diarrhoea, stomach cramps and fever. Around 50% of all cases will experience bloody diarrhoea however, some people may only have mild diarrhoea. Symptoms can last up to 2 weeks in cases without complications. A small proportion of patients, mainly children, may develop haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) which is a serious life-threatening condition resulting in kidney failure. A small proportion of adults may develop a similar condition called thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP).

As with other illnesses which include symptoms of diarrhoea or vomiting children, and staff should not return to the setting until they have been clear of symptoms for 48 hours.

Further information

Information including tips on how to avoid STEC can be found here [Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli \(STEC\): symptoms, how to avoid, how to treat - GOV.UK](#)



Risks associated with slush ice drinks containing glycerol

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has launched a new campaign to warn parents and caregivers not to give children under 7 slush ice drinks or 'slushies' containing glycerol. The FSA also advises that children aged 7 to 10 should have no more than one 350ml 'slushie' drink with glycerol per day – roughly the size of a fizzy drink can.

At very high levels of exposure, typically when several servings of these products are consumed by a child in a short space of time, glycerol can cause shock, very low blood sugar levels and loss of consciousness.

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These slush ice drinks or 'slushies' contain glycerol

- Children under 7 should not consume these drinks
- Children under 10 should have a maximum of one 350ml 'slushie' per day – that's about the size of a fizzy drink can.

Glycerol can cause sickness and headaches in young children



More information on glycerol:

- Visit [food.gov.uk/glycerol](https://www.food.gov.uk/glycerol)
- Scan this QR code:



Image: Adobe Stock

OFFICIAL FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Further information

Further details on the campaign can be found here [Summer slush warning: Glycerol in slush ice drinks unsafe for children under 7 and should be limited for children aged 7 to 10](#) | Food Standards Agency

Sexual Health Week 2025 - Chronically Online

This year's sexual health week will be running between the 15th and 21st September with a focus on the impact on children of online content.



Digital technology has become integral to how we manage relationships and wellbeing, from dating apps to online STI tests. However, the rapid advances in AI are raising new questions about the future of sexual health and relationships, including the impact of deepfakes, ChatGPT romances, and social media algorithms on public perceptions of contraception and gender stereotypes.

For Sexual Health Week 2025, the focus is on how being "Chronically Online" influences attitudes and behaviours around sex and relationships. The week will explore how RSE can empower young people to critically evaluate content, integrate digital and face-to-face sexual health services to address health inequalities, and amplify voices combating stigma and misinformation online.

As part of the campaign, Brook is inviting schools to attend 'the Big RSE Lesson' on 16th September at 10am. The free, 60-minute live broadcast is aimed at children in year 9 and above and will combine real life stories with expert advice, the lesson aims to equip young people with the knowledge and confidence to understand and manage how online content can influence their sexual health and relationships.

Further information including how to sign up to the lesson can be found here [Sexual Health Week 2025: Chronically Online](#)

World Suicide Prevention Day: Wednesday 10th September

On Wednesday 10th September the theme for World Suicide Prevention Day is [Changing the Narrative on Suicide](#) and there is a call to action for all of us to “Start the Conversation”.

How can you get involved?

Although we know that suicide prevention is important every day, World Suicide Prevention Day is another chance to raise awareness, reflect on our experiences around suicide and prevention, and remember those we know who have lost someone to suicide or who have been affected by it. There are lots of ways you can get involved:

- **Check out our newly refreshed [Orange Button Google Drive](#)**, where you can find **videos** and resources on the [Orange button community scheme](#) and general suicide prevention **fliers** that you could share in your networks and remember to encourage the young people you are working with to reach out and talk
- **Check out Samaritans’ SHUSH listening tips [listening-tips-poster.pdf](#)**, and share some tips within your educational setting on how best to start a conversation
- **Check out [Melo’s](#) resources** for parents, carers and young people! Melo aims to improve emotional wellbeing and mental health in people aged 0-25 years

You could:

- **Share information about [Kooth](#)**- a free, safe and anonymous service that young people can use to help with their emotional wellbeing
- **Attend a webinar by Rethink Mental Illness: [Staying Well Together](#)**, taking place on Wednesday 10th September at 12:30-1:30pm. [Book here!](#)
- **Refresh your knowledge and awareness** around suicide prevention with [free awareness sessions online](#), or consider booking some suicide prevention training (coming soon!) [here](#) when it’s available
- **Share this year’s [World Suicide Prevention Day materials](#)**. Here’s a reminder on [how to start a conversation](#).

