# **SEND and Inclusion Update Summer 2025**

## SEND and Inclusion at Loxwood:

# SEND, Inclusion & Wellbeing – Supporting Your Child at School

Our <u>SEND & Inclusion</u> and <u>Wellbeing</u> are designed to support you with clear, practical information to help your child thrive at school. On the SEND and Inclusion page, you'll find guidance on what to do if you have concerns about your child's learning, details about Pupil Premium funding, the Local Offer, and how we support needs like dyslexia and dyscalculia. There's also a glossary to explain common SEND terms, information about our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA), and an overview of our SEND Hub. The Wellbeing page includes guidance on who to contact for support, links to trusted organisations such as NSPCC, Childline, Young Minds, and Thriving in Education, as well as our Mental Health and Wellbeing Parent Leaflet. We encourage all parents and carers to explore these pages—they're there to help you and your child feel informed and supported.

#### Room to Bloom: A Space to Grow for Every Child Update

We are absolutely thrilled to share some incredible news with you! Thanks to the amazing generosity of Loxwood Parish Council, our wonderful parents and residents, and the success of several grant applications, we have raised just under £37,000! A special thanks to Hannah and Joanna who have been invaluable. This means our long-awaited SEND Hub at Loxwood Primary School is officially going ahead! Installation is planned for this summer, ready to welcome children and staff in September. This isn't just a new building — it's a vital space where children with special educational needs and disabilities will receive the support, understanding, and calm environment they deserve to truly thrive.

Your support has made this happen. You've helped create a space where children who may have struggled can now feel safe, supported, and empowered every day they come to school. From all of us – staff, students, and future families of Loxwood Primary – thank you. You haven't just backed a project; you've helped change lives.

#### Updated SEND Information Report & Policy Available Online

We also want to let you know that our updated SEND Information Report and SEND Policy are now available on our <u>school website</u>. These documents are important tools for parents and carers. They explain:

- How we identify and support children with special educational needs and disabilities
- The types of support we offer in school
- How we work with families and outside professionals
- What steps to take if you have concerns about your child's progress

We encourage all parents to take a moment to read them—they are there to help you understand how we ensure every child gets the support they need to succeed.

If you have any questions after reading them, please don't hesitate to contact the school—we're always here to help.

### SEND Questionnaire July 2025

We are always looking to improve the support we provide for all our pupils, and your feedback is essential in helping us do this. We would be very grateful if you could take just a few minutes to complete our SEND Support Questionnaire. This is not only for families of children who are on the SEND register or have an EHCP — we would like to hear from anyone who has had any contact with our SENDCO or accessed any additional support this year. The questionnaire is very quick and easy, with just 12 multiple choice questions, but your responses will give us valuable insight into what we're doing well and how we can improve. Please click the <a href="link">link</a>. Thank you for your time and support — it really does make a difference.

# Supporting Children's Wellbeing with the Boxall Profile

We're excited to share that we've secured funding for the next academic year to introduce the Boxall Profile Online across our school. This tool will help us better understand and support children's social, emotional, and mental health needs in a range of classes. The Boxall Profile allows teachers to identify when a child might be struggling emotionally—even if they aren't showing obvious signs—and helps us plan the right kind of support for them. It's about looking beyond behaviour to understand what's really going on and helping every child feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

We're proud to be taking this step as part of our commitment to nurturing the wellbeing of all our pupils.

### West Sussex Updates

#### Relational Approaches to Inclusion Guidance and Toolkit

Relational Approaches to Inclusion Guidance and Toolkit has been produced by West Sussex Education and Skills, Parent Carer Forum and WellBeing Services and is due for publication in July 2025. School climate and culture provide the conditions for emotional wellbeing and mental health for young people in education. Relational practice promotes and supports mental health and emotional well-being (MHEW).

There is a huge evidence base showing the impact of better MHEW on attendance and attainment. The Relational Approaches to Inclusion Guidance and Toolkit is organised into the 8 principles of the whole school approach to wellbeing and includes a whole school relational approaches audit and a relational individual support plan.

You can read more about relational approaches in this article by Dr Frances Parker, Educational Psychologist.

