

SENCO NEWSLETTER



Hi all,

This will be the last SENCO newsletter of the academic year and so am sending this hoping that you will all have a well earned break over the summer .

We are really pleased to be able to tell you that the SEND Area review report is now published and we can share with you the outcomes on this link: [50222861 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](https://50222861.ofsted.gov.uk) OR via the Greenwich website on the welcome page.

We are really pleased that the work that we all do with children and families has been recognised by OFSTED and that they saw the strong partnership working with our schools in their visits as well as in records and tracking meetings. As I said before, our schools were amazing in supporting the visits at short notice and involving lots of preparation too. We are now focussing on our action plan which will be published soon and we will share that with you when we can. The focus that you will particularly notice will be on the annual review processes and I know Di will be convening sessions with you all so you are involved in the next steps.

Next term our focus will be on starting to get a new SEND Strategy in place for April 2024 and we will be consulting with you all, and families and young people as part of that process. We will also use our SEF which you all supported us with very recently and using much of that information too.

Just to let you know that the arrangements for the management of the SEND Outreach services next term will be Hetal Patel (the STEPS team leader) and myself sharing the role and then the advert will go out again at the end of term. We will be sharing out tasks and the main interface with you all will be Hetal. We are really pleased Hetal has agreed to do this so there is some stability while we recruit for the teams here.

There are lots of important attachments to this newsletter with all the Panel dates etc.. So please do read carefully.

Roz

Diary Dates

- **SENCO NETWORK MEETING: 12/10/2023 2-5PM at the PDC.**
- **New SENCO or new SENCO to Greenwich Induction training (See PDC website for details: % week course starting after half term next term) [Courses](#)**

royalgreenwich.gov.uk

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UPDATE FROM SEND ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW TEAM

The SEND assessment and review team have now set Panel dates for next year. You will see on the list, that you will have been allocated both NA1 and NA2 panels to attend so please look at both. The input from SENCOs is vital, so we make decisions based on practice in schools and have your feedback as part of the process. If you are not able to attend a session, please let the team know ahead as we can often make a swap. If you are a SENCO leaving this term, can you please make sure this gets passed on to your new colleague..Thanks all

You will also see the SEND admission panels for next academic year. You will see there are some changes about when they will happen, and how many. You will see there will now be a single admission panel for transition panels including Willow Dene rather than spread out across the year which will be more equitable for all. These are important dates for you, as many will require TAC meetings ahead of time, so we have up to date information from the multi- agency team to inform decision making.

Finally, we have good news still about compliance in timescales for EHCPs and you will see we remain in line with national after a slight dip in the previous month. The team have been having to support the inspection too, so have done really well to keep the timescales as good as the are over this period.

EHC Plans Maintained by Greenwich

The number of EHC Plans maintained by Greenwich continue to increase and we are currently maintaining 262 more EHC Plans than in 2022.

Snapshot in January of each year	England	London	Greenwich
2017	287,290	48,554	1,424
2018	319,819	53,975	1,648
2019	353,995	59,672	1,700
2020	390,109	65,853	1,858
2021	430,697	72,193	1,998
2022	473, 255	78,203	2,180
2023	Not available	Not available	2,675
% increase from 2017 to 2023	64.7 % (Jan 2022)	61% (Jan 2022)	88%

EHCNA Compliance Overview 2023

	New EHCNA Requests	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%
March 2023	70	37	31	22	71%
April 2023	40	32	30	21	70%
May 2023	66	29	28	11	39%
June 2023	61	40	40	25	63%
Total	321	224	186	107	57%

The England National Average currently stands at 48.6%

Problems

- ① Yr 6 engagement + motivate < SEN Behaviour
- ② Yr 5 ADD → reluctance to complete learning
- ③ Yr 4 Global delay → lack of progress → adapt learning
- ④ Yr 3 engagement + motivation + focus
- ⑤ Yr 2 Child who is reluctant to speak → adjust work → support
- ⑥ Yr 1 Children Struggling to Manage emotions reception → diff. seeing triggers
- ⑦ Behaviour outbursts → help support regulate + express needs
- ⑧ Undiagnosed needs; → help support regulate + express needs

Problem

regulating emotions → not stable/consistent internal state

triggers = hard → 1 adult in whole class

diff managing → impacts class

diff. communicating needs → impacts class

↳ Self harm

↳ Struggle to understand

?? outburst

diff. at home and school

↳ and understanding some just home

↳ separation anxiety

* Manage triggers

* Understand triggers

↳ time of day

↳ person

↳ transitions = difficult

↳ gets bored have to change frequently

↳ home

↳ Strategies tried

↳ Now + next

Solution Circles

Solutions

↳ Behaviour checklist/tracking → triggers → Now + Next

* Weighted Equipment

* Visual time tables → handover book with parents → distracting

* Sorting Activity

* Toy to replace adult anxiety

* (Calm Corners)

