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Our Ref: CV205

Date: 23rd September 2025

Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this bulletin finds you well and that the autumn term has begun smoothly for you and your school community. I recognise the length of this half term is significant and will test everyone's resilience so please ensure you are taking good care of yourself.

Worcestershire Youth Cabinet are a group of young people aged between 11-18 who aim to provide a voice on behalf of fellow young people from across the county. Their latest manifesto sets out ambitions around health and wellbeing, education, safety, and equal access to culture and sport – and they are keen to connect with schools to ensure pupils have the chance to be heard and influence local democracy. Read more and find out how your school can get involved in [letter to schools from Worcestershire Youth Cabinet](#).

This year's [Worcestershire's KS2 Careers Offer](#) brings together exciting opportunities such as the STEM Challenge, Curiosity Museum, and Fiver Challenge. These programmes are designed to inspire pupils, raise aspirations, and help them explore their future with confidence while connecting classroom learning to the world of work. For more information please download the [KS2 Primary Careers Programme presentation](#).

According to the Office for National Statistics, fraud now accounts for over 40% of all crimes in England and Wales. Individuals, organisations, and businesses - including those in the education sector - are potential targets. The Department for Education is committed to helping the sector reduce the risk of fraud and error, and has published [new guidance to support education and training providers in preventing, detecting, and reporting fraud](#).

And finally, last week we wrote a [letter to schools regarding the arrangements for Annual Reviews/Key Stage Transfer Reviews for academic year 2025/26](#). If you have any queries regarding the Annual or Phase Transfer Review process, please contact the named EHCP Coordinator or contact the SEND Area team for your school setting.

Wishing you all the best.

Contents

Latest Council News and Updates	3
WCC Employee Flu Programme Launch 2025	3
Latest Education News and Updates	4
EYES Attendance Collection	4
Service Level Agreements	5
Market Engagement session for EYs Enhanced Provision	6
Capital Funding for School Based Nurseries – Phase 2	6
Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 25 th September 2025	7
Online Resources to Support the Safe and Effective use of Artificial Intelligence in Schools	7
Latest SEND News and Updates	8
SENCo Network Briefings	8
SENCo Locality Meeting	8
SEND Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment Panel	9
Latest Public Health News and Updates	10
KOOOTH - Suicide Prevention & Awareness Webinar	10
Lumi Nova Update in Worcestershire	10
Government Consultation on High-Caffeine Drinks for Under-16s	11
Skills for Life: Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Teaching Resource	12
Free Online Weight Management Programme	12
HANDi App Survey	13
Free training from NHS Solihull Approach	14
Latest Training and Conference News	15
Autumn 2025 Conferences	15
Early Years Network for new and returning Early Years Teachers	15
Oracy and Voice 21 Celebration event	16
Reception Moderation and Progress Check	16
Specific LA School training: Complete Overview of School Finances	17
Latest News from Teaching School Hubs	18
Rivers Teaching Alliance	18
Prince Henry’s Teaching School Hub	19
Tudor Grange Research School	21
Latest Community News and Updates	22
Explore free online library resources for learning and research	22
Active Travel Inspectors – empowering pupils to shape safer journeys	22
Have Your Say - Local Cycling Routes	23

Latest Council News and Updates

WCC Employee Flu Programme Launch 2025

Please read carefully and take immediate action

I am pleased to confirm our WCC Employee Flu Vaccination Programme is accessible to all school employees including those working in maintained schools and academies.

We want to ensure you have access to a free flu vaccine to support your health and wellbeing.

NHS – Free Flu Vaccination

If you are eligible for a [free flu vaccination](#) via the NHS, please contact your GP or a pharmacy offering the service and ensure you receive your vaccination.

If you are not eligible for a flu vaccination via the NHS, please use our employee route and book a slot. We want to ensure you have had a vaccination.

Access to local community pharmacies from an approved list

You can [call one of our participating local community pharmacies](#) and book an appointment directly with them.

