

SENCO NEWSLETTER



Hi all

We have been working hard on our SEF which we should be able to circulate to you all shortly. We have been through an extensive consultation to ensure as many voices as possible are captured and it really feels like a Local Area SEF. This has meant it has been a slightly slower process but we think now that we have a document we can all own and recognise as a summary of the Greenwich area. There are no real surprises in the information which is reassuring and reflects the way we all work together on a daily basis. We have a lot of great practice to celebrate and it's been good to reflect on them as well as where we know we need to get things better.

The new PDC training brochure will also be out soon with some new additions to the offer from the outreach services and the educational Psychology service many of which are joint ventures. We will keep you updated especially with anything new on offer. Attention Autism is running again at the start of next term and I have been told almost all places have been snapped up, but please contact Minna if you are interested and we can add names or create a waiting list.

Early Talk Boost is running another session this term which is fully booked and we will release dates for next term in the next SENCO newsletter.

There are some significant changes to the ICAN centre at Mulgrave and Pound Park in response to your feedback, that of families and an early years review which we will let you know about in the next week. The provision will be changing venue but also widening out to include children with social communication needs. All the staff have been appointed and we will do some sessions to share the model early next term. If anyone would like to be on the steering group we will be looking for a SENCO or Headteacher to join us.

Finally thank you all for so many messages sent after I let you know of my retirement. It really has been quite overwhelming. I will let you all know next steps as soon as things are clear.

Roz

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Diary Dates

SENCO FORUM DATES 2022/23:

13th June 2023 (2:00pm - 5:00pm)

Great news from SEN ASSESSMENT and REVIEW.....



The SEN team have been working really hard to improve the compliance in RBG with statutory timescales and our new 2023 data is showing us the impact they are all making, Well done to all who have been involved in that process and we look forward to even better compliance over the coming months

- All EHCNA requests over 20 weeks have reduced significantly.
- Live cases continue to fall, however a peak of EHCNA requests is expected during March.
- Our compliance is close to the national average which currently stands at 50%*

	New EHC-NA	EHC Plans Issued	EHC Plans Issued excluding exceptions	EHC Plans Issued in 20 Weeks	Compliance %
January 2023	42	47	25	11	44%
February 2023	42	39	32	17	53%
Total	84	86	57	28	49%

Number of weeks	31/01/2023	28/02/2023
Within 20 weeks	144	151
Btw 20 - 30 weeks	18	12
Btw 30 - 52 weeks	9	10
52 weeks+	0	0
Total	171	174
New requests received in the same month	42	42

SPRING ADMISSIONS PANELS

Please note that the Spring Term Admissions Panels have now concluded (exception of the Willow Dene Primary Panel) and you can expect to receive outcomes shortly. Willow Dene Special School remains significantly over it's PAN and have no in year places available, therefore the Spring Term Willow Dene Admissions Panel was deferred.

All children will automatically be placed onto the Summer Term Panel (Monday 22 May 2023) and will considered for admission for September 2023. However, please advised your SENCOs that they should provide a brief school update and resubmit all information for a child in the event that there is new information they would like the panel to consider at the summer term panel.

If a child meets criteria at the Summer Willow Dene Admissions Panel after being deferred from the Spring Admissions Panel their banding will be increased to Band 6 retrospectively from 09/03/2023.

Parents of all children will be written to and advised the panel has been deferred until the summer term.

NEW SHORT BREAKS OFFER

We are pleased to confirm our updated Short Breaks offer from 1st April 2023. The new guide has been attached to this bulletin. Please do share as widely as possible with staff and most importantly with families!

Through our coproduction with children, young people and families, we have extended the provision to those aged 18-25, are in the process of developing an offer for those aged 0-4, and children and young people aged 5-17 continue to have access to up to 100 hours per year of activities. We have been able to increase the provision across all cohorts, including age range and levels of need. Please see attached for a You Said, We Did document with further information on the work that has been done in the last few months! We are in the process of updating our Local Offer as we speak. In the interim information on the Short Break Core Offer can be found on the Short Break page.

<https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/kb5/greenwich/directory/advice.page?id=1YXLOYPJdfQ>

Educational Psychology Service (EPS) updates

As you are aware, we have been able to keep the cost of the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) to schools fixed since 2021. However, as of next academic year, we have taken the decision to increase costs in line with inflation to £525 per visit. This will enable us to continue to cover the cost of service delivery and provide a high-quality offer. After a careful benchmarking exercise, we are confident that the rate remains reasonable and comparable to those across London (both within the private and public sector).

We have updated our service offer to schools on the [Direct Services](#) website, to include more information about what the EPS can provide. This includes information about our Assistant EPs and contact details for those interested in ELSA training. We are pleased to confirm that, after a successful recruitment drive, we have been able to expand the team and will see a number of excellent EPs joining us between now and September. We are continuing our recruitment efforts and hope that the EPS can continue to work with RBG schools to promote preventative work, ensuring that children's needs can be met as early as possible. We have also recently expanded our locum EP capacity with a specific focus on managing the high numbers of statutory requests coming into the service.