* Social stories

* breathing ex

* Screaming Pillow

* Longer transition → reception to Y1

* Sensory equipment + physical + reward activity → to Bargain

* Parents in class

* triggers = help

* Sensory Circuit → Lights dim → music

* Puppets

* Love

* Jobs → distracting

* More adults (Chewy)

* teach whole class re calm strategies

* music therapy

* reflect on behaviour

WHY

With the support of staff at Heronsgate Primary School, Minna (ASD Outreach Service Teacher) and Kirsty (Educational Psychologist) have developed a webinar which shows how solution circles can be used to tackle problems. The insights and solutions webinar provides guidance on how to implement solution circles as a framework for solution-focused problem solving. The solution circle framework supports school staff in exploring relevant issues or problems as a group. The framework ensures that you do not get 'stuck' in the problem but collectively generate practical and realistic solutions. The underlying premise of the approach is that collectively we can generate more sustainable solutions than when problem solving in isolation. The resources included as part of the webinar should be explored and utilized when implementing this approach. For any additional information or support in implementing solution circles within your school, please contact either Minna or Kirsty:

Kirsty.weaver@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

minna.anaukwu@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

London Philharmonic Orchestra **OPEN SOUND ENSEMBLE**

THURSDAY 27 & FRIDAY 28 JULY 2023



Open Sound Ensemble -

OPEN SOUND ENSEMBLE THURSDAY 27 & FRIDAY 28 JULY

Join the London Philharmonic Orchestra's free inclusive music ensemble for young people of secondary school age with special educational needs and disabilities and their parents / carers.

Thursday 27 & Friday 28 July 2023
Woolwich Works, The Firework Factory,
Royal Arsenal, London SE18 6HD

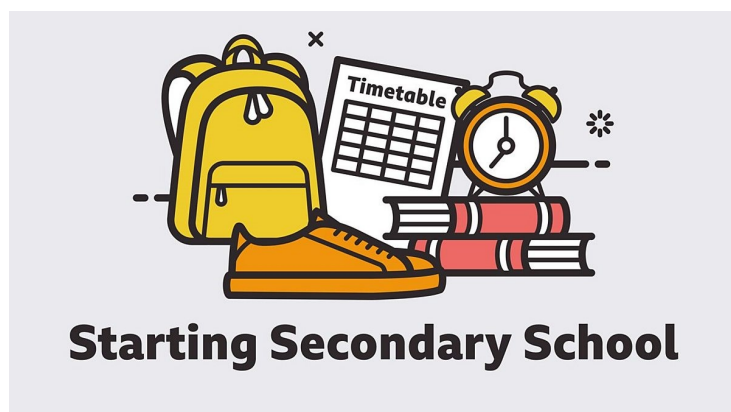
Morning group: 10.30am–12.30pm | Afternoon group: 1.30–3.30pm

We will be making music in groups using both traditional and accessible digital instruments, playing alongside friendly musicians from the LPO.

"It was great to take part in such collaboration in creativity where it felt all involved were on the same level just having fun making music together regardless of skills or levels"

Open Sound Ensemble parent, Spring 2022

Moving from Primary School to Secondary

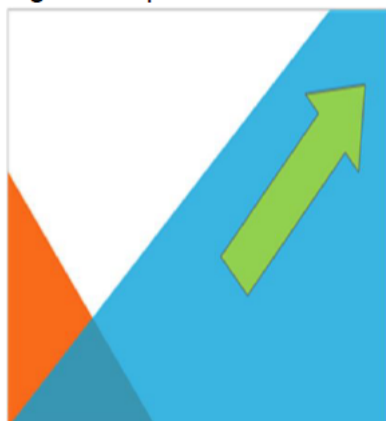


Moving from primary to secondary school can be an anxious time for children and their parents/carers.

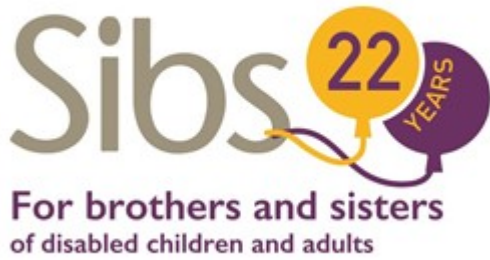
We have developed some leaflets that school may find useful to share with children and their families.

STEPPING UP

**Finding out about
Secondary School**
A guide for parents



Find attached information leaflets for Year 6 children and their parent/carers to support with transitioning to secondary school.