Please do share the above information within your wider networks and help us spread the awareness!

CATCH 22 West Mercia STEPS Service

FAO: Pastoral Teams, DSLs, Attendance Officers

Action: Refer at risk young people, share with parents/carers/young people where appropriate

The Catch22 STEPS service are commissioned to support children aged 8-18 (and young people up to the age of 24 with additional needs), who are impacted by Child Criminal Exploitation or Child Sexual Exploitation. Support includes 1:1 specialist support, diversionary activities and group training. To find out more visit their website [STEPS \(Support Through Exploitation and Prevention Service\) | Catch22](#)

To make a referral (parents/guardians/carers, professionals or self-referrals from young people): [STEPS Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation Support - Referral Form](#)

Posters for professionals, parents/carers and young people can be downloaded from [Google Drive](#).

Catch22 also have a team of Awareness and Prevention Practitioners who facilitate workshops and training for professionals, children and parents/carers to increase understanding around grooming and exploitation, and how to respond and safeguarding appropriately. To request prevention awareness training [STEPS Awareness and Prevention Training - Request Form](#)

Management of Asthma in Schools

FAO: Headteachers, Pastoral/Welfare Leads and First Aiders

Death rates from asthma are highest in children aged 15 to 17 years old.

Children living in more deprived areas are 4 times more likely to die from 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%.

Asthma prevention needs to be actively managed in schools.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board have recently produced Guidance on the Management of Asthma in Schools. The guidance can be accessed via the Google Drive here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yTwG7dwadls7Jzh6Vzslgiu2OMf6fP5/view?usp=sharing>

The new 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

There will be two free webinars to support your understanding of 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 training via [CPD](#) using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided.

If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on **01905 844 420** or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk

MHRA Notice Device Recall - HeartSine Samaritan PAD

We have been advised by MHRA that Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment you may have within your establishment, **may fail** to deliver the intended therapy during use.

The affected units are the HeartSine® Samaritan® PAD SAM 350P/SAM 360P/SAM 450P/SAM 500P.

The notice gives information regarding four types of unit and provides the information for customer actions to be taken.

[Please download the medical device recall notice for further details](#)

Latest Training and Conference News

Masterclass on Managing Allegations and Low-Level Concerns

We are pleased to invite all Headteachers and Lead DSLs to a special Masterclass on Managing Allegations and Low-Level Concerns.

9:30am on Wednesday 26th November, online via Microsoft Teams

This one-off event will share key learning from Worcestershire County Council's recent audit of referrals to the LADO, alongside practical guidance to support your safeguarding responsibilities.

Agenda highlights:

- **Karen Green (Practice Manager):** Understanding the LADO threshold and referral process, with key messages from Management of Allegations training. This session will strengthen your knowledge of managing allegations against adults in a position of trust, the application of LADO thresholds, and your role in the process.
- **Denise Hannibal & Hayley Doyle (Education Safeguarding Team):** Interactive workshop on low-level concerns through a practical scenario.
- **Mary Jones (WCC HR Team Leader):** Learning and outcomes from school referrals to the LADO, including key themes from the 2024–25 academic year.

This event offers an invaluable opportunity to enhance your understanding, share learning, and ensure best practice in safeguarding across schools.

For more information including details how to book your place, please download the [masterclass flyer](#).

Join the WOVEN Project

Final Places Remaining: Join the WOVEN Project (Worcestershire's Oracy and Voice in Education Network)

We're delighted to offer schools an exclusive opportunity to join **WOVEN**, a pioneering CPD programme designed to embed high-quality oracy education across Worcestershire's Primary and First schools.

With oracy gaining national attention as a vital component of effective teaching and learning, WOVEN supports schools in developing sustainable, impactful practices that elevate pupil voice and communication. This is especially powerful for disadvantaged learners, for whom oracy can be a transformative tool in unlocking confidence, engagement, and academic success.

Why WOVEN?

- Aligns with current national priorities, with evidence informed practice
- Builds staff expertise through 12 hours of CPD across three sessions
- Includes peer coaching, school-based consultancy, and practical resources
- Offers opportunities to showcase best practice and join a supportive network
- All for £480 + VAT per school, including two CPD places

CPD Dates:

- **Session 1:** 17 September 2025, 9.30am–3.30pm, Worcester
- **Session 2:** 18 November 2025, 9.30am–12.30pm, Worcester
- **Session 3:** 12 February 2026, 9.30am–12.30pm, Worcester

With only a small handful of spaces left, places are limited, and the programme begins in **early September**. Don't miss this chance to be part of a movement that's weaving stronger voices for Worcestershire's future.