You will need your: Date of birth, Personal Reference (Payroll) Number (if a WCC/WCF employee) and GP Details. You will need identification when you attend which shows who you work for, this could be an ID Badge or a Payslip (electronic)

If you have any questions, please speak to your line manager who can assist in the first instance. If you still have a problem, please email SchoolsHRconsultancy@worcestershire.gov.uk or call 01905 844560.

Latest Education News and Updates

EYES Attendance Collection

Worcestershire Children's Services is investing in a new Education database for all the education teams in July 2026 (linking with existing SEND and Social Care systems). As part of this move, we will be turning off the Wonde feed of attendance and other school data into our current system and using a brand-new system that extracts a much smaller and more specific amount of data instead.

Following a successful pilot, during the transition into our new system, we are now looking to have all school data imported into **both** our current system and into the new system, EYES. This is so we can ensure that data flowing into the new system is as seamless as possible when we go live and with data still importing into the old system, we can complete our due diligence to ensure data is accurate.

In a very small number of cases, there will be schools that have never shared data with us previously and we have taken the decision that rather than try and set them up on a system which has a limited lifespan within the authority we would instead set them straight up in the new system.

As you will be aware, there are many other data sets that have to be shared between schools and the local authority, so we continue to ask your school to complete the leavers/joiners forms, absence notifications, and part time timetable notifications, in the Children's Services Portal. In future, we do plan to streamline these processes via the new system.

To facilitate the above, a [new refreshed information sharing agreement](#) has been produced and all schools will need to sign this and return to ewitt@worcestershire.gov.uk.

If you have an alternative contact who could support with the set-up of Groupcall/XVault to import your data, and/or you would prefer for us to liaise with them rather than yourself, please supply their name and contact details when you send back the completed data sharing agreement.

Once schools have signed and returned the data sharing agreement, as well as confirm the preferred contact at the school, GroupCall will be in touch with the next steps.

If you have any questions about this project, please get in touch with Elaine Witt, ewitt@worcestershire.gov.uk (01905) 843 581, System Support Team Manager or Matt Pooler, mpooler@worcestershire.gov.uk, Education Engagement Manager. Please return your signed agreement to Elaine.

[Download EYES Data Sharing Agreement](#)

Service Level Agreements

A reminder that the Education eStore <https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/TradedServices> is open for schools to purchase their 12 monthly Service Level Agreements for:

School Admissions Distance Measuring Service

For academy, foundation, free or voluntary-aided schools that are their own admission authorities, we offer a distance measuring service to provide accurate and consistent distance measurements of all children applying for your school. This enables your school to rank every application in line with your admission arrangements.

We calculate the distance using a computerised system based on ordnance survey coordinates. These are calculated as a straight-line measurement between the geo-code of the pupil's home address and the geo-code of the school. Distance measuring does not consider walking, cycling or driving routes. If you would like further information, please contact Tracey Wilson, twilson@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 844284.

Free School Meals Eligibility Checking Service

Streamlining your Free School Meals (FSM) checking process saving you valuable time and resources.

This service offers a seamless, efficient subscription service to check eligibility of students for FSM in non-maintained schools and settings.

A simple initial online form, accessed by parents and carers using the same Citizen's Portal that most are familiar with, to make their application for a school place. Parents/carers only need to enter their forename, surname, date of birth, National Insurance Number (or National Asylum Support Reference Number), email address and telephone number, together with the details of each child they are claiming free school meals for.

For further information, please contact Tracey, freeschoolmeals@worcestershire.gov.uk, or telephone 01905 845280.

If you would like to speak to a member of the Traded Services Team, please email schoolservices@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 844300.

Market Engagement session for EYs Enhanced Provision

Following the review with parents, mainstream and specialist providers and health stakeholders, and the pilot Enhanced Early Years provision in the south of the county, we are interested in establishing provision for pre-school children with complex SEND needs in other parts of the county. We are looking for providers who are interested in delivering an Early Years Enhanced Provision using either their own accommodation or accommodation provided in the appropriate location.