### WOWSI: Working on Worries Support and Intervention project

WOWSI is our Working on Worries Support and Intervention project. The project gives schools access to an evidence-based online intervention to address child fears, worries, and anxiety. The intervention is delivered to parents and carers and follows a cognitive behaviour therapy model, as developed by Prof Cathy Cresswell at Oxford University.



Currently 79 primary schools are involved in the project and have a member of staff who has received training to facilitate the intervention.

Early indicators of success are very positive and both the quantitative and qualitative data are showing that the intervention is making a positive difference to children and families.

You can read more about WOWSI here.

#### Thriving in Education website

West Sussex County Council has launched a new online guide called <u>Thriving in Education</u> to help schools and colleges support children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

This guide was created with input from local schools and staff, who said it was hard to find clear and helpful information about mental health online. The new guide brings everything together in one easy-to-use place.

What does it offer?

- Trusted, evidence-based advice on how schools can support students' mental wellbeing
- Information on accessing more targeted help when needed
- Support for children and young people experiencing Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
- Based on national best-practice frameworks to ensure high-quality support

## Early Years and Childcare Strategy

The guide will be regularly updated and includes real-life examples from West Sussex schools. You can find the guide by searching Thriving in Education on the West Sussex County Council website.

West Sussex County Council has launched a new plan called "Right From the Start", which sets out how they'll support young children and their families from now until 2027.

### What's it about?

This strategy focuses on making sure every child in West Sussex – no matter their background or needs – gets the best possible start in life.

# Key goals include:

- Supporting children's health, learning and development from the early years
- Helping to reduce inequalities so that all children have equal opportunities
- Making it easier for families to get the right help at the right time
- Involving parents and carers in shaping the services that support them

The strategy is based on feedback from parents, carers, and early years professionals, and it will guide how local services work together to support young children.

Families will be offered chances to get involved and share their views as the plan is put into action.

You can read the full strategy by searching "Right From the Start – Early Years and Childcare Strategy" on the West Sussex County Council website.

### West Sussex Mind - training to support young people's mental health and wellbeing



West Sussex Mind offers a wide range of free training, webinars, and support to help parents and carers better understand and support their child's mental health and wellbeing.

What's available for parents and carers?

• Free training webinars on important topics like:



- Attachment and relationships
- Aggressive behaviours
- Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA)
- Online and in-person support groups, where you can:
  - Talk to other parents and carers
  - Share experiences
  - Learn helpful strategies to support your child
- Advice and guidance from a friendly parenting support tea

Whether your child is struggling emotionally or you just want to feel more confident in supporting their mental health, West Sussex Mind has resources that can really help.

To find out more or book a session, visit the West Sussex Mind website.

## West Sussex SEND Local Offer

The West Sussex SEND Local Offer website is live and designed especially for families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



What can you find on the site?

- Lots of helpful information, including:
- Early years, childcare, and education options
- Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessments and plans
- Support for moving into adulthood and employment
- Health services, social care, and family support
- Discounts, benefits, and local SEND-friendly activities

There's also a searchable directory to help you find SEND-specific services, support groups, and events in and around West Sussex.

Looking for SEND support at a school or college?

You can now easily find each school's SEND information through the 'Find a school, academy or college' page on the West Sussex County Council website. Just look for the bullet point labelled 'Special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) information' in each listing.

For any issues or updates about school SEND links, contact: <u>localoffer@westsussex.gov.uk</u>. Visit the <u>West Sussex Local Offer</u> website to explore the support available to your family.

# Support While You Wait for an Assessment

NHS Sussex have been working with colleagues across West Sussex to support SEND inclusion.

In partnership with West Sussex County Council and the WSPCF, we have developed a dedicated "support while you wait for an assessment" page on the West Sussex Local Offer which has detailed guidance, resources and links to a wide range of condition-specific information. This includes Neurodevelopmental Pathways, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, Dental, Community Paediatrics and child and adolescent mental health services.

The "Support Whilst Waiting" work will continue to be developed through a newly established Task and Finish Group. NHS Sussex recognises the importance of this work and is committed to improving the journey of the child, young person and their families whilst they wait for a specialist health assessment.