You can find the course on our CPD pages, or follow the link below:

[WOVEN CPD \(Primary and First Schools\)](#)

September's Training

Training taking place during September / early October offered via the following teams: Early Years, Autism, Safeguarding, School Improvement, Governor Services, Educational Psychology and Virtual Schools. Our training supports all levels of staff within schools and settings. Find out more by visiting CPD and searching the CPD code.

Week commencing	Course Title	Session Date	Search CPD using the Course Code	Session Code
15-Sep	Introduction to the Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	15/09/2025	10590	91731
	Clerk's Workshop	16/09/2025	10008	90759
	Creating an autism-friendly classroom: Primary	17/09/2025	10116	92020
	Supporting attachment and security within an early years setting	17/09/2025	10547	90935
	An introduction to meeting significant communication and interaction needs in a mainstream Early Years/Key stage 1 classroom.	17/09/2025	10615	92042
22-Sep	New Governor Induction	22/09/2025	10107	92130
	Asthma Management in Schools Webinar	22/09/2025	10605	91927
	English: Subject Leaders Network Meetings	23/09/2025	10226	91870
	SENCo Leadership Development Programme	23/09/2025	10287	91820
	ELSA: Emotional Literacy Support Assistants	23/09/2025	10351	90998
	Promoting positive masculinity, self-worth & relationships	23/09/2025	10596	91839
	An introduction to Emotional Regulation for Autistic Learners	24/09/2025	10075	92075
	Early Years and Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Introduction to the role	24/09/2025	10179	91250
	Play Matters: The 8 Principles of Playwork	24/09/2025	10583	91695
	Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork	24/09/2025	10588	91698

Week commencing	Course Title	Session Date	Search CPD using the Course Code	Session Code
22-Sep	Introduction to the Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	24/09/2025	10590	91732
	Worcestershire Early Years Community Hub	25/09/2025	10529	92162
	Level 3 Award in Transition to Playwork	25/09/2025	10588	91699
29-Sep	SENCo Network Briefing	29/09/2025	10178	92188
	Introduction to the Role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	29/09/2025	10590	91733
	Webcast: Building an effective Early Years curriculum	30/09/2025	10458	92233
	Key Stage 1 Assessment of Writing (Years 1 & 2)	30/09/2025	10509	91880
	School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training	30/09/2025	10591	91744
	Conflict resolution through restorative practice	30/09/2025	10597	91841
	Code of Practice - Early Years	30/09/2025	10608	91984
	New to Year 6	01/10/2025	10213	91884
	Supporting early years children with social and friendship skills	01/10/2025	10548	90936
	Meeting significant communication and interaction needs in a mainstream Early Years / Key Stage 1 classroom	01/10/2025	10616	92043
	Headteacher's Appraisal	02/10/2025	10081	92168
	Safer Recruitment in Educational settings	02/10/2025	10132	91721
	School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training	02/10/2025	10591	91745
	Complete Overview of School Finances	03/10/2025	10142	92178
	Asthma Management in Schools Webinar	03/10/2025	10605	91928

Week commencing	Course Title	Session Date	Search CPD using the Course Code	Session Code
06-Oct	New Governor Induction	07/10/2025	10107	92131
	SENCo Forum / Cluster (early years)	07/10/2025	10160	91542
	Leaders of Learning	07/10/2025	10498	91676
	School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training	07/10/2025	10591	91746
	Autism in the Early Years	08/10/2025	10003	92022
	Understanding and Supporting Sensory Processing Differences in the Classroom	08/10/2025	10426	92033
	How Do We Know They Are Learning? Checking for Understanding	09/10/2025	10598	91864
	Early Years Designated Safeguarding Lead Training	10/10/2025	10052	91258
	School Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Training	10/10/2025	10591	91747

Book your place on our training and conferences via **CPD** using your school CPD leader login details. Confirmations are issued at the point of booking and go to the delegate email provided. If your school requires support when booking, please contact the training team on **01905 844 420** or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk

Play Matters: The 8 Principles of Playwork

During the course delegates will explore what Wrap Around Care is and understand the value of play, unpick and dissect the 8 Principles of Playwork, and how to implement them into their setting to ensure play matters.

During the course delegates will be able to:

- List the 8 Principles of Playwork.
- Describe & explain why the 8 Principles of Playwork are important in Play
- Participate in activities that empower your own understanding of why play matters
- Identify & explain how the Playwork Principles will be used in your setting.