“If only you knew” Supporting siblings

A half-day conference for professionals working across the children and young people sector



Date – 10th November 2023 9.30am -1pm

Venue – Online via Zoom.

Price – £140 for statutory services, £125 for voluntary sector (£99 Early Bird)

- Share best practice in promoting awareness of siblings and the unique challenges they face
- Sibling speakers will offer their own insights and school experiences
- Discuss the mental health impact of being a sibling
- Assess how schools can provide interventions for siblings as part of an holistic approach
- Understand the particular challenges faced by sibling young carers

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE](#)



Drama for communication, confidence and wellbeing

Are you looking for joyful ideas to strengthen communication in your KS1 pupils?

Evidence-based intervention for children with communication needs.

Developed with SLTs, teaching staff, drama practitioners and children.

A trained practitioner and a teaching assistant from your school work together, using drama to develop confidence and communication.

The children tell and act out their own stories working with their natural instinct to play.

To find out more email lizzie@speechbubbles.org.uk



What's Included?

- Full day CPD certified induction training for two members of staff.
- Drama practitioner for 24 weekly sessions for two groups of 10 children.
- All resources
- Open parent session
- Annual impact report
- Drama Tools CPD session for KS1 staff.

The Cost

With funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and an anonymous donor we can offer a full year of Speech Bubbles in 2 Greenwich schools for £2000 plus vat.



Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) are currently partnering with Lexia UK, in a new study to further examine the impact of Lexia’s literacy software on Year 2 struggling readers. Lexia supports pupils of all ages and abilities in literacy skills development and has been proven to be effective in a number of externally reviewed research studies and is featured in ‘*What works for literacy difficulties?*’ resource.

Schools without a license, interested in taking part in the research, may be eligible for a 92% discount.

For further information, click on the link below

[New EEF Project for English Primary Schools - LexiaUK](#)





STEPS training session for parents of pupils with Down Syndrome

Learn by **DOING**.



Friday 14th July @ 9.30am – 11.00am

Calling **all parents** of pupils with **Down Syndrome!**

Please join me for an **informal** training session to **discuss practical learning activities, to support your children at home.**

If you would like to **join** this session – please **contact me via email:**

Claire.large@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

The **location** for the session will take place at:

STEPS

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

TRAINING

STEPS TRAINING 23-24

Sept 23

Phonics programme 'STEPS to Success'	26/09/23	9.00am – 3.30pm	Free RBG OOB £100	King's Park
Assessment of children with Complex needs	12/09/23	9.30am -12.30	£30 per delegate OOB £50	King's Park

Oct 23

'WORD UP' approach	03/10/23	9.30am – 3:00pm	Free RBG OOB £100	King's Park
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Nov 23

Supporting children with complex needs in the classroom	7/11/23	9.30am – 3.00pm	£50 per delegate OOB £100	King's Park
Down Syndrome Training	14/11/23	9.30 – 4.00 pm	£95per delegate OOB £115	King's Park
Steps to Success & Reassessment Surgery	28/11/23	1.30pm – 3.00pm	Free RBG	King's Park

Dec 23

STEPS Down Syndrome Support Group - Reading and Numeracy/Early Maths skills	04/12/23	9.30am -12	Free RBG	King's Park
Refresher: Understanding Access Arrangements (AAs)	12/12/23	9.30am -11.30am	£30 per delegate OOB £50	King's Park

TRAINING

ASD Training 23-23				
Sept 23				
Supporting Students with an ASD in Primary Schools x5 weeks	18/09/23 25/09/23 02/10/23 09/10/23 16/10/23	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £200	KP
SENCO Network meeting	12/10/23	2-5pm	RBG £30 OOB £50	PDC
Oct 23				
Setting up a Sensory Programme for children with an ASD in your school: To include sensory circuits and sensory diets.	10/10/23	9.30am 4.00pm	RBG Free OOB £155	KP
Using Visual Support for Pupils with an ASD	12/10/23	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG £30 OOB £40	KP
Nov 23				
New SENCo Induction Programme 5 weeks	02/11/23 09/11/23 16/11/23 23/11/23 30/11/23	1.30pm 5.00pm	RBG Free OOB £200	KP
Dec 23				
How to support a Child/Young Person to understand their ASD diagnosis	14/12/23	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £70	KP



Dear SENCO

Your feedback is
important to us!

We need your views to help us adapt our service offer. STEPS recognises the changing needs of children and young people (CYP) with SEND and we want to respond more effectively to the challenges that schools are facing.

Please scan the QR
code to complete a
short survey to help
inform our service
offer:

Here is a virtual chocolate to
say thank you for participating:

