

SENCO NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 68 February

24



Hi all

Thank you to all the SENCOS who were able to attend the Network Meeting on 23rd January. We had a productive afternoon with a number of updates from key services, as well as a focus on Y6-7 transition. We have tried to incorporate your feedback, where possible, into the transition form and transition day arrangements. To avoid duplication of information, please note that primary SENCOS will only be required to complete the attached RBG transition form for their SEND/vulnerable pupils.

The SEND Strategy consultation continues and is being led by Roz Weeks. We have had fantastic feedback from children and young people and are now looking to gather views from parents/carers. Please circulate the attached flyer, so that we ensure parents have an opportunity to have their voices heard. The flyer contains a link to the Parent Survey or details of a face to face meeting on 5th March 10.30-11.45am at The Eltham Centre.

Some staffing news...

Sinead Neal has been appointed as the substantive Principal Educational Psychologist which is great news as she has already been successfully leading on the management of the EPS for the past 12 months. As many of you will be aware, the counselling service has joined the team, to form the EPS and Well-being service.

Jo Cameron has now joined the SEND Outreach Services, as Head of Sensory Service, and is a valuable addition to the team. She is getting to know lots of our children and families and is contacting schools and making visits to DSPs. Those SENCOS who attended the Network Meeting were able to meet Jo in person.

I am pleased to inform you that Tanya Ballantyne has been appointed as Acting STEPS Team Leader, whilst I am currently Acting SEND Outreach Services Manager. I know Tanya will be great at leading the team forward and will be well supported by the whole team.

With Di's departure, we are fortunate to have Sophia Ricketts and Martyn Patterson who have joined together to become Acting Co-Heads of the SEND Assessment and Review Service, whilst still maintaining their substantive roles. Sophia will continue to lead the Tribunal and Compliance Team and Martyn as Operational Manager for the SEND service. They will offer the team stability during this period of change.

In this edition there is a lot of useful information for supporting families, including access to SEND activities. Please do review the contents and attachments closely which include important dates for training and panel dates.

Wishing you a restful half term, when it arrives.

Hetal Patel

Acting SEND Outreach Services Manager

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Diary Dates

SENCO NETWORK MEETING: 18/06/2024

2-5PM at the PDC.

Please make sure you register ahead to attend on the PDC website so we can have tea and coffee available for all so a small charge to cover that and room



Homestart Greenwich

Provide an extensive range of support to pregnant women, children aged 0-5 and their parents and carers.

Home-Start Greenwich is an independent charity affiliated to Home-Start UK that has been offering support and helping families with young children in the Royal Borough of Greenwich for over 25 years.

Their services are complemented by their partnership work with Royal Greenwich delivering children centre services from seven settings.

Homestart offer a range of SEND Activities designed for babies and children with abilities and disabilities., including children with ASD and Sensory needs. They are keen to invite new families to their SEND services.

Laura Goldberg is a SEND Practitioner for Home-start Greenwich who delivers sessions, and uses some BSL in songs/interactions as Laura is a Deaf person herself.

Attached is a flyer with up-to-date information on their offer; please distribute to families.

For further information, please find below the link to their Local Offer page.

<https://greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/kb5/greenwich/directory/service?page?id=25KtwRyhTBo&localofferchannel=0>

Now and Beyond »»

A mental health festival by
Beyond

FREE online mental health festival for educational settings

book workshops

download lesson plans

tune into a live broadcast

7th February 2024

Mental health festival for schools

Schools are invited to sign up for youth charity Beyond's [free mental health and wellbeing festival](#) on 7th February. The event will offer workshops delivered by youth mental health experts and live online broadcasts with celebrity guests. Teachers can also take part in a staff wellbeing session.

Beyond are also looking to understand what mental health support teachers and their pupils need in their [short survey](#).

Independent Travel Bus

In partnership with TfL, Stagecoach and the Safer Transport policing team, we also run a private bus once a month (most months) where children (**year 6 & above**) with SEN or those considered more vulnerable can come and learn about bus travel in a safe environment.

We also welcome adults or adult groups who need additional support. These will be booked at separate times to our children’s sessions.

