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## Education Bulletin

Dear Colleagues,

As we near the end of the year, I want to take a moment to recognise the incredible work of education staff across Worcestershire. Your commitment, professionalism and care for our children and young people continue to make a real difference every day. The dedication you show, often in challenging circumstances, is genuinely appreciated by the whole school community. Thank you for everything you have contributed over the past year.

Last week the Department for Education announced a £3bn investment to create 50,000 additional specialist SEND places across England. This forms part of a wider national plan to expand capacity, reduce waiting times for specialist support, and improve consistency of access to provision for children and young people with SEND. The funding will be delivered over several years, with capital allocations issued directly to local authorities to support local sufficiency planning. [Read more about £3bn investment to end postcode lottery for children with SEND.](#)

On 10 December, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport launched [Youth Matters: Your National Youth Strategy](#) - a 10-year plan aimed at ensuring every young person has somewhere to go, someone who cares about them, and a community they feel part of. The strategy sets out cross-government support for young people aged 10 to 21, and up to 25 for those with SEND. It is supported by insights from extensive engagement with young people, published alongside the strategy in the [Youth Matters: State of the Nation](#) report.

And finally, a reminder that children eligible for free school meals will receive £30 in vouchers for the Christmas holiday period. Access to the Edenred Portal will be available until Friday 9 January 2026 and vouchers will be valid for one-month from date of issue. For more information on ordering vouchers please refer to [Education Bulletin 208](#) published on 4 December 2025.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful break over the Christmas period and a very Happy New Year.

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## Important Updates for Information and Action

### Reminder about upcoming changes to the Education Data System

#### FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION BY ALL SCHOOLS

A reminder about important upcoming changes to the way Worcestershire County Council records and manages children's education data. We are moving to a new system which will bring education data into the same platform used for Social Care, Early Help and SEND.

The new module is called the **Early Years Education System (EYES)**. This change will create a more connected and efficient way to manage information across services, helping to provide a holistic view of each child and their family while maintaining a single, shared database across education and social care. This will improve accuracy, strengthen collaboration and enhance data security.

Set-up for school-age and post-16 education is already underway, with the system scheduled to go live in July 2026. Work for Early Years settings will begin in Summer 2026, ready to go live in July 2027.

To support this transition, we are asking schools to complete a few key actions.

- [Sign the EYES Data Sharing Agreement](#) - this allows us to set up and test connections now, ensuring everything is ready for the transfer of school data from September 2026.

To download a copy of the agreement for signing, use the link above and select **File > Download > Microsoft Word (.docx)**.

Once signed, please return the document to [chs.system.support@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:chs.system.support@worcestershire.gov.uk)

- [Check and update your school's details in GIAS \(Get Information About Schools\)](#) – please make sure your information is accurate, so our admissions list reflects the correct details.

In addition, during Summer Term 2026, we will ask you to confirm your up-to-date school contacts in preparation for September. These will include your SENCO, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, Admissions Officer, Free School Meals Officer, Attendance Data Officer, and the staff member responsible for education notifications such as elective home education, part-time timetables, absences and permanent exclusions.

We will continue to keep you updated as work progresses and will provide further guidance to support you through this transition. Your cooperation is essential to ensuring that the system is fully set up and tested ahead of the go-live date.

If you have any questions, please contact [chs.system.support@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:chs.system.support@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration.

## Managing Asthma in Schools

### **PLEASE REVIEW AND APPLY ICB ASTHMA GUIDANCE IN SCHOOL**

Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB have produced a webpage for schools to access their current guidance on managing asthma in schools, plus links to:

- Information webinar
- Staff training resources
- The 'Preventable' video for staff
- Record keeping/letter templates
- Real time air quality map

Please use this link to support your care of children with asthma, this is likely to be as many as 3 children in every class of 30 children.

[Managing Asthma in School - Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System](#)

## Autism West Midlands Webinars

### **PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR PARENTS, CARERS AND STAFF parents/carers and staff**

Autism West Midlands are delivering a series of autism awareness webinars taking place from January to March 2026. Topics include autism and anxiety, behaviours, teenage brain, sensory differences, communication and support.

These online webinars are open to parents, carers and professionals across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Booking is open on EventBrite or individuals can email the Autism West Midlands inbox to book a space via: [herefordworcs@autismwestmidlands.org.uk](mailto:herefordworcs@autismwestmidlands.org.uk)

Please download the webinar flyer from [Google Drive](#) and share with parents and carers in your school communications and with individual parents plus staff.