### NHS Sussex SEND page on Sussex Health & Care website

The <u>NHS Sussex SEND</u> page has been refreshed, with additional guidance and information relating to Right to Choose, ADHD medication and support whilst you are waiting for a specialist health assessment.





Reaching Families Benefits Advice Service - Supporting parent-carers with information and advice on Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment



We offer 1-2-1 advice sessions for parent-carers making applications for Carers Allowance, DLA and PIP. Our advisor can answer questions around eligibility, the application process, evidence required or other concerns parents may have regarding a claim. We can also support parents via our claim checking service if they have completed a draft application. We will check the form against DWP criteria and provide

feedback with suggested ways of strengthening the application.

Parent-carers can self-refer to the service and book an appointment via our website here: Reaching Families Benefits Advice Service



Information on benefits can also be accessed via our <u>factsheets</u> and our <u>Making Sense of It All guidebook</u> available on our website, along with details of our <u>training workshops</u> on DLA, PIP and Universal Credit.

We would advise parents to book their appointments well in advance of submission deadlines as demand for the service is very high. Statutory and voluntary agencies can also refer parent-carers to the service by emailing: <a href="mailto:benefits@reachingfamilies.org.uk">benefits@reachingfamilies.org.uk</a>
For information on all of our services please visit our website here: <a href="mailto:ReachingFamilies">Reaching Families</a>

#### Disability Register - for sharing with families

Have you discovered the Disability Register?

The West Sussex Disability Register is a database that collects information on those living with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 in West Sussex and is managed by West Sussex Library Service. This information is used by West Sussex County Council and its partners to help plan and deliver services now and into the future.



Anyone aged 0-25 with a disability living in West Sussex can sign up and you do not need to have a diagnosis to sign up.

You can sign up online or the Disability Register team can speak to you over the phone to help complete the form. Those aged 13+ can self-register on their own or with the help of a parent or carer.

Sign up now: https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/disability-register-0-25

By joining the Register, you will:

- Help West Sussex County Council and our partners to plan and deliver services for now and in the future.
- Receive a monthly newsletter via email with local information and details of upcoming events and activities, including being the first to know about free SEND friendly activities in your local library.
- Have access to a Library card with additional concessions, such as free reservations and free audiobook loans, as well as access to a range of free sensory resources.
- Resources include free sensory stories, communication devices and switch adapted toys.
- Access to a Max Card a discount card with local and national offers

Get in touch with the Disability Register team if you have any questions:

Email: disabilityregister@westsussex.gov.uk

Phone: 0330 222 7725

We are also on socials! Follow us for up-to-date information and to be in the know about events and activities taking place in libraries across West Sussex.

Facebook: WestSussexLibraries Instagram: @westsussexlibraries X (Twitter): @WSCCLibraries

# Working with Our Partners

## West Sussex Parent Carer Forum (WSPCF)

We had a very busy autumn term here, which included several new projects and events aimed at enhancing our services. One notable initiative is the introduction of the Together for Change Panel. This collaborative space unites West Sussex County Council, NHS Sussex, parents/carers, and various stakeholders to share ideas, provide valuable feedback, and make informed decisions. Through a co-productive approach, the panel has addressed numerous submissions, including short breaks and alternative provisions. If you would like to learn more or attend a panel meeting, please contact us at <a href="mailto:tfcpanel@wspcf.org.uk">tfcpanel@wspcf.org.uk</a>. Your input is invaluable to our ongoing efforts.



#### Events for parents and carers

WSPCF are pleased to share that this term has brought exciting new events in West Sussex. Our wellbeing courses for parents and carers have commenced, with one course already completed and another fully booked for the spring!

In addition to these courses, we continue to host regular events, including parent/carer chat sessions that foster valuable peer-to-peer support. Our recent session featured esteemed guests Claire Hayes, Assistant Director of Education and Skills, and Claire Prince, Head of SEND and Inclusion. The feedback from parents and carers was overwhelmingly positive, as they expressed feeling heard and valued

For any inquiries or to learn more, please contact us at office@wspcf.org.uk, or stay connected through our <u>website</u>, <u>Facebook page</u>, or <u>Instagram</u>.