

SEND and Inclusion Update Autumn 2025

SEND and Inclusion at Loxwood:

Inclusive Practice at Loxwood – IPALM Award

We are proud to share that Loxwood Primary School is working towards the national IPALM Award (Inclusive Practice Award for Literacy and Mathematics). This award recognises schools that provide strong, inclusive support in reading, writing and maths so every child can achieve their best.

Earlier this term, staff from across the school took part in a three-day specialist training programme focused on removing barriers to learning, strengthening high-quality teaching for all, and using consistent, evidence-based approaches to support a wide range of needs. They are now sharing this training across the school.

Next steps:

- Teaching Assistants completed their first phase of training during the November INSET Day
- Teachers will complete theirs during the January INSET Day
- In the Summer Term, the Learning and Behaviour Advisory Team (LBAT) will visit to review how strategies have been embedded as part of the IPALM assessment
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Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants

At Loxwood, we greatly value the essential role our Teaching Assistants play in supporting pupils' learning, wellbeing and independence every day. This year, we are taking part in the nationally recognised Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants (MITA) programme. The training helps ensure that TAs are deployed effectively, so their support has the greatest benefit for all learners.

A key focus of MITA is developing confident, independent learners. Instead of stepping in too quickly or completing tasks for children, staff are using strategies that:

- encourage thinking and problem-solving
- support learning rather than task completion
- provide prompts and questions that guide pupils to their own answers
- give children the time they need to try and succeed

By adapting how we support pupils, we help them build resilience, self-belief and independence — with a positive impact for every child, including those with SEND. We look forward to seeing this approach continue to grow through the year.

Exciting News – New Intervention Teacher at Loxwood

We are delighted to share that we have appointed a new Intervention Teacher, joining us for the next two terms to strengthen our provision for pupils who benefit from additional support.

Mr Hall, who some of you may already know from his work with children in Year 4, is a fully qualified teacher and was successful in applying for this role. He will be based in the Flower Pot, ensuring this fantastic space is being fully utilised for targeted learning support.

Mr Hall will be delivering a carefully planned range of interventions designed to:

- Support Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs across the school
- Strengthen key skills in reading, writing and maths
- Build confidence, independence and positive learning routines
- Deliver specialised programmes recommended within Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

These structured interventions will benefit pupils across the school, helping them to make strong progress towards their personal goals and ensuring they feel supported to thrive.


We are very excited to welcome Mr Hall into this role and look forward to the positive impact his work will have for our children.

Parent Support Workshops – in Partnership with Early Help

We are delighted that Irmina Evans, our Family Support Worker from Early Help, will be delivering a series of practical workshops during upcoming Parent Pause: Tea and Talk sessions. These workshops are open to all parents and carers and are designed to provide helpful strategies to support children's emotional, social and physical development. Each session offers practical ideas, guidance and the chance to share experiences with other parents. Topics include emotional regulation, positive communication, managing worries, healthy friendships, digital safety and more.

Upcoming workshop – Positive Communication

 Friday 30th January

 8:50am – 9:30am

 School Hall

This session will explore how we communicate with our children — verbally, non-verbally and through play — and the importance of listening, especially during moments of overwhelm. Please confirm attendance using this short form:

<https://forms.gle/U4w3cMBTD9o7QRey5>. We look forward to welcoming you — the kettle will be on! ☕

West Sussex Updates

Shaping the Future of SEND in West Sussex

West Sussex education, health and care partners — together with parent and young person forums — are developing a new SEND Strategy for 2026–2030. This work follows the Ofsted/CQC inspection (Nov 2023), which highlighted the need for more consistent experiences and outcomes for children with SEND.

What will the new strategy do?

It aims to create a fairer, more joined-up system by:

- Focusing on early help and strong support in mainstream settings
- Setting six clear priorities for improvement
- Working to ensure children and families receive consistent support across the county

What's happened so far?

- Workshops and consultation have shaped the priorities
- Families and professionals have co-produced the draft strategy
- Specialist groups are now refining each priority area

What's next?

The final strategy will be published in Spring 2026, with partners continuing to work together to improve support for children and young people with SEND.

West Sussex Virtual School – Supporting Vulnerable Learners

The Virtual School champions the education of children in West Sussex who are:

- In care or previously cared for
- Supported through Child Protection or Child in Need plans
- Living in Kinship Care

They work closely with schools to ensure these children receive the support they need to thrive. To help us in school, the Virtual School offers free training for teachers on key topics such as:

- Understanding shame and its impact on behaviour
- Responding safely and appropriately to sexualised behaviour
- Supporting adolescents and increasing motivation
- Breakfast Briefings to share best practice across the county

To find out more about their work or the support available, you can contact them at wsvs@westsussex.gov.uk.