## Healthy & Happy Winter Guide for Parents/Carers and Teenagers

**PLEASE SHARE WIDELY WITH PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS BEFORE THE END OF TERM**

Our colleagues in Public Health have produced two healthy happy winter guides, one for parents and carers and one for teenagers. This year a guide for teenagers has also been produced as requested by some schools. The guides are designed for the winter holidays but also the rest of the winter season, so they remain relevant into the colder months.

[Winter Holiday Resource for Teenagers – Parent Carer Guide](#)

[Winter Holiday Resource for Teenagers – Young Persons Guide](#)

Please share with your parents and carers and students via your websites, parent/carers and student communications.

## Latest Attendance News and Updates

### DfE Attendance Webinars

#### Available Data and Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectations (ABIEs)

The recording of the most recent DfE attendance webinar introducing ABIEs and providing updates for schools on available similar schools' comparison reports is now available to view for any schools that were unable to join: [YouTube DfE Attendance webinar 25/11/25](#)

School attendance leads have also been sent copies of the **FAQs** raised from this event directly from the LA. If for any reason your school's attendance leader has not received this information, please contact Michelle Fowler: [Mfowler2@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Mfowler2@worcestershire.gov.uk)

The next **DfE attendance webinar will take place on Wednesday 28 January, 2026**

[Sign up to attend](#)

#### Access the Monitor your school attendance dashboard

Schools and academy trusts with access to the tool can log into [view your education data \(VYED\)](#) to access all attendance data.

If you have not used the tool before, you will need to [request access](#)

#### Access your similar schools' comparison report

To access your report:

- Go to <https://viewyourdata.education.gov.uk/>
- Sign in with your DfE Sign-in details
- Click 'Monitor your school attendance'
- Click 'Similar schools comparison reports'
- Click 'Your similar schools comparison reports'

### Pupil Experiences of School Feedback

The recently published DfE survey, conducted with parents and pupils, shares findings of pupils' experiences in school including feelings of belonging, enjoyment and safety, motivation to learn, and relationships with staff:

[Pupil experiences in school: academic year 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

These insights provide useful information for school leaders and attendance staff, enabling reflection on what works well and school culture to further support any review of attendance policies, procedures or practices you may want to consider for the new year.

## Forthcoming Attendance Training/Network Events

### Attendance Network Events

WCC's attendance network sessions start again in January. All schools are invited to sign up to our Network package and would be welcome to attend. The network package comprises three face to face sessions over the Spring/Summer terms, each providing opportunities to bring attendance leaders together to share key updates, effective practice, and information on current attendance drives making impact. Each session will enable time for participants to speak to other leaders in schools across the county and share experiences.

If you haven't yet reserved your place and would like to, further details and the link for your school CPD lead to book places can be found at: [Attendance Network Sessions Package](#)

### Attendance - Legal Action: Guidance for Schools Training

WCCs termly repeated legal training sessions, intended for Worcestershire school-based staff who may need to instigate a request for legal proceedings as part of their school attendance escalation process, will be running again in February and June. The training will explore when a request for legal proceedings maybe appropriate and the requirements upon schools in making such requests.

Additionally, we are offering a further course, delivered in conjunction with legal services, to assist schools in writing statements and understanding required statutory process in any attendance matters proceeding to court.

Further details and booking information for both courses are as below:

[Legal Action: Guidance for Schools](#)

[Guidance for Schools: Court Process and Writing Witness Statements](#)

### DfE reminder to schools – Seasonal Illness Absence

As the time of year where seasonal illness ordinarily peaks, the DfE are reminding all settings of the key guidance available to help manage and mitigate seasonal illnesses and to keep pupils and staff well. By sharing these resources, the aim is to promote and support healthy school environments and help maintain high attendance as far as possible throughout the winter months:

- [Education Hub Blog](#): Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance – a helpful blog for parents and staff
- [NHS Guidance for Parents](#): Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.
- [Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance](#): Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.
- [A–Z of managing Infectious Diseases](#): Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.

## Latest Education News and Updates

### DfE clarification on the use of Grounds H and I when removing a child from a school roll

Following a recent DfE webinar on CME, concerns have been raised nationally about the risk of schools removing children from their roll where the relevant ground may not be being met in full. This is not something we have seen in Worcestershire, but the DfE have asked that the below is reiterated and a reminder that removing a child from roll where the grounds have not been met would be unlawful.

- Grounds H, not returned following a leave of absence, and I, continuous absence of 20 days or more, **cannot be used** in cases where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil is unable to attend **because of sickness** or an unavoidable cause. This includes absence due to both physical and mental health, even where a pupil is still awaiting diagnosis.
- We ask that schools pay particular regard to lines in the regulations around illness, unavoidable causes and other authorised absence codes when considering whether removal from roll under grounds H and I is appropriate.
- In cases where the whereabouts and circumstances of the child is known, the school **must** have engaged with the local authority and **both** have no reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil will attend the school again, taking into account any reasonable steps they could take (either jointly or separately) to secure the pupil's attendance.
- **If joint reasonable enquiries have succeeded in finding out a pupil's location and circumstances, but the school has not engaged with the local authority and agreed that there are no reasonable grounds to believe the pupil will attend again, the criteria for grounds H and I have not been met.**

**Where a pupil's location and circumstances are known, ground H & I cannot be used in any of the following situations:**

- Where the school and / or local authority could reasonably support the pupil to return to school, regardless of whether that support has been provided to date.
- Where the school has reasonable grounds to believe the pupil is too unwell to come to school.
- Where required attendance support or legal action (e.g. Education Supervision Order, Penalty Notice, Prosecution or Parenting Orders) to cause the pupil to return to school could reasonably be taken instead.

In these circumstances, the appropriate support or enforcement should be taken rather than the pupil's name being deleted from roll.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact [cme@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cme@worcestershire.gov.uk) or your link Education Engagement Officer.

## Transitions Website and Poster

Transitions between schools are pivotal moments in a child's educational journey. As part of the Delivering Better Value programme, we have produced a [poster summarising valuable activities](#) schools can undertake to support positive and effective transitions. The poster also links to webpages offering a wide range of resources for school leaders, teachers, pupils, and parent carers.

Although the main focus is the transition from primary to secondary school, many of the suggested activities support other transition points as well.

Further resources will be added as new and emerging practice develops across the county.

Find out more at: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/worcestershire-education-and-early-years-services/improving-schools-and-settings>

## Overcoming obstacles to writing progress

Join a Q&A session on 15<sup>th</sup> January to find out more about a new evidence-rich CPDL programme which improves progress in and through writing for KS2 and lower KS3 pupils. Following a highly successful pilot part funded by EEF, we are collaborating with CUREE (Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education) and inviting schools in Worcestershire to take part in a new phase of development which maps directly onto the new national Writing Framework.

### Participants will access:

- **A digital pack of guidance** with clear, accessible resources and tools, to help participants and their colleagues implement strategies for tackling major writing barriers to writing progress learners face
- **x3 (1 full day, two half days) in-person CPDL sessions** run by expert facilitators, demonstrating the Response to Intervention approach for your focus pupils and protected time to plan and support implementation tailored to the specific needs of a focus group of pupils and their class
- **Remote support** to anticipate, identify and respond to implementation challenges at a time and format that suits you
- A library of **classroom resources** produced by peers and colleagues from other schools

Cost of participation is £500 per school, payable in advance. Colleagues who are interested to learn more can attend an online Q&A session on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The programme is expected to launch on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, venue tbc.

Book to attend the Q&A session 15 January, 2.30pm to 4pm via CPD

Use your school CPD leader login details to make the booking and search CPD code 10666  
<https://capublic.worcestershire.gov.uk/LearnCPD/CoursesSearch.aspx>

If you encounter issues when booking, please contact the training team on 01905 844 420 / [workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## Microsoft Publisher - End of Life Notification

Schools are advised that Microsoft Publisher will reach end of life in October 2026. After this date, Publisher will no longer be supported by Microsoft.

Schools that are currently using Publisher may wish to begin planning for alternative software solutions in advance of this change. Further information about suitable alternatives can be found on Microsoft's website or through your usual IT support provider.

## Early Years Initial Teacher Training

Worcester University are offering DfE fully funded places on their 'Early Years Initial Teacher Training with Early Years Teacher Status' course starting in September 2026.

This postgraduate qualification can be accessed via a graduate employment-based route, that includes a £7,000 incentive payment for employers to cover the cost of releasing the staff member during their studies.