Audience: Specifically for practitioners working with primary school age children in wraparound provision. Open to both schools / settings who offer wrap around provision (before / after school or holiday clubs)

Cost: Free - the training is fully funded via the National Wraparound Programme, part of the DfE.

Cohort 8

- 24 Sept, 1, 8, 15 and 22 October
- All sessions 7pm to 9pm
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 91695

Cohort 9

- 12, 19, 26 November and 3, 10 December
- All sessions 7pm to 9pm
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 91696

Cohort 10

- 24 Sept, 1, 8, 15 and 22 October
- All sessions 12.45pm to 2.45pm
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 92058

Cohort 11

- 13, 20, 27 November and 4, 11 December
- All sessions 9.30am to 11.30am
- CPD code: 10583 / session code: 92059

Checking and amending your colleague list linked to CPD

At the start of the new academic year, the training & conference team, would be grateful if CPD Leaders (those who have the login details for CPD) can take a few minutes to review their colleague list. We are asking that you check the following:

- Unlink any colleagues that no longer work for your Early Years Setting / School / Governing Board
- Update colleagues where there might be one of the following changes:
 - Email address
 - First name and / or surname
 - Contact number is incorrect or missing
- If you notice more than one colleague profile for the same person i.e. Joe Smith and Joseph Smith, please contact the Training Team to request a colleague profile merge

This ensures that we have accurate data and that confirmations / reminders / evaluations and certificate links all go to the right delegate email.

If the person(s) who had access to CPD for your Early Years Setting / School / Governing Board have left then please notify the team immediately, their access will be removed, and permissions will be assigned to the alternative name provided.

Our CPD Support guide is on our website, [Training, Conferences and Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\) | Worcestershire County Council](#), broken down into sections to support you with the various elements of CPD i.e. access / booking including cancellations, waiting lists and transfers / colleagues and much more

The Training & Conference Team is always available to provide support please contact them on 01905 844 420 / 844 030 or email workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk

First Aid & Health and Safety Training Opportunities

As you begin planning for the term ahead, we are pleased to share details of the First Aid and Health & Safety Training Courses available to schools. A full list of upcoming courses, including dates, venues, and booking details, is attached for your reference. Highlights include:

- First Aid Courses (Emergency, Paediatric, and Combined)
- Educational Visit Leader and Coordinator Training
- Fire Warden Training
- IOSH Managing Safely for Managers and Supervisors

We encourage you to [download the latest programme](#) and secure places early, as some courses do become fully booked. If you would like to discuss tailored on-site training for your staff, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our team via email at: healthandsafety@worcestershire.gov.uk

Latest News from Teaching School Hubs

Rivers Teaching Alliance

ECT updates

Please do get in touch if you have any new ECTs this term and would like to register them to work with them and the National Institute of Teaching for their ECT programme. They specialise in primary ECTs and would be happy to have a chat about what they can offer.

Following feedback and research, their programme is undergoing some changes for this year. These include:

- The choice to tailor the sequence of modules to fit with whole school priorities
- Diagnostics that enable personalised learning pathways for each ECT to meet their needs.
- Context-specific materials for EYFS, primary, secondary (all subjects), post-16, SEND schools and alternative provision.
- Mentor-specific support to contextualise and model the content for their ECT as part of their training and study throughout.

Please get in touch if you would like to find out more or sign up here: [Early Career Framework Programme | For Early Career Teachers – The National Institute of Teaching](#)

NPQ updates

NPQ applications for the November 2025 cohort are open from 8th September. They have limited scholarship places on the following NPQs. Please get in touch to enquire about other NPQs.

- **NPQ for SENCOs** [NPQ For SENCOs | Train With The National Institute Of Teaching – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
 - Funded places available for all schools
- **NPQ Leading Primary Maths** [NPQ in Leading Primary Maths | Maths NPQ – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
 - Funded places available to schools on this list [Funding for national professional qualifications: eligible settings - GOV.UK](#)
 - £850 for other schools

CPD updates

Upcoming CPD includes:

- EYFS - The Magic of Observation, How to Challenge and Extend Children's Learning- 7.10.25
- EYFS - Let's Explore Physical Development, a Prime Area in a Child's Learning Journey- 18.11.25

Please get in touch via teachingschool@riverscofe.co.uk or visit [The Rivers C. of E. Academy Trust - Professional Learning](#)

Latest Community News and Updates

Reading Well for Families

Reading Well for families recommends helpful reading to support parents and carers to look after their wellbeing in pregnancy and the early years (from conception to aged two). The books provide information on wellbeing, mental health and coping with loss.