Bus dates 2024

22nd Feb, 28th Mar, 25th Apr, 23rd May, 13th Jun

Starting from Beresford Square Woolwich or Eltham Station

First bus 10.00

Second bus—Between 12.15 & 13.00

Email transportation-admin@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Tel - 020 89216600

30 places maximum plus staff

What to expect on the workshop

Revenue Inspectors

Scenarios

Passenger argument

Bus Stop safety

Understanding timetables



Revenue Inspectors



Road Safety



Arriving back



Please promote this survey with parent carers in Greenwich

We are in the process of developing the Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Partnership Strategy for 2024-27. This is a key part of how we set local priorities when it comes to supporting children and young people with SEND and their families in Royal Greenwich.

The views of parents and carers are key to shaping this strategy and to help us gather these we have developed a brief survey together with Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum. We are also separately consulting with children and young people to ensure their voices are heard as well.



Parents and Carers- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below to help us understand your experience and your views.

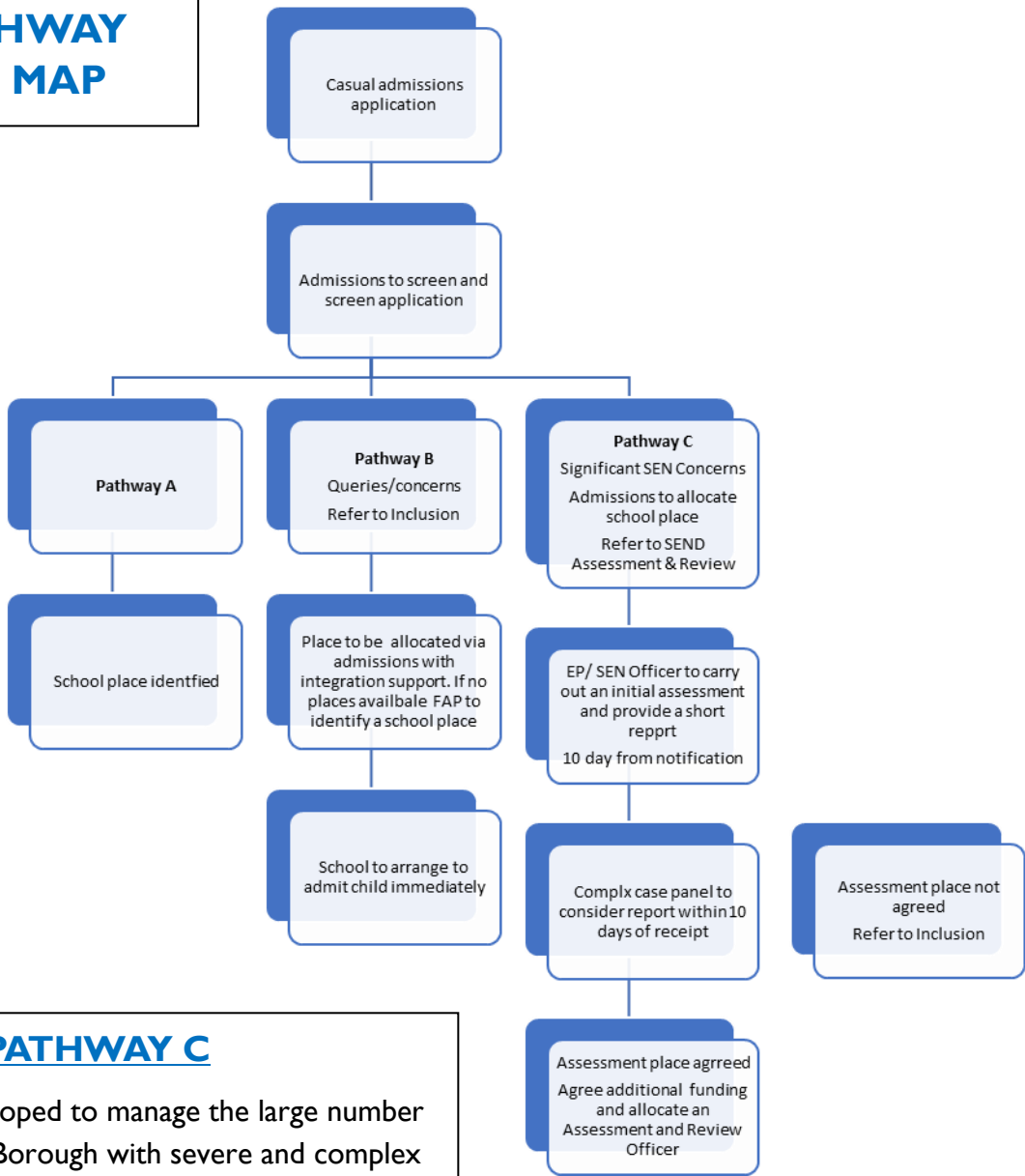
[https://
form.jotform.com/240172813952051](https://form.jotform.com/240172813952051)