For further information, please visit: [Early Years Initial Teacher Training PGCert | University of Worcester](#)

## Latest SEND News and Updates

### Herefordshire & Worcestershire SENDIASS

#### SENDIASS launches new programme of support in Wychavon

##### FOR INFORMATION AND SHARING WITH FAMILIES IN WYCHAVON

Our [SENDIASS](#) team have launched a new community-based programme, *SENDIASS Connects Wychavon*, designed to make Special Educational Needs and Disabilities information, advice and support easier for local families to access.

Running from January to March 2026, the programme will offer free training workshops, specialist advice drop-ins for parent carers, and youth drop-ins for children and young people with SEND. Sessions will take place in community venues across Pershore, Evesham and Droitwich.

SENDIASS recognises how important it is for families to receive support locally, and this pilot aims to bring guidance, information and practical help directly into communities. It is hoped that similar programmes will be rolled out across other districts in the future.

Full details, including booking links for all sessions, are available at:  
[www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSconnects](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDIASSconnects)

Please share this information with families who may benefit.

#### Programme overview

##### Pershore – Pershore Riverside Centre

- EHCP Training: 14 January, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Guide to SEND: 11 February, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Transitions Training: 12 March, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Advisor Drop-ins: 20 January; 25 February; 16 March (10am–2.30pm)
- Youth Advice Drop-in: 19 January (10am–2.30pm)

##### Evesham – Evesham Library

- EHCP Training: 23 January, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Guide to SEND: 26 February, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Transitions Training: 19 March, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Advisor Drop-ins: 27 January; 3 March; 26 March (10am–2.30pm)
- Youth Advice (YPA) Drop-in: 9 February (10am–2.30pm)

##### Droitwich – Droitwich Library / Workpays (Victoria Square)

- EHCP Training: 30 January, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Guide to SEND: 6 February, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Transitions Training: 6 March, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Advisor Drop-ins (Workpays): 2 February; 23 February; 11 March (10am–2.30pm)
- Youth Advice (YPA) Drop-in: 18 March (10am–2.30pm)

## SENDIASS launch brand new FREE SEND Webinars for parent carers

As part of the Worcestershire Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project, [SENDIASS](#) will be delivering three brand new FREE webinars for ALL local parent carers.

The new webinar topics requested by Worcestershire Parent Carer Forum include:

- A Guide to SEND
- How to have an effective meeting
- Introduction to dyslexia

These webinars will run throughout January and February 2026 and will include a daytime and evening session for each. Places are already available to book here: [Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) | SENDIASS](#)

All SENDIASS training workshop and webinar dates for the spring term are available here: [SENDIASS Training and Events](#)

## Co-production Updates

Children and young people with additional needs and disabilities in Worcestershire have been working hard with our co-production officers to use their voice to inform and influence change within services in Worcestershire. Our forum **Voices United** now has 11 committed members. They co-produced their logo below:



The forum meets monthly and discusses a variety of areas within SEND. At the last meeting Adam Johnston – Director of Children’s Services and lecturers from the University of Worcester – Holly Plante and Sean Bracken attended. Meaningful discussions took place around inclusion and why having a forum like Voices United is so important. Quote from a Voices United member **“I’m finding voices united very interesting and it’s making me more confident”**

As the forum grows, the young people themselves will set more of the agenda and lead the conversations.

Children and young people can get involved with us by:

Joining the **Voices network** which could include:

- completing surveys and questionnaires
- sometimes meeting with co-production officers or services to share their views
- sending voice notes, emails, videos, photos, drawings to explain their views
- sending information on topics of interest for a SEND newsletter

Joining the **Voices United Forum** which involves:

- meeting monthly online or in person
- sharing views and opinions in a group context
- attending meetings with services in Worcestershire

**How you could help grow and develop this even further:**

- The co-production officers would love to come and visit more schools and settings to engage with a diverse range of young people and get them involved in projects. Please get in touch with [sendcoproductionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sendcoproductionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk) to organise a visit.

If you know a child or young person with additional needs and/or disabilities that would like to get involved please email [sendcoproductionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sendcoproductionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk)

Keep up to date with how we're working with young people by following [Voices United Worcestershire](#) on Facebook or visit the website: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction>

## Latest Public Health News and Updates

### Increase in Winter Illnesses including Flu

UKHSA has reported an increase in calls from childcare and educational settings across the West Midlands about outbreaks of respiratory infections as well as diarrhoea and vomiting. The below documents from the West Midlands Health Protection team were sent out to education settings last week and included:

- Guidance for diarrhoea and vomiting outbreaks – including infection prevention and control measures that should be taken during an outbreak.
- A quick reference card for managing respiratory infection outbreaks.
- A winter illness leaflet for parents and staff, providing advice on common seasonal infections and recommended actions.
- A poster with tips to stop Norovirus from spreading.