The focused areas are Redditch/Bromsgrove, Wyre Forest and Evesham/Pershore.

There will be two opportunities to attend a market engagement event for providers to come along to hear about the proposals and help shape what the provision can offer, as well as to express their interest about potential application to deliver the provision.

Market Engagement Events are on the dates below:

1st October – face to face session at WCC Cricket Ground: 7pm – 8.30pm

6th October - virtual session: 10.30 – 12noon (link given once registered)

To register to attend, please email CHScommissioning@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Capital Funding for School Based Nurseries – Phase 2

On Thursday 4th September, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the second round of funding for school-based nursery provision. State-funded primary-phase schools, as well as Maintained Nursery Schools, are able to apply for up to £150,000 of capital funding to create or expand on-site Early Years provision. The new or expanded provision can be school-run or delivered by Early Years settings (PVI providers including childminders), offering places for any Early Years age group, in areas where there is local demand. Guidance on the scheme is available [here](#).

To apply for funding during phase 2, the provision is expected to be available by September 2026.

To apply for the funding, schools must have LA support and a completed Local Authority Approval Form. If you are intending to apply to the DfE for the School-Based Nursery Capital Grant 2025, firstly please complete the Local Authority [Expression of Interest form](#) to enable the local authority to assess:

- If there is a sufficiency need for additional early years provision in your local area; and
- If there are any accommodation, site or lease considerations.

The LA Expression of Interest form must be submitted by Friday 14th November: [Expression of Interest](#) to provide us with sufficient time to respond.

DfE applications from schools will be open from **Monday 22nd September** via the DfE's [Online Application Service](#). The deadline for applications is **Thursday 11th December**. Schools that are interested in opening provision in the future will be able to register their interest with the DfE from 22nd September.

Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 25th September 2025

Following the recent launch of our new RE SACRE at the conference in April, we are aware that some schools were unable to join us and so would like to offer you the opportunity to attend a short online introductory briefing/workshop to explore the *New SACRE with Stephen Pett, Lead Advisor for RE Today. During this session you will learn about the changes and discuss practical strategies for implementing the syllabus in your school.

As you are aware, RE is a statutory subject and as a Local Authority, we have an agreed SACRE syllabus, which is updated every five years, and this revised syllabus is to be implemented from September 2025.

To book your place: [Worcestershire Religious Education Syllabus](#)

Should you not yet have a copy of the revised SACRE syllabus, please contact Rachael Baldwin rbaldwin@worcestershire.gov.uk and a copy will be e-mailed to you. Please state the person to whom the syllabus is being sent, their role in school and their e-mail address (if different to the person responding) in the e-mail.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Online Resources to Support the Safe and Effective use of Artificial Intelligence in Schools

The Department for Education has partnered with Chiltern Learning Trust and the Chartered College of Teaching to publish [online resources to help school and college staff use AI safely and effectively](#).

The Chartered College has also published an [AI edition of their journal and case studies from various educational settings](#).

[DfE welcomes views on these resources using their feedback form](#).

Latest SEND News and Updates

SENCo Network Briefings

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 (Education Consultant).

National and local SEND updates are routinely provided to ensure SENCOs are aware of the latest information and initiatives to support delivery of high quality SEND provision in schools and settings. Briefings also include input from partners and schools across Worcestershire in response to area needs. Time will be allocated for questions and answers where relevant.

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

SENCo Locality Meeting

These valuable in-person sessions will include opportunities for professional development (informed by locality requirements), phase specific workshops and facilitated networking with SENCo colleagues, WCC SEND/Inclusion teams and wider partners.

Peer-to-peer support will be facilitated through a solutions-focused approach, encouraging SENCOs to discuss specific 'hot topics' and or CYP's needs to obtain ideas from colleagues and other professionals through sharing effective practices and addressing challenges to move things forward.