The survey will be open until Monday
March 4th at 12pm.

If you have difficulty completing the digital survey, we will be running a face to face drop in where someone from Greenwich council or the Greenwich Parent Carer Participation Forum (GPCPF) can assist you. Keep an eye on the Local Offer page as more information on this will be shared soon.

THE LOCAL OFFER
in Royal Greenwich

SEND PATHWAY PROCESS MAP



SEND PATHWAY C

This pathway has been developed to manage the large number of children coming into the Borough with severe and complex learning needs from countries where there isn't a system where children have an EHCP to secure the specialist provision they need.

Due to the increase in requests for CYP over the age of 18 it has become apparent that the process is in need of review. We would welcome any interested SENCOs to join a working party to help develop the policy further.

If you would like to be involved, please email Martyn Patterson Martyn.Patterson@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

ECT

Early Communication Together (ECT) Team

Please find attached the ECT poster advertising ECT drop ins for next term.

Please note that the drop-ins are strongly tailored to support parents of children with an acknowledged social communication difficulty. Therefore please follow our criteria and only advertise these sessions to families where the child:

1) Already has a diagnosis of Autism

Or

2) Is on the IND pathway awaiting assessment.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Secondary Transition

Thank you to all who attended the SENCo network meeting held on 23rd January. Your feedback on our secondary transition process was greatly appreciated.

We have taken the opportunity to thoroughly review your comments and have made adjustments to incorporate your views, where possible. Please note the following key points:

- The deadline for primary SENCOs to **send transitions forms** is now set for **Friday, 17th May**. Please note that forms can be submitted prior to this date.
- Primary SENCOs are requested to **book an AM or PM session** for the Y6 to Y7 **Transition Event** via the Direct Services to Schools website: [Royal Borough of Greenwich \(royalgreenwich.gov.uk\)](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk)
- We strongly encourage secondary **Designated Safeguarding Leads to attend** the transition event along with their SENCOs, if possible.

We are keen to keep the transition process under review to ensure processes are efficient and effective for both primary and secondary SENCOs.

Please note the following out of borough transition dates:

Bexley transition date: June 26th

Bromley transition date: June 18th, 9.30 AM – 4.00 PM, at The Warren, Croydon Road, BR2 7AL.

Contact Lead SEN Advisory Teacher Jacob Pereira (jacob.pereira@bromley.gov.uk) and Education Safeguarding Officer Libby Kember (libby.kember@bromley.gov.uk).

Secondary transfer and post 16

The Year 10 parent forum for post 16 was completed on 25th Jan and 1st Feb. The presentation is attached to this newsletter.

We are soon to gather a Pathway C working party to ensure clarity of systems and procedures to identify and support those YP new to RBG with significant additional needs. We are also seeking volunteers to join our EHCP quality assurance panels that occur every 3 -4 weeks.

Please email sahra.fahra@royalgreenwich.gov.uk if you interested in joining this group or you want to be a volunteer..

SENCOs please ensure dates are booked in for Y5 reviews and share them with your allocated Officer so they can confirm their availability asap.

We recommend to start conversations with parents, but be mindful that we always have more children that apply for specialist / DSPs than we have spaces available. It is important to manage parental expectation so that they also chose a mainstream school(s).