Please look out for the SLA renewal deadline and let us know at your earliest convenience how much EP time you wish to purchase next year.

The service remains in very high demand, so we urge you to get your requests in early to avoid disappointment.



AUTISM and GIRLS – a brand-new course developed by the Autism Outreach Service

Over a number of years there has been an increasing demand from schools and settings to learn more about autistic girls and how to meet their needs in educational settings. It is widely recognised that autism often affects girls very differently so as professionals we need to know how to adjust our support to meet those needs.

Our ASD and Girls training package is now available to book for all Greenwich practitioners.

The course covers the areas of differences in relation to the autism diagnosis and girls. We have a group of Greenwich virtual co-tutors that gave us their insights into how autistic girls experience the world, their friendships and relationships, and what the challenges are for them in an educational setting/ place of work. The course also included the Clinical Lead for the Integrated Neurodevelopmental Team in Greenwich who talked about the diagnostic process and expertise required to ensure that girls are given the correct diagnosis.

Our first Autism and Girls whole day training session will take place on

Thursday 4th May 2023 at 9.30am -3.30pm at King's Park, Eltham

Training is free for RBG schools and settings – the cost for external participants is £155.

Please visit <http://servicestoschools.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/courses/sen> to secure a place on the course

if you need any further information about the course please email

lydia.barnes@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or benjamin.sloan@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

“Overall, a great training package – opened up a whole new way of looking at autism”

“Covers a range of content – very informative”

“Getting the perspective of the children and their first hand experience was a strength”⁴

SEND Outreach Services Referrals

Just a reminder of the **NEW** processes for making referrals to teams.

ALL relevant sections of the referral form **MUST** be completed in full (pages 1-4 and relevant Appendices), with any reports from outside agencies attached.

From **NEXT** term we will not be accepting any referrals that are NOT complete.

- Incomplete STEPS referrals will be returned for completion (STEPS)
- ASD referrals will NOT be allocated without the school Information Gathering Form

FOR ASD OUTREACH

We require:

Checklist	Tick
A completed consent form	
Evidence of the ASD diagnosis in the form of a diagnostic report or clinic letter	
A schools information gathering form	

BEFORE the referral will be processed.

FOR STEPS

Please note that for STEPS referrals, the following checklist is contained within the referral, to support with the referral process.

Checklist	Tick
Ensure that 'reason for referral' is clearly stated	
Attainment: If below Age Related Expectation, indicate year group or PIVATS milestone	
For a dyslexia referral indicate the interventions tried to date	
For a dyslexia referral ensure a completed parental questionnaire is attached	
If other agencies have been involved ensure reports are attached	
Ensure the outcome of the phonic screening is included	
Information about a recent vision and hearing check is required	
Ensure the referral is signed by the parent/carers and the SENCO	

NEW VIDEO RESOURCES

As a local area partnership, we have created this series of videos to provide information, strategies and support for families with autism as well as those with a child on the autism assessment pathway.



Families have told us that they need more support whilst they wait for diagnosis and immediately after. The purpose of the video series is to provide families accessible information to help parents/carers understand autism and develop tools and strategies to support their children at home. We are ambitious for our families and want to ensure they have access to the right information, at the right time.

Coming soon in the series

- Video introducing the Local Offer
- Communication
- Interaction
- Changes and Transitions
- Sensory Issues
- Physical bodies
- Adolescents and neurodiversity
- Special interests

The videos are produced with Royal Borough of Greenwich, the Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum, SEL ICB Greenwich, Oxleas NHS Trust and CAMHS.

All the current videos can be seen on the Local Offer:

[Children & Young people and Autism: a video series for families | Greenwich Community Directory](#)



The Dyslexia Friendly Classroom – A practical and hands-on Workshop for Educators
Hosted by the Dyslexia Association of Bexley Bromley Greenwich and Lewisham
Presented by Neil McKay, founder of the Dyslexia Friendly Classroom concept

This practical event provides evidence-validated strategies and solutions to maximise the progress of learners who tend to think faster than they read, write, spell and get ideas down on paper. Focusing on quality first accommodations for the unsupported classroom, a particular emphasis will be on high impact "dyslexia friendly" approaches, especially selected to have a positive impact on the learning of **all** in the class. The target group will be Key Stages 2+3 and the strategies are easily modified for younger and older learners. Suggestions for working with colleagues to implement strategies back in school will be made throughout the presentation.

Date: Saturday 13th May 2023

Time: 8.30am for 9am start until 3.30pm

Place: The Warren, Croydon Road, Bromley, BR2 7AL - <https://www.mpthewarren.com>

Tickets: £80 - Early Bird tickets purchased before 11pm on 1st April; tickets purchased after that date will be charged at £90. Lunch and refreshments included.

To Book: via Eventbrite, please click on the link –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-dyslexia-friendly-classroom-workshop-for-educators-tickets-570561373427>

Cancellation Policy: No refunds for cancellations after 28th April

Booking closes 4th May, we will maintain a waiting list if necessary.