The scheme is aimed at adults and includes a range of recommended books and supporting digital resources. Some of the recommended books provide **information and advice**; there are also **personal stories, illustrated books** and **poetry**. The list also includes a wide range of formats including **eBooks** and **audiobooks**.

The collection of books has been chosen and endorsed by leading health professionals and co-produced with people with lived experience. The scheme's co-production partner, Maternal Mental Health Alliance, ensured the views of parents with lived experience of perinatal mental health conditions from England and Wales informed all aspects of developing this list.

[Download top tips for using Reading Well - for professionals](#)

[Download Reading Well for Families Leaflet](#)

Supporting children with Down syndrome

Down Syndrome UK are a nationwide charity dedicated to supporting children with Down syndrome. They provide expert-led, online programmes for pre-school and primary school professionals supporting children with Down syndrome to give staff the tools, knowledge and confidence to help the children to thrive.

So that staff and parents can understand how the programmes work and the support on offer, they are running some free webinars over the summer, and it would be great if you could help us get the word out so they can reach parents and staff who may not be aware of the support on offer:

For Primary schools - Weds 24th Sept at 3.45pm:

<https://downsyndromeuk.my.site.com/community/s/pep-information-webinar->

For Early Years settings - Weds 24th Sept at 7pm:

<https://downsyndromeuk.my.site.com/community/s/eydp-information-webinar-registration>

Let me know if you need any more information. Thank you in advance.

www.downsyndromeuk.co.uk

www.positiveaboutdownsyndrome.co.uk

Public Rights of Way: Your School and Young People

FAO: Leads for School Council, Democracy/Youth Voice, Geography, PE

Work has begun to update Worcestershire County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan so it can meet the needs of the public, now and in the future.

There is a public online survey for Worcestershire residents. Please could you publicise the survey with your families and especially with young people. [Download Public Rights of Way Poster](#)

The questionnaire for the public is online at: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/RoWIPengage and closes at midnight on 26th October 2025.

Please also respond as a school.

Listed below are questions for young people, the answers to which will be useful.

- Is there anything that discourages or prevents young people from using public rights of way?
- How can public rights of way support improvements in young people's health and wellbeing?
- How could the public rights of way network be improved for travelling to school?
- Are there any ways in which young people could be supported in the new Right of Way Improvement Plan?
- How should public rights of way respond to more people living in Worcestershire?
- Is there anything else about new public rights of way that you want decision makers to know?

If there is a group of young people at your school who would be interested in taking part in an online workshop to explore their thoughts more, please email Sharon Bayne SBayne@worcestershire.gov.uk

Alternatively, any answers to the questions above from any activities you do around this topic can be sent to Sharon.

The Carbon Literacy Project

Schools can have a huge influence on behaviours and attitudes when it comes to the climate crisis. The incoming expectations for climate action plans and sustainability leads means that it has never been a better time for schools to explore Carbon Literacy and how it can inspire and empower your School and community.

[Schools - The Carbon Literacy Project](#)

Climate Action Planning in Education Settings

Our education system and the nurseries, schools and colleges within it play a critical role in driving action to address climate change and nature decline. As part of the Department for Education's [Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#), all education settings are expected to have a [climate action plan and a sustainability lead](#) in place by the end of 2025.

A number of organisations are working together to offer a wide range of free support to nursery, school and college leaders to enable them to act on climate and nature. The [Climate Ambassadors programme](#), funded by the Department for Education, matches Climate Ambassadors with education settings (nurseries, schools and colleges) based on skills and expertise, to support them with the development and delivery of an effective climate action plan.

If you are working within any role in an Education Setting, please join [this webinar](#) to know more about the free support offered from the Climate Ambassadors programme in the West Midlands. Webinars are held every month and upcoming dates for the webinars are as follows:

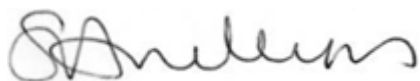
- Tuesday, 30th September
- Tuesday, 28th October

All the sessions are from 4:15pm - 5pm.

There is a recorded introductory session available on the website which I have linked here - [Events | Climate Ambassadors](#). The YouTube link for the video can be found here - [Climate Ambassadors An Introduction for Education Settings WEBINAR RECORDING](#)

[Download Climate Ambassador Guide Recruitment Flyer](#)

For more information or to get involved, please feel free to contact us at: climate-ambassadors.wm@keele.ac.uk



Sarah Wilkins

Assistant Director for Education, Early Years, Inclusion and Pupil Place Planning

