

Whole School SEND Free Resources & Training for Settings continued

Dudley SEND Local Area is pleased to introduce the [Whole School SEND \(WSS\) Programme](#) to settings in the borough.

WSS also presented at the Settings Workshops held at Himley Hall on Monday 15 January.

Whole School SEND (WSS) is a consortium of organisations committed to sharing knowledge and building capacity across the school system for SEND who offer FREE resources, training, professional development, and 3 SEND networks (the SENDCO Forum is also open to parents, carers, and young people.

Hosted by nasen they believe that good practice exists within the system, and they should seek and create opportunities to share.

They have created a suite of SEND review guides to support school to school support and self-reflection.

In partnership with the Education and Training Foundation and the Autism Education Trust, they are delivering the Department for Education (DfE) Universal SEND Services programme.

Examples of the FREE WSS offer include:

Resources:

- Live virtual sessions run by the regional lead which is an open forum
- Responsive webinars that are recorded and sent out topics include Ofsted, Identifying gaps
- etc. These are also split into Primary/Secondary
- School audits can be done as part of the delivery. This holds schools accountable.
- [SENCO induction pack](#) for start of the journey
- [Teacher handbook SEND](#)– The approach WSS has taken to writing this handbook reflects the approach that is needed to embed inclusive practice across schools - a shared vision and true collaboration, underpinned by professional challenge and respect for everyone's strengths and expertise.

It is not intended that it is read cover-to-cover. It has been written for both primary, secondary and specialist colleagues: teaching assistants, teachers, senior leaders and headteachers. The handbook includes whole-school and whole-class approaches as well as subject-specific and condition-specific guidance.

WSS have aimed to bring together, in one cohesive document, the perspectives of children and young people and their families, teachers and support staff, subject specialists, special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) and other senior leaders, Headteachers, Educational Psychologists and specialist external agencies, including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, mental health workers, physiotherapists and specialist teachers.

It looks at what inclusive provision looks like for all areas of the curriculum e.g. phonics, art, chemistry. This can be used by supply staff also – one area that needs help is Physics. There is an online seminar on how to use the handbook

FREE professional development

WSS deliver 5 sessions on how to successfully implement a send project in setting, they can have a 1- 1 session to unpick what is needed, identifies schools that are not inclusive and supports them to change.

It needs leadership buy-in, and its evidence based. Whilst WSS are flexible with timings, the sessions are usually delivered over a half term.

WSS can also peer review a setting and provide mentoring if they are in 'Requires Improvement@ by Ofsted or struggling with SEND.

Online CDP sessions include:

- Creating an emotionally safe environment
- Creating a socially safe environment
- Creating a physically safe environment
- An introduction to speech, language, and communication needs
- Identifying and supporting speech, language, and communication needs
- Supporting the development of speech language and communication skills
- Creating an environment that supports speech language and communication
- Understanding behaviour as communication
- Promoting mental wellbeing in your setting
- Understanding and promoting resilience
- Understanding anxiety and promoting a supportive learning environment
- Supporting sensory differences in the learning environment
- An introduction to supporting learners with physical needs
- Understanding executive function
- Memory for learning
- Understanding the building blocks for reading and writing
- Developing skills for Mathematics
- Person centred working
- Promoting independence
- Transitions

This offer works very much with the Ordinarily Available Provision (available within settings) to upskill all staff in these areas. Each session is 20 mins and follows the same format.

Each of these sessions has objectives, provides a questionnaire of current provision, case studies, a learning journal, and an evaluation of learning. Staff can also post on discussion forums.

Additional resources and links are provided for all sessions. In addition, audio transcripts are available for each session.

FREE Forums

- The SLD Forum

The SLD Forum is an independent community of people, mainly education professionals, with a

particular interest in Severe and Complex Learning Difficulties.

The forum provides opportunities for people to ask questions, offer suggestions, discuss, and debate, and share information and resources, in the field of SLD.

- The SEND & ICT Forum

The SENDICT Forum is an independent community of people, mainly education professionals, with a particular interest in ICT and its application to special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The forum provides opportunities for people to ask questions, offer suggestions, discuss, and debate, and share information and resources, in the field of SEND.

- The SENCO Forum

The SENCO Forum is an independent community of people, mainly education professionals, with a particular interest in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Many members are SENCOs (special educational needs coordinators), but this is not a requirement – everyone who is involved in SEND is welcome, including class teachers, teaching assistants, advisers, consultants, parents, young people etc.

The forum also welcomes members from across the United Kingdom and has a significant international membership (e.g. SENCOs working in international schools or support services).

The forum provides opportunities for people to ask questions, offer suggestions, discuss, and debate, and share information and resources, in the field of SEND.

For more information

- visit <https://www.wholeschoolsend.org.uk/>
- email Dawn Cranshaw Regional lead at RSL.WM@wholeschoolsend.com

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