Please start to work with parents before the review to update section A and think about any updates to section B with new KS3 outcomes.

All parents will receive their offer letter and updated EHCP (full or partial) by 15th February. We have had to make 52 directions across our mainstream secondary schools and therefore some parents will inevitably be disappointed. Parents do get a right of appeal.

We are still working on try to secure alternative placements for some children that we have already identified , however these are ongoing.

There are a number of children who met criteria for a DSP and /or specialist school but we have not been able to place them. We will be working with their named secondary schools to ensure the level of support is sufficient for September 2024.

We have tried to place as many children as possible in the school of highest parental preference.





NEWHAVEN SCHOOL
TRUST | RESTORE | ACHIEVE

You are invited you to join us for an event hosted by Newhaven School for
Royal Borough of Greenwich:

Autism's Got Talent

We are in the process of arranging a date and venue and further information will follow soon.

Newhaven School would like to hear from you if you have a secondary school student in your DSP, School or specialist provision with great talent who has a diagnosis of ASD and would welcome the opportunity to perform on stage. There are so many talented students with ASD in our borough and we would like to give them the opportunity to perform in this showcase. Judges will only be for providing positive feedback to the act/acts, every participant will be a winner.

The length of the act would be for 3-5 minutes and could be singing, playing an instrument (solo or in a group), dancing, magic, a comedy routine, juggling or poetry.

If this is something your student would like to be a part of performing their act on stage then please do let us know by emailing kmackinnon@newhaven.greenwich.sch.uk or calling 02084656290 and ask for Kathy by Friday 15th March 2024.

Mr Jon Kelly
Head teacher Newhaven School
Newhaven School





Occupational Therapy Support

Sensory

If you would like support for sensory based concerns, you can access our Sensory Package by emailing oxl-tr.otsensorylink@nhs.net to request log in information.

Fine Motor & Self-Care

If you would like additional support for any fine motor or self-care activities, OT have created a range of videos with useful strategies and activities to develop these skills. These can be accessed using the QR code.

Referrals

If you would like an Occupational Therapist to assess a child, please complete the referral form on our website (www.childrensintegratedtherapies.co.uk) outlining your functional concerns (i.e. pencil skills, cutlery use, scissor skills or dressing etc.). Completed referral forms should be sent to oxl-tr.childrenstherapies@nhs.net for consideration.





ASD Outreach Year Six Transition Preparation

ASD Transition timeline spring/summer 2024

Spring Term

- Wendy will link up Primary/Secondary SENCo's once schools are named.
- Wendy to provide 'What Will Secondary School Be Like' Booklet and Transition Pack to primary SENCo's during the Easter Break.

Summer Term

- Primary SENCo's to share information by May 17th, 2024.
- ASD outreach visits can be arranged for children where there is a high level of concern for transition.
- Secondary schools to organise familiarisation visits. Ideally, one before Head Start day and one after.
- Wendy to provide Transition Passport Template to primary school if needed.
- Wendy to link with Speech and Language Therapy Service to ensure vulnerable children are included in transition groups.
- Wendy to provide transition forms to Secondary schools during the summer holiday.

WHAT WILL SECONDARY SCHOOL BE LIKE?

Name:

My secondary school is:

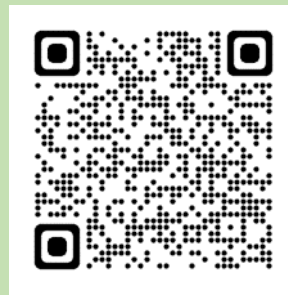
My primary school is:

Compiled by Royal Greenwich ASD Outreach Service

This questionnaire is about going to secondary school

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tutor	Mr Green S6	Mr Green S6	Mr Green S6	Mr Green S6	Mr Green S6
Maths	Mrs George M5D	RE Mrs Baker R4	RE Mrs Baker R4	Maths Mrs George M5D	PE Mrs. Mark Gym
Science	Mr Smith S6	English Literature Mr Brown E2	ICT Mr Fox IT2	ICT Mr Fox IT2	PE Mrs. Mark Gym
English Language	Mr Brown E4	Citizenship Mrs Grange S51	Maths Mrs George M5D	Science Mr Smith S6	PE Mrs. Mark Gym
PHSE	Mrs Keys S51	Citizenship Mrs Grange S51	History Mr Jones H2	English Literature Mr Brown E2	PE Mrs. Mark Gym
PHSE	Mrs Keys S51	Science Mr Smith S6	History Mr Jones H2	English Literature Mr Brown E2	Science Mr Smith S6
PHSE	Mrs Keys S51				English Language Mr Brown E4

Down Syndrome News Updates for Parents/Carers/School staff



Greenwich Down Syndrome Parents group are holding an afternoon tea to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day:

Greenwich Down's Group
Afternoon Tea

**In celebration of World
Down Syndrome Day 2024**

This event is **FREE** and accessible to all.

To book please contact Veronica on 07580818156 or tealls@talktalk.net

30 YEARS HOME START Greenwich

Come along to celebrate with us and enjoy:

Afternoon tea
Fun arts and crafts including designing your own socks and more

Wednesday 20th March 2024
4pm - 6pm

Brookhill Children's Centre
42 Brumwell Avenue
Woolwich
SE18 6BD

Please check out our Local Offer page for advice, activities, and information

<https://www.greenwichcommunitydirectory.org.uk/kb5/greenwich/directory/home.page>

Reminder: STEPS Down Syndrome Training dates
Suitable for all staff supporting pupils with Down Syndrome
Bookable via Services to Schools website: <http://servicestoschools.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/>

25.3.24	Down Syndrome Support Group – behaviour and SALT	9.30 – 12pm free
10.6.24	Down Syndrome Support Group – handwriting and assistive technology	9.30 – 12pm free

TRAINING

STEPS TRAINING			
Feb 24			
'WORD UP' approach	06/02/24	9.30am – 3.00pm	Free RBG OOB £100
Assistive technology for inclusive literacy learning	20/02/24	9.30am – 12.30	£30 per delegate OOB £50
Assistive technology Surgery	20/02/24	1.30pm – 3.00pm	Free RBG
Story/Maths Box	27/02/24	9.30am – 11.00am	Free RBG
March 24			
PIVAT 5 Maths Moderation Workshop	12/03/24	9.30am -12.30pm	Free RBG OOB £50
Phonics programme 'STEPS to Success'	19/03/24	9.00am – 3.30pm	Free RBG OOB £100
STEPS Down Syndrome Support Group - Behaviour and SALT	25/03/24	9.30am -12	Free RBG
April 24			
Evidence based literacy/dyslexia interventions (Primary)	16/04/24	9.30am-11am	Free RBG OOB £50
Supporting children with Maths	TBC	9.30am- 12	Free RBG OOB £50

TRAINING

ASD TRAINING			
Feb 24			
Using Social Interventions to support children with an ASD in schools	05/02/24	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £70
March 24			
Using Intensive Interaction to support students with an ASD in school	06/03/24	9.30am- 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £70
Setting up a Sensory Programme for children with an ASD in your school: To include sensory circuits and sensory diets ALL DAY COURSE	26/03/24	9.30am 4.00pm	RBG Free OOB £155
Analysing and Managing behaviour for Children with an ASD in a school setting	27/03/24	9.30am 4.00pm	RBG Free OOB £155
April 24			
Supporting Students with an ASD in Primary Schools x5 weeks	25/04/24 02/05/24 09/05/24 16/05/24 23/05/24	9.30am 12.30pm	RBG Free OOB £200

ATTACHMENTS

- Young Greenwich Flyers: Free Circus classes.
- Home Start Greenwich SEND Activity flyer.
- Post 16 transfer 2025 Parent forum.
- Secondary transfer 2025 for parents.
- SEND reference group autism update.
- ECT Drop in session.
- Charlton Park spring open day.
- 2024 Y6 to Y7 Transition Proforma
- Parent SEND strategy consultation flyer.
- ASD report feedback QR.
- QA Panels 2023-24.