If you need any further information, please contact info@dyslexiawise.co.uk

Some comments from a similar event last year:

"One of the best conferences that I have been to as it was pitched just right – with good new ideas that delegates can take back to school and use immediately.

"Fantastic, informative and enlightening course." "This will definitely become part of my planning and implementation process. Loved the building a story idea "

Your Dyslexia Friendly Classroom

A practical and hands-on Workshop for **Educators**

Presented by **Neil McKay**, founder of the Dyslexia Friendly Classroom concept

Hosted by Dyslexia Association of Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich & Lewisham



"Getting it right for dyslexia really does get it right for all"

Saturday 13th May 2023

8.30am for 9am start until 3.30pm

The Warren ♦ Croydon Road ♦ Bromley ♦ BR2 7AL

Early Bird price (before 11pm 1st April 2023) £80* ♦ Full price £90*

**Includes lunch & refreshments*

To book go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-dyslexia-friendly-classroom-workshop-for-educators-tickets-670991873427>

Booking closes 4th May 2023 - No refunds after 28th April 2023

See attachments for poster versions you can display or send to families

Dyslexia Fun Afternoon

**Saturday 25th March
(2pm - 4pm)**

Suitable for Key Stages 2 & 3



Entry fee £5 (per child) – cash on the door please

Christ Church (rear halls), Broadway, Bexleyheath
On-site parking is available

Painting ♦ Drawing ♦ Fabric decorating ♦ Card & paper creations ♦ Pom pom creations ♦ Games & puzzles
Simple activities with food ♦ Movement & exercise to music ♦ Building with plastic bricks

Chance to meet other dyslexics

Parents can discuss dyslexia and swap ideas

To book go to <https://form.jotform.com/dabblevents/fun-afternoon>

SEND OUTREACH SERVICES: General inboxes

Following the success of using a generic email for ASD Outreach Service and to improve the SEND Outreach Services communication with our parents, schools and other professionals as **from 1st of September 2022** we have introduced an individual email address for each service:

STEPS- STEPS@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Sensory Service – sensory-service@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

EYIT – EYIT@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

ASD Outreach Service – ASD-outreach@royalgreenwich.gov.uk



Please use the above addresses when you wish to contact us with your queries and the new referrals. This will make the systems clearer and more responsive as these boxes are checked and managed daily . it also reduces the risk of things going missing etc...

Our referral form (attached) has been updated to reflect these changes so please use this from now and destroy any earlier copies



STEPS TRAINING			
April 23			
Evidence based literacy/dyslexia interventions (Primary)	19/04/23	9.30am-11am	Free RBG
May 23			
Supporting Children who struggle to Learn to Rad	17/05/23	9.30am – 3.00pm	£30 per delegate OOB £50
'WORD UP' approach	03/05/23	9.30am – 3.00pm	Free RBG OOB £50
July 23			
Evidence based literacy/dyslexia interventions (Secondary)	12/07/23	2.00pm-3.30pm	Free RBG

TRAINING

ASD TRAINING			
May 23			
ASD and girls	04/05/2023	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £70
SENCO Network Meeting	13/06/2023	2.00pm 5.00pm	RBG £30 OOB £40
Supporting Students with an ASD in Primary Schools x5 weeks	15/06/2023 22/06/2023 29/06/2023 06/07/2023 13/07/2023	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £155
Setting up a Sensory Programme for children with an ASD in your school: To include sensory circuits and sensory diets ALL DAY COURSE	28/06/2023	9.00am 4.00pm	RBG Free OOB £155
July 23			
SENCO Twilight	06/07/23	3.00pm 5.30pm	
Autism and Mental Health	12/07/2023	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £70



SEND Admission Panels

Spring Term 2023			
Provision	Panel Date & Time	School Submission Date For Application Form and Supporting Documentation	Circulation Date of Allocations to Panel Members
Secondary			
Sensory Primary and Secondary	Monday 6 February @9am	Monday 23 January	Monday 30 January
CPA	Monday 6 February @10am	Monday 23 January	Monday 30 January
Willow Dene Secondary	Monday 6 February @11	Monday 23 January	Monday 30 January
Kings Oak	Monday 6 February @12	Monday 23 January	Monday 30 January
MLD DSP Secondary	Thursday 9 February @9am	Thursday 26 January	Thursday 2 February
ASD DSP Secondary	Thursday 9 February @10	Thursday 26 January	Thursday 2 February
Kings park	Thursday 9 February @12	Thursday 26 January	Thursday 2 February
Primary			
Willow Dene	Thursday 9 March @9	Thursday 23 February	Thursday 2 March
Greenacres	Thursday 9 March @10	Thursday 23 February	Thursday 2 March
ASD DSP	Thursday 9 March @10	Thursday 23 February	Thursday 2 March
Waterside/Nook	Thursday 9 March @11:30	Thursday 23 February	Thursday 2 March