Cost: Free to attend - we encourage delegates to attend the meeting for their area within the county

- 24 November 2025, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester, course code: 10421 / 92191
- 26 November 2025, 1pm to 4pm, Redditch, course code: 10421 / 92192
- 16 March 2026, 1pm to 4pm, Redditch, course code: 10421 / 92193
- 23 March 2026, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester, course code: 10421 / 92194

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

SEND Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment Panel

Are you a Secondary or High School SENCo?

The SEND Assessment Team are looking for KS3 and KS4 School SENCOs to join their SEND Assessment Panel. We are looking for new panel members to provide their views and consider submitted evidence on whether WCC should carry out an EHC Needs Assessment.

The panel takes place on Microsoft Teams every Thursday at 1:30pm. The information is shared prior to the meeting through SharePoint. You would need to attend at least fortnightly. Please contact the SEND Assessment Team Managers if you are interested or would like to know more.

Hayley Davis-Leech hdavis-leech@worcestershire.gov.uk

Karen Sterry ksterry@worcestershire.gov.uk

Latest Public Health News and Updates

KOOTH - Suicide Prevention & Awareness Webinar

Talking about suicide can feel overwhelming, but opening up space for honesty and compassion can make all the difference. Please join this free webinar where KOOTH support options and resources will be explained as well as tips about how to approach conversations about mental health.

Monday 29th September 4pm to 5pm

Tuesday 30th September 10am to 11am

Please use this [link to book](#) and download the flyer from [Google Drive](#).

Lumi Nova Update in Worcestershire

Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage is a digital therapeutic mobile game supporting children with fears, worries and anxiety. Designed for children aged 7-12 years, Lumi Nova helps children to reflect on their feelings, build resilience, and learn lifelong skills to self-manage their worries in a fun intergalactic adventure. Lumi Nova is instantly accessible to families in Herefordshire and Worcestershire by signing up at luminova.app/handw

Since launch, **over 1200 families** have accessed Lumi Nova in Herefordshire and Worcestershire to support their child to self-manage their fears and worries!

New Resources

For many children and young people, this time of year may bring up feelings of worry about starting a new school, new class or even making friends. The Lumi Nova team are excited to share two fantastic new free resources to engage young people in talking about their worries while learning the steps to take to conquer them. Perfect to complement your PSHE / Whole School Approach plans.

Interactive Assembly (Y2–Y4, Y5–Y6)

A Lumi Nova team member leads a short, snappy session that is simple to deliver, interactive, and ideal for classrooms or assemblies. It helps young people understand worries and build resilience.

Lumi Nova Club Package

Supporting children's worries at home can be tricky. With the Lumi Nova Club, pupils can access support in school. The Club Pack includes everything needed to set up and run the club.

Access both at: luminova.app/resources#professionals

Government Consultation on High-Caffeine Drinks for Under-16s

The Government is currently consulting on a proposal to ban the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to individuals under the age of 16. As part of this process, the Public Health team is encouraging schools to share their views and actively involve young people in the discussion to ensure their voices are heard.

Potential benefits of a ban can be on the physical and mental health of children and young people—particularly those experiencing health inequalities. Concerns are based on evidence suggesting that excessive consumption of high-caffeine drinks may be associated with:

- Increased frequency of headaches, irritability, fatigue, and stomach discomfort
- Disrupted sleep patterns and reduced sleep quality
- Elevated risk of emotional challenges such as stress, anxiety, and depression
- A potential link to suicidal thoughts or behaviours
- Lower academic performance
- Associations with other risky behaviours, including vaping, smoking, alcohol use, and substance misuse
- High sugar content and acidity in some drinks, contributing to dental decay, obesity, and related health conditions

The consultation aims to gather a wide range of perspectives—from health professionals, educators, retailers, manufacturers, and the public—to inform a balanced and evidence-based decision. Schools are encouraged respond to the consultation and also support students and the school community to comment and submit feedback that reflects their views.