There are also some updates to the reporting procedures for nurseries and education settings:

- Settings no longer need to complete an outbreak notification form to report an outbreak to UKHSA.
- First, all settings should consult national guidance available at [Health protection in children and young people settings, including education - GOV.UK](#), which covers managing various infectious diseases (A-Z). Further advice can be found on this site.
- If additional support is needed, settings should contact UKHSA by calling 0344 225 3560 (option 2) or emailing [westmidlands.arc@ukhsa.gov.uk](mailto:westmidlands.arc@ukhsa.gov.uk).

Recent reports also indicate an increase in flu cases across England as winter approaches. The NHS and UK government recommend several measures to minimise the spread of influenza, including vaccination, regular handwashing, and remaining at home when unwell. These interventions are essential for protecting vulnerable populations such as children, older adults, and individuals with underlying health conditions.

Steps to help prevent the spread of respiratory infections include:

- Obtain vaccination if eligible.
- Stay at home when experiencing illness.
- Ensure good ventilation when meeting indoors by opening windows, whilst considering room temperature and potential sensitivity to cold among attendees.
- Practice good hygiene:
  - Cough into your elbow or use a tissue, disposing of it immediately.
  - Wash hands frequently with warm water and soap.
  - Regularly clean high-touch surfaces, such as door handles.
- Wear a mask if you are unwell and must leave home.

These actions collectively help to safeguard those most at risk from respiratory illnesses. Further information is available in the latest UKHSA blog : [How to avoid catching flu, COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses this winter – UK Health Security Agency](#)

As part of Worcestershire's 'Clean hands safe hands' campaign, the WCC Public Health Team offers sessions on proper handwashing. They can arrange visits to schools, nurseries, and colleges to provide demonstrations and interactive activities that promote good hand hygiene. More information about the campaign follows below.

## Clean Hands, Safe Hands Campaign

The Public Health Team at Worcestershire County Council would like to remind everyone about the 'Clean Hands, Safe Hands' handwashing campaign. Maintaining good hand hygiene is one of the simplest and most effective measures for preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

### Importance of Hand Hygiene for Children

It is especially important to instil proper handwashing habits in children. Teaching young people how to wash their hands correctly empowers them to protect their own health, as well as the health of those around them. Since children's immune systems are still developing, they are particularly vulnerable to common infections, especially in environments such as schools, nurseries, and playgrounds. By demonstrating and explaining the importance of handwashing, we help to interrupt the spread of illnesses, thereby reducing school absences and fostering a healthier learning environment. Early education in hand hygiene not only protects children now, but also helps form lifelong habits that benefit entire communities in the future.

### Interactive Learning Sessions

As part of the [Clean Hands, Safe Hands](#) campaign, the Public Health Team is offering interactive, in-person learning sessions tailored for schools, nurseries, and other educational settings. Each session lasts approximately one hour and is delivered directly by members of the Public Health Team.

The lessons are designed to be engaging and hands-on, with a variety of activities for children to participate in. One highlight of the session is the use of an Ultraviolet Lightbox to demonstrate effective handwashing. Children apply a special UV gel to their hands and then attempt to wash it off. When they place their hands under the lightbox, any areas they have missed will glow, visually showing the importance of thorough handwashing.

We are pleased to share that we have already engaged with over 1,000 children in schools across Worcestershire, helping them to learn about the importance of hand hygiene in a fun and memorable way.

These sessions can be held in a range of settings, including schools, nurseries, colleges, day care centres, and after school clubs. The content is adapted to be age-appropriate for each group, ensuring that all pupils can learn why handwashing is crucial and how to wash and dry their hands effectively. At the end of each lesson, children will receive *Clean Hands, Safe Hands* merchandise such as stickers and badges as a reminder of what they have learned.

## How to Arrange a Session

If you would like the Public Health Team to visit your setting or if you have any questions about the sessions, please send an email to [phapplications@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:phapplications@worcestershire.gov.uk) including a contact name and email address. The team will then provide a form for you to complete in order to arrange a learning session.

## Further Information

For more details about the *Clean Hands, Safe Hands* campaign, including access to handwashing toolkits and activity packs, please visit the [Clean Hands, Safe Hands page on the Worcestershire County Council website](#).