Young People's Mental Health – Have Your Say

West Sussex County Council is gathering the views of young people to help shape and improve mental health support across the county. The survey focuses on:

- Transitions from CAMHS to adult services
- Prevention and what supports mental wellbeing before crisis

Young people's responses will be shared directly with County Councillors and the Adult & Mental Health Scrutiny Committee to ensure real experiences influence future support. Young people can complete the short, youth-friendly questionnaire here: <https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/embeds/projects/7694/survey-tools/51588>

Working with Our Partners

West Sussex Parent Carer Forum



The West Sussex Parent Carer Forum (WSPCF) is run by parent carers, for parent carers — ensuring families of children and young people with SEND have a strong voice locally and nationally.

What's changing?

From April 2026, WSPCF will be hosted by the charity *Amaze* (who also support the forums in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove). Don't miss the full story - read the full news item [here](#).

This means:

- WSPCF keeps its identity and purpose
- Amaze provides support behind the scenes
- Stronger, more sustainable representation for families

Working together across Sussex

WSPCF has joined a new Sussex-wide collaborative with the other Parent Carer Forums to:

- Influence regional SEND decisions more effectively
- Improve fairness and consistency of services
- Strengthen the voice of families with NHS Sussex

Speaking up for families

WSPCF continues to campaign for fairer eligibility, clearer processes, and better support for all families — representing your voice at every level. Learn more about the collaborative [here](#).

Reaching Families Umbrellas Support Groups

Connecting parents and carers of children and young people with SEND

Support from other parent carers can make a huge difference. That's why Reaching Families run friendly, informal support groups across West Sussex — including online sessions — offering a chance to connect, share experiences and access guidance.

This December, groups will include festive refreshments and optional craft activities. No booking needed — just drop in between 10:00 and 11:30am. For more information, please visit the [Reaching Families website](#).



UMBRELLAS SUPPORT GROUPS

Connecting parent-carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities across West Sussex:

- Burgess Hill
- Chichester
- Horsham
- Littlehampton
- Shoreham-by-Sea
- Worthing
- & online via Zoom

Reaching Families

For more information please visit: reachingfamilies.org.uk/umbrellas

Spotlight

A new Ofsted Framework will be used for all school inspections from November 2025. Ofsted has made it clear that high-quality, inclusive education for every learner is at the heart of this update.

What will inspectors focus on?

- How well schools remove barriers to learning and wellbeing
- Support and outcomes for pupils who are disadvantaged, have SEND, or are known to social care
- How schools understand and respond to the needs of their local community

Inspectors will gather a range of contextual information and will discuss directly with leaders how they ensure every child is included, supported and able to succeed. Parents and carers can read more about the changes to the inspection framework here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/education-inspection-framework>

Online Resources:

These sites offer practical guidance, signposting and information all in one place:

Family Information Service

Free, impartial advice on:

- Childcare
- Support for families 0–25
- Activities and services across West Sussex
- <https://familyinfoservice.westsussex.gov.uk/>

Local Offer

A central hub for SEND information for ages 0–25. Includes:

- Local services, groups and activities
- Support available in education settings
- Info on assessments, health services and EHCP processes
- Preparing for adulthood, careers and transitions
- <https://westsussex.local-offer.org/>

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/children/support-and-advice/local-offer>

Sibs

The only UK charity dedicated to siblings of disabled children or adults. Sibs supports both young siblings (age 7–17) and adult siblings. Their website offers:

- Information about disabilities/conditions and what it means to have a disabled brother or sister
- Emotional support: a moderated “Ask a sibling advisor” service for questions about sibling experiences
- Online and face-to-face peer support groups, for both young and adult siblings
- Advice for parents and professionals on how to support siblings, plus training and resources for sibling-support groups in schools
- <https://www.sibs.org.uk/>

Thriving in Education

Guidance and support for mental health and emotional wellbeing. <https://schools.local-offer.org/thriving-in-education/>

Tools for Schools

Resources used by education settings to support inclusion, including:

- SEND Toolkit and strategies
- Pupil voice and person-centred support
- Examples of inclusive practice
- <https://schools.local-offer.org/>

West Sussex SEND Improvement

Updates on how the local authority is working with partners and families to improve SEND services.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/send-improvement>

West Sussex SENDIAS

Impartial advice and support for children, young people and parent carers around SEND rights, processes and provision. <https://westsussexsendias.org/>