You can read more about the proposed ban here: [Banning the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to children - GOV.UK](#).

Comments can be made here: [Banning the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks to children under 16 years - Department of Health and Social Care](#)

The closing date is **26th November 2025 at 11.59pm**

Skills for Life: Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Teaching Resource

FAO: First, Primary & Middle school Headteachers and PSHE leads

We know that children with mental health problems (even mild enough to be undiagnosed) have a greater risk of poor mental health as an adult. This programme can help to prevent this by supporting children to develop positive strategies around:

- how to cope with everyday difficulties
- how to communicate with and get on with other people
- build self-awareness
- emotional resilience

There are a small number of places still available for first, primary and now middle schools to access this teaching resource for 1 academic year. The available programmes are:

- YR to Yr2: [Zippy's Friends for 5-7 year olds](#)
- Yr3 to Yr4: [Apple's Friends for 7-9 year olds](#)
- Yr 5 to Yr6: [Passport for 9-11 year olds](#)
- Y6 to Yr8: [SPARK Resilience for 10 - 12 year-olds](#) (support for transition)

The offer includes free training for up to 7 staff members (mid-October twilight session) and access to the teaching resources for 1 academic year. There will be a short evaluation at the end of the programme, summer 2026.

If your school who like to take advantage of this offer, please email ccharlton@worcestershire.gov.uk.

Free Online Weight Management Programme

Action: Please share with parents and staff via newsletters, social media, text messaging, websites

Healthy Worcestershire will be offering a FREE 12-week weight management rolling programme delivered as a virtual course via Teams that supports people to lose weight and keep it off long term. The virtual based sessions run on a Monday between 1-2pm. Courses are interactive, practical and discussion based. Each 1-hour weekly session consists of a 30- 45 minute nutrition workshop covering topics such as snacking, portion sizes, fats and sugar followed by a discussion and question period.

The programme focuses on changing behaviours, increasing activity level and making educated choices in order to lose weight. Individuals have the option of tracking weigh in's each week and are encouraged to work towards a 5% weight loss goal at week 12.

The Healthy Worcestershire rolling course features culturally appropriate recipes and dietary advice. Fully qualified experts provide nutrition and exercise support which is appropriate for people with a variety of health conditions, such as type 2 diabetes.

To self-refer please use this link [Nutrition and Lifestyle - Healthy Worcestershire's Services](#)

HANDi App Survey

We want to hear from parents and carers about their thoughts on the HANDi app.

[HANDi app](#) is a free NHS-approved tool to support parents and carers when a child is unwell. It offers trusted advice on common illnesses in children up to age 11, including diarrhoea and vomiting, high temperature, chestiness (such as asthma, bronchiolitis and croup), tummy pains, and common newborn problems.

The app helps you decide when to care for your child at home and when to seek further medical help (GP, NHS 111, urgent care, or emergency services). The full details about the app are available below.

Who is the survey for? All parents and carers of children aged under 11 years old, and who live in either Herefordshire or Worcestershire It's also for their families, carers, and the professionals who support children. You don't need to have used HANDi app previously to share your views.

Survey: To complete the survey, please use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HANDiApp>

Deadline and completion - The deadline to complete this survey is **12am (midnight), Tuesday 14th October 2025**.

How we will use your feedback - All responses will be anonymous. NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) will collate and store the answers that you give. We will publish the anonymous findings to our [website](#) and will also share with our partners. Personal identifying information will not appear in any publications resulting from this survey. Your anonymous quotes may be used in this, and other relevant ICB reports. Your views will help us make the HANDi app better for local families.

More information – For more information about the HANDi app, please visit:

<https://www.hwics.org.uk/our-services/handi-app>

Information about the survey is also available online: <https://www.hwics.org.uk/get-involved/involvement-opportunities/handi-app>

Free training from NHS Solihull Approach

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.