## Winter Infections in Children Information Pack

Worcestershire Public Health have updated their Winter Infections in Children Information Pack.

The pack provides the latest advice, information and resources about infectious diseases and actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of transmission.

[Download Winter Infections in Children Information Pack](#)

## Latest Training and Conference News

### Training Confirmation and Joining Instructions

The Training Team wanted to share the following reminder to CPD leaders to share with staff.

- When delegates are booked onto a training course / conference / free event via Worcestershire's CPD booking system confirmation is immediate and comes from [cap-donotreply@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cap-donotreply@worcestershire.gov.uk).
- We ask that junk / spam folders are checked, that you double check with your IT department that [cap-donotreply@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cap-donotreply@worcestershire.gov.uk) is not a blocked email address and that if after 24 hours it's not been received to contact the team
- Reminders are issued approx. 10 days before and this may include materials for the training (with directions on how to access them)
- If for any reason you have not received your confirmation and/or reminder at least four days before the training course is due to take place, then contact the training team directly on 01905 844 420 / [workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk)
- If you contact the training team the day the training is due to take place, we cannot guarantee a response in sufficient time, and this could impact your attendance.

### How do I know what training and conferences are available from teams within Children's Services?

Visit [Worcestershire Education and Early Years Services](#) all information regarding booking training / accessing training directories / conferences and support using CPD can be found by click on "Training, Conferences and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)"

Our Training directories are broken down accordingly:

- Early Years – covering birth to reception training including training available to our PVI Early Years Sector
- Schools – covering reception upwards and detailing training for a wider variety of teams i.e. education engagement / autism
- Safeguarding – specifically details the safeguarding training available to schools and includes a breakdown where schools have the current Safeguarding SLA
- Governor Training – specific training for those who are part of the Governing Board
- Virtual School – TIAAS training – specifically funded Training to ensure schools can become Trama informed

Join our mailing list

- Provides staff with an opportunity to access targeted marketing to suit their role within school
- Our mailing list is fully GDPR compliant and ensures that any point you can either update preferences or unsubscribe
- To join our mailing list, visit [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/education](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/education), click on Training, Conferences and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) then click on Join mailing list

## Support using CPD

Our support using CPD section has been devised to replace a formal user guide and is continually reviewed / updated. Broken down into specific topic areas to provide additional support and information.

## Girls and Autism

A 90-minute opportunity which covers:

- 'Typical' presentations of girls with autism
- How to support "masking" behaviour
- How to support girls with autism in your classroom
- How to support girls with autism with their self-esteem

Cost: £28.50 + VAT per delegate

Discount for January 2026 course: Send additional delegates for £13 + VAT

14 January 2026, 4pm to 5.30pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10078 / 92018

## Using visual tools to reflect on social situations

A 60-minute opportunity which covers:

- Overview of autism and its impact on a young person's social skills
- What tools are available to reflect visually on social situations?
- When to use these tools
- How to make these tools effective

Cost: £21 + Vat per delegate

Discount for January 2026 course: Send additional delegates for £9 + VAT

21 January 2026, 4pm to 5pm, virtual delivery, course code: 10175 / 92041

## Adaptive Practice for Learners with SEND in Mainstream Primary Classrooms

A collaboration between the WCC School Improvement Team and University of Worcester.

This two-part CPD programme is designed to support Inclusion Leads/ SENDCos/ Teaching and Learning Leads in Primary age settings (inc. First/Primary/Middle schools) in developing inclusive, sustainable approaches to meeting the needs of learners with SEND.

Delivered across two morning sessions with a structured gap task and an online supportive check-in / catch-up, the training provides practical tools, reflective space, and collaborative dialogue to strengthen classroom provision within each school's unique context.

Participants will engage with an adaptive practice toolkit, explore evidence-informed strategies, and co-develop models for implementation that are locally relevant and sustainable.