The three core courses cover:

- **understanding trauma** – recognising the impact of trauma, supporting recovery and resilience
- **understanding brain development** – from pregnancy to adolescence, and its influence on mental and emotional wellbeing
- **understanding attachment** – how strong, secure relationships help children feel safe, connected and ready to learn

Each course provides 3.75 CPD hours.

Who is it for?

Anyone working with children, young people or families in Worcestershire. This includes early years settings, schools, GPs, health visitors, family hubs, social care, libraries, youth workers, and volunteers.

Access the training

Go to: solihullapproachparenting.com/worcestershire

Use access code: PARENTSROCK_PRF

Latest Training and Conference News

Autumn 2025 Conferences

This autumn brings a packed programme of conferences for school leaders and staff, from safeguarding and attendance to inspiring teaching and leadership development. Don't miss the chance to connect, learn, and share best practice.

[Download Conference Flyer for Autumn 2025](#)

Early Years Network for new and returning Early Years Teachers

To support new and returning teachers to Early Years, we are now offering Early Years Network sessions as part of Worcestershire's CPD for Reception teachers. This network meeting is open to anyone who is in their first two years of working in Early Years, either as an ECT, or having worked in other year groups previously.

The aim of the network is to provide opportunities for Early Years new, returning and ECTs teachers in their first two years of Early Years to:

- Meet other Early Years new and returning teachers and ECTs in Worcestershire
- Share good practice
- Moderate outcomes
- Discuss successes and challenges
- Identify areas for further development or training
- Discuss transition both into and out of EYFS

There will be four meetings across the academic year, and each meeting will have a theme / item for discussion.

Cost: £50 + VAT per delegate

- Meeting 1: 15 October 2025, 4pm to 5.30pm, Worcester
- Meeting 2: 13 January 2026. 4pm to 5.30pm, Pershore
- Meeting 3: March 2026 – exact date and hosting school to be confirmed
- Meeting 4: May / June 2026 – exact date and hosting school to be confirmed.

CPD course code: 10633

Oracy and Voice 21 Celebration event

“Thinking about and planning for oracy has transformed my teaching.” (project participant)

A high-quality oracy education empowers students to use their voice to thrive in school and life.

Over the last 18 months, 7 Worcestershire schools have worked closely with Voice 21 on the Let's Talk at Transition project.

The project aimed to place oracy at the heart of the Y6-Y7 transition, supporting students at a pivotal point in their education by building a sense of belonging in school and enhancing confidence across the curriculum through talk.

Participating teachers have piloted new approaches to transition activities, developed talk-rich pedagogy and identified opportunities for students to use their voices beyond the classroom. Join us as we celebrate the impact of the project, share best practice and explore opportunities to build on the increasing number of Worcestershire schools invested in developing Oracy.

Event is Free

- 29 January 2026, 1pm to 4pm, Worcester, Course code: 10628

Reception Moderation and Progress Check

This session supports the quality assurance of teacher assessment judgements and provides a valuable opportunity for professional discussion and development through collaboration with colleagues. “It is important for teachers to build a shared understanding of the ELGs and the EYFS statutory framework.”

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

The sessions will provide an opportunity to discuss and **gain a shared view of the consistency and accuracy of judgements** being made. They are also an opportunity to discuss different ways to share information with Year 1 colleagues of the children’s strengths and areas of development so that colleagues can meet their needs and carry on their learning.

Cost: £47 + VAT per delegate

- 11 May 2026, 9am to 11.30am, Worcester, Course code: 10581 / 92419
- 11 May 2026, 1pm to 3.30pm, Worcester, Course code: 10581 / 92420
- 12 May 2026, 9am to 11.30am, Worcester, Course code: 10581 / 92421
- 12 May 2026, 1pm to 3.30pm, Worcester, Course code: 10581 / 92422

Specific LA School training: Complete Overview of School Finances

Target Audience: Head teachers/Business Managers/Finance Staff

Provide the knowledge and principles to assist in the role in school financial administration. It is recommended that Headteachers, Business Managers and Finance staff, who are new to School finance attend. However, existing finance staff are also welcome to attend for reassurance that they are following best practice.

The course will cover Roles and responsibilities, Finance policy, Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS), School Funding, virements, monitoring and reporting, purchasing controls and responsibilities, Income controls and responsibilities including collection and banking, Inventories and safeguarding assets, overview of school funds, and an overview of Imprest accounts.

Cost: £316 +VAT

- 3 October 2025, 9.30am to 3pm, Worcester, course code: 10142 / 92178
- Please note lunch is provided, please ensure any dietary needs are shared at the point of booking

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

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 us and the National Institute of Teaching for their ECT programme. We specialise in primary ECTs and would be happy to have a chat about what we can offer.

Following feedback and research, our 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 the 8th September. We 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](#)

Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub

Initial Teacher Training

Applications for the 26-27 cohort open on 7th October 2025.

ECF Update

For colleagues enrolled on the Prince Henry's ECF programme with Ambition Institute, please note the following upcoming dates for this academic year. Please use the link below to book onto these - www.ticketsource.co.uk/phtsh. For clinics, you will be sent the details to join via email.

Year 1 ECT Events:

Conference 1 – October 2025
Clinic 1 – 13th November 2025
Conference 2 – January 2026
Clinic 2 – 5th March 2025
Clinic 3 – 11th June 2026

Year 2 ECT Events:

Clinic 4 – 16th October 2025
Conference 3 – November 2025
Clinic 5 – 19th March 2026
Clinic 6 – 18th June 2026

ECT Mentor Events:

Clinic 2 for Year 2 Mentors – 6th November 2025
Clinic 1 for Year 1 Mentors – 5th February 2026
Conference 2 for Year 1 Mentors – March 2026

AB Update

DfE registrations for the 2025-26 cohort remain open. Please follow the link for guidance on how to register your ECTs with Prince Henry's TSH: <https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/registering-your-ect/>

All ECTs must be registered with the Appropriate Body before Tuesday 30th September 2025.

NPQ Update

The DfE have announced details of the Autumn cohort of National Professional Qualifications (NPQ). Please note that the Autumn 2025 intake will be the only NPQ intake during this academic year (2025-26). There will be no Spring 2026 cohort, and we are yet to receive confirmation of future funding. For that reason, schools are urged to take up available funded places during this application round. All schools are eligible for fully-funded places for the:

- NPQ for Headteachers
- NPQ for SENCOs
- Early Headship Coaching Offer

Fully-funded places are available for **disadvantaged schools** for the following:

- NPQ for Leading Teaching
- NPQ for Leading Behaviour and Culture
- NPQ for Leading Teacher Development
- NPQ for Leading Literacy
- NPQ for Early Years Leadership
- NPQ for Senior Leaders
- NPQ for Executive Leaders

Unsure if your school qualifies for scholarship funding. Use Best Practice Network's scholarship checker (you will need your school URN) here: <https://www.bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/NPQ-Scholarship-Checker>

School-funded places remain available for all NPQs

Applications are open **8th September 2025 - 24th October 2025**

How to apply?

[Prince Henry's TSH](#) for Malvern Hills, Worcester, Wychavon or Wyre Forest

[Tudor Grange TSH](#) for Bromsgrove and Redditch

Information about each programme and links to apply are available on our website:

<https://www.princehenryshub.co.uk/leadership-development/>

Tudor Grange Research School

Tudor Grange Research School (based at Tudor Grange Academy Solihull) is one of 33 in the Research Schools Network. Supported by the Education Endowment Foundation, we have one central aim: to support schools to break the link between family income and education attainment through better use of evidence.