By the end of the training, participants will be able to:

1. Develop a shared understanding of inclusive principles and current challenges in meeting the needs of learners with SEND across primary settings.
2. Analyse their own school context, identifying strengths, gaps, and priorities in SEND provision through structured discussion and collaborative reflection.
3. Apply key strategies from the toolkit to enhance inclusive practice, with a focus on adaptive teaching and needs-led planning.
4. Critically reflect on current practice, using case-based dialogue and peer feedback to identify opportunities for improvement and innovation.
5. Design a locally relevant implementation model that integrates inclusive strategies into school systems, with clear intentions for sustainability and impact.
6. Strengthen professional networks, fostering ongoing collaboration and shared accountability for improving outcomes for learners with SEND

Cost: £135 + VAT per delegate

Delivered over three dates

- Session 1: 24 February 2026, 9am to 12pm, Worcester
- Session 2: 25 March 2026, 3.30pm to 4.30pm, virtual delivery
- Session 3: 28 April 2026, 9am to 12pm, Worcester

CPD course code: 10655

## Aspiring Leaders

As part of the School Improvement leadership offer, this course is aimed at aspiring Assistant Heads, Deputies and Heads of School who are looking to move into their first Headship.

Delegates will have the opportunity to:

- Work with, visit and host leaders from other schools reflecting on effective leadership in a variety of settings
- Listen to and reflect on the leadership journeys of new and experienced leaders and headteachers.
- Undertake a high impact improvement project in their own schools (chosen by individual schools to fit in with current school priorities)
- Sharpen their own leadership and empower other leaders to strengthen the quality and impact of necessary change
- Reflect and use current thinking and research on highly effective leadership.
- Further develop a robust understanding of efficient management of systems and structures.

We are excited by this opportunity to work alongside our future leaders and headteachers while promoting and supporting wider collaborative working.

Cost: £362 + VAT

All sessions are 1.30pm to 4.30pm, Worcester

- Session 1: 15 January 2026
- Session 2: 24 February 2026
- Session 3: 19 March 2026
- Session 4: 23 April 2026
- Session 5: 11 June 2026
- Session 6: 7 July 2026

CPD Course code: 10647

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](mailto:workforcesupport@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## January 2026 Conferences, Masterclasses & Events

We are offering four events across January, blending virtual delivery and in-person sessions in Worcestershire. These will include Practical strategies, networking opportunities, and inspiring insights to take back to your schools

### **Facilitating Constructive Engagement with Boys and Young Men**

Thursday 22 January 2026, 16:00 – 17:30, Virtual Delivery

Explore the importance of tailored support for boys and young men—and discover what makes these programmes effective. Led by Michael, the session covers:

- Evidence-based strategies for leading meaningful, constructive conversations
- A powerful blend of theory and practice, shaped by decades of experience in Secondary Education
- Practical insights to create safer spaces and empower young males to be both safe—and safe to be around

Book Now: [Facilitating Constructive Engagement with Boys and Young Men](#)

### **Leaders of Learning**

Tuesday 27 January 2026, 13:00 – 16:00, Worcester

A bespoke package for Heads, Deputy Heads, and Senior Leads. Each purchase entitles access to three workshops per year. Workshops include:

- Quick wins to reduce workload
- Updates on inspection patterns
- Research and project insights
- Dedicated time to connect and share experiences with leaders across the county

Book Now: [Leaders of Learning](#)

### **Masterclass: Trauma, Attachment & Disadvantage Responsive Schools**

Tuesday 27 January 2026, 15:30 – 17:30, Virtual Delivery

Join Stuart Guest, Head Teacher at Colebourne Primary School, for a session deepening your understanding of trauma, attachment, and disadvantage. Focus areas:

- How trauma may present in the classroom, school, and home
- Practical ways to support pupils to thrive—not just survive
- Strategies to build responsive, supportive environments

Book Now: [Trauma, Attachment & Disadvantage Responsive Schools](#)

### **Worcestershire Autism Mentor (WAM) Conference**

Wednesday 28 January 2026, 9:15 – 14:30, Worcester

A celebratory annual event recognising the vital work of WAMs in schools. Highlights include:

- Inspiring opportunities to share ideas and build networks
- Informative presentations, resources, and practical tools
- Recognition of your contribution and support for the continued development of your role

Book Now: [Worcestershire Autism Mentor Conference](#)

## Latest Community News and Updates

### INFORMATION FOR SHARING WITH YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

#### Free Home improvements to help save energy and make homes warmer

Worcestershire County Council is now offering residents in Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Worcester City **FREE** home improvements to help keep homes warm and lower household fuel bills. If you have a combined household income of £36k or less then you could be eligible for free home insulation, Solar panels, Air Source Heat Pump or High Heat Retention Storage Heaters, energy efficient windows and doors.

To find out more about the Warm Homes Local Grant scheme and how to apply visit: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/whlg>



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Wilkins', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

**Sarah Wilkins**

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