We do this by working with schools, colleges, and early years settings in their region to improve teaching and learning. High quality teaching is one of the most powerful levers we have for improving outcomes for all children and young people, but particularly those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Using research evidence can help to support effective practice. Research Schools help bridge the gap between research and practice.

Key Events 2025/26:

Unlocking Potential Beyond the Label: A Leaders Guide to the EEF Pupil Premium Guidance

What: Session 1 looks at QFT, in particular adaptive teaching in practice. Session 2 explores methods for moving beyond labels to diagnose the specific barriers preventing progress

When: Session 1 - 16 October, online @3.30pm, Session 2 - 4 December, online @ 3.30pm

Where: Online sessions

Who: This is suitable for Senior Leaders, Middle Leaders and Teaching staff

Sign up via <https://researchschool.org.uk/tudor-grange/events-and-training>

Deepening Understanding Through Disciplinary Talk Across the Curriculum

What: We explore how to teach students to talk, think, and argue like subject experts. 4 sessions cover 4 subject areas.

When: Humanities subjects - 5 February @ 3.30pm, Practical subjects - 26 March @ 3.30pm, Science - 21 May @ 3.30pm, Maths - 18 June @ 3.30pm

Where: Online sessions

Who: This is suitable for Senior Leaders, Middle Leaders and Teaching staff of all specialisms.

Sign up via <https://researchschool.org.uk/tudor-grange/events-and-training>

Training costs: To help school budgets, this training is free of charge and planned outside of core teaching hours.

If you would like any **further information** on the work we do, please get in touch:

info.tudorgrange@researchschool.org.uk

[Download Tudor Grange Research School Event Flyer 2025/26](#)

Latest Community News and Updates

Explore free online library resources for learning and research

Unlock a world of FREE digital resources with a Worcestershire library membership! Access eBooks, eAudiobooks, eNewspapers, eMagazines, and specialist tools like The Times Digital Archive, Oxford University Press, and COBRA for business. Ideal for teachers and students, these trusted primary sources, reference materials and business tools are available 24/7 with a library card, and are perfect for coursework, revision, and primary research. Supercharge your students' learning and support your own professional development with these invaluable resources.

If you would like to know more, visit your local library or explore the Online Library Hub today: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/worcestershire-libraries/online-library-hub>

Active Travel Inspectors – empowering pupils to shape safer journeys

Every journey to school should be safe, active, and enjoyable - and young voices are key to making that happen. The *Active Travel Inspectors* programme gives pupils the chance to explore their local area, identify barriers to walking, wheeling, and cycling, and share their ideas for improving everyday journeys.

By taking part, pupils develop real-world skills such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking, while making a meaningful impact in their community. Resources are free for any school in England registered with the [Modeshift STARS Education scheme](#).

Launch Webinar - join Active Travel England for a special webinar introducing Active Travel Inspectors.

Date: Wednesday 8th October

Time: 11:00 - 11:45

Where: Online (MS Teams)

[Book your place now](#)

Find out more by watching the short video introduction: [What is the Active Travel Inspectors scheme?](#)

Have Your Say - Local Cycling Routes

Action: Please comment on the proposed walking and cycling routes for your locality

Draft proposals of an emergent network of walking, wheeling and cycling routes are being be considered for active travel. These have the potential to reduce traffic congestion, increase young peoples' physical activity levels and increase air quality. So, lots of benefits to schools.

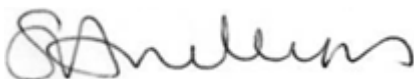
The survey is open until 31/10/25.

- Please invite young people to comment on the primary routes either as individuals or as groups through your local democracy approaches/youth councils, geography learning etc.
- Please also comment as a school.
- Please share with your parents and staff.

To see the maps please use the links below.

- [Droitwich](#)
- [Malvern](#)
- [Persnore](#)
- [Worcester](#)

You can access the survey [here](#).



Sarah Wilkins

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

