



DSPL 9

Summer term Communication: 25.05.2021

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the summer edition of the DSPL 9 newsletter for this academic year. Hopefully life both in and out of school is beginning to return to some sort of normality although as I am sure you can appreciate much of the support provided by DSPL 9 will remain virtual for this term and possibly into the autumn term.

Despite all that has happened during this academic year, DSPL 9 has continued to support local setting, CYP, parents and carers through a range of virtual platforms. Training events and projects have been able to continue along with termly SENCo forums and network meetings.

There is no doubt that this year will have had an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of many of you so please remember to continue to consider your mental health and wellbeing at these times and ensure you are giving yourself breaks and time whether that being going for a walk, reading, learning a new hobby or taking time out to practice mindfulness and meditation.

If you have any enquiries or require support from DSPL 9, please do get in touch.

Stay safe and take care!

DSPL 9 Team:

DSPL 9 Manager and SEND Lead: Gemma Hall

DSPL 9 Administrator: Jen Thomson

DSPL 9 Triage Lead: Jan Crook

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DSPL 9 SENCo Summer Survey

As we fast approach the end of this challenging academic year, DSPL 9 is eager to gather feedback from you regarding the services you have used, the experiences you have had, what is working well and how we can improve our offer to all local settings in the next academic year. Please follow the link below to a google form which should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete and will provide us with invaluable feedback and suggestions for the year ahead:

<https://cutt.ly/nbBtpXB>

Thank you for your continued support.

DSPL 9 Website and SENCo Handbook

DSPL 9 have been working on two elements over the last term to ensure local SENCos are kept up to date with important information, dates and guidance.

The DSPL 9 website now contains a school information tab on its homepage which will take you to a page containing relevant dates and information.

<http://dsplarea9.org.uk/information-for-schools/>

The DSPL 9 SENCo Handbook was launched last month to provide information for new and experienced SENCos with support for Hertfordshire and DSPL 9 specific information. It contains information about services available through DSPL 9 and Hertfordshire, contact lines, assessment information, along with a whole host of other information relevant to the role of SENCo. All SENCos should have received a copy via email but if you do not appear to have a copy please let Gemma Hall know.

<http://dsplarea9.org.uk/download/dspl-9-send-guide-academic-year-2020-21/>

Both sources of information will be updated regularly.

DSPL 9 Projects Update: May 2021

Primary settings Numicon: Breaking Barriers Project

Congratulations to the following settings who have now completed all training elements of the Numicon project:

Colnbrook
Little Reddings
Bournehall
Kingsway Infants
Eastbury Farm
St Johns RC
Maple Cross
Ascot Road
Highwood Primary
Coates Way
The Russell
St Peters C of E
Cassiobury Juniors
BeechField
Cherry Tree

Secondary settings That Reading Thing Project

Congratulations to the following settings who have now completed all training elements of the TRT project:

St Michaels Catholic High School
Watford Grammar School for Boys
St Joan Of Arc
Rickmansworth
Watford Grammar School for Girls
Bushey Meads
Croxley Danes
Reach Free
Future Academies Watford
St Clement Danes
The Grange Future Academies
Queens

DSPL 9 and KCA: Staff Wellbeing Project

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 brought a massive increase in vulnerability and, thus, trauma, for both children and school staff. Whilst Schools opened up again in September 2020, there is still much disruption as the virus continues to spread, with schools having to cope and react to the effects of positive cases, staff shortages and, in some cases, school closures.

There was a recognition that schools staff are working under immense pressure and stress, and this is, in many cases, having a detrimental effect on mental health and well-being. DSPL 9 felt it was an important time for staff to better understand the impact of working in these conditions, to focus on what they can do to improve well-being and resilience, and to look at building a culture of support within their settings.

Whilst a good proportion of staff in schools may have already accessed the training on attachment and trauma that has been offered in previous years, this new offer was to all staff so they could consider the importance of this knowledge base when working under the conditions of the pandemic.

Thank you for those settings who participated in the DSPL 9 and KCA Staff Wellbeing project. Feedback from the project has been incredibly positive and I look forward to hearing more from settings when we meet towards the end of the autumn term.

Diary Dates:

Please find attached with all DSPL 9 dates so far for your diaries.

DSPL 9 SENCo Coffee Mornings: June 2021

Following the success of the SENCo coffee mornings during this academic year, DSPL 9 will be holding the last coffee morning in June for each age phase. MT invites will be sent out after half term for the following dates:

Early Years SENCos:

Tuesday 22nd June: 10-11am

Primary SENCos:

Wednesday 23rd June: 9.30-10.30am

Secondary SENCos:

Wednesday 23rd June: 11-12pm

If you have not received an invite please contact gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk

All meeting and training sessions will remain virtual during the autumn term in the hope that the spring and summer meeting are able to take place face to face. SENCos will be kept informed about any changes to event formats.

DSPL 9 SENCo Forum 21-22

Term	EYs SENCo Forum	Primary and Secondary SENCo Forum
Autumn Term	Tuesday 16 th November 2021: 1-2pm	Wednesday 20 th October 2021: 1-2.45pm
Spring Term	Tuesday 15 th March 2022: 10-11am	Wednesday 9 th February 2022: 1-2.45pm
Summer Term	Tuesday 17 th May 2022: 1-2pm	Wednesday 15 th June 2022: 1-2.45pm

DSPL 9 Autism Lead Meetings 21-22

Autumn Term: Wednesday 17th November: 9-10.15am

Spring Term: Wednesday 9th March: 9-10.15am

Summer Term: Wednesday 8th June: 9-10.15am

DSPL 9 LHNF Panels and Deadlines 2020-21

Please ensure all LHNF applications are sent to dspl9lhnf@bournehall.herts.sch.uk via schoolsfx.

Month	Date of panel	Deadline for applications
June	Thursday 10 th June	24.05.21
July	Thursday 8 th July	21.06.21

DSPL 9 LHNF Panels and Deadlines 2021-22

Please find below the LHNF panel dates and deadlines for the next academic year.

Starting from September 2021, and in line with the HNF Handbook, 6 SENCOs (2 from each age phase) will be invited to attend the panels and each setting will receive £100 after the event to fund any cover needed. As there are a considerable amount of settings across the DSPL 9 area, the attendance will be on a 2/3 year rolling programme to ensure all SENCOs have this opportunity.

Please ensure all LHNF applications are sent to [dsp19lhnf@bournehall.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dspl9lhnf@bournehall.herts.sch.uk) via schoolsfx.

Month	Date of panel	Deadline for applications
September	Wednesday 22 nd September 2021	06.09.21
October	Thursday 21 st October 2021	04.10.21
November	Thursday 25 th November 2021	08.11.21
January	Thursday 27 th January 2022	10.01.22
February	Thursday 24 th February 2022	31.01.22
March	Thursday 24 th March 2022	07.03.22
May	Friday 20 th May 2022	02.05.22
June	Thursday 16 th June 2022	23.05.22
July	Wednesday 13 th July 2022	27.06.22

Autism Training

The AET will be providing a number of opportunities for the remainder of this academic year for your staff to access the Making Sense of Autism Training.

To book your space please email: Training-AET@hertfordshire.gov.uk

HCC are also providing the Early Years Autism Training virtually during this term.



Hertfordshire support for Pupils and Young People
on the autism spectrum
Schools programme Autism Education Trust (AET)

Our Hertfordshire aim is to enable increased understanding and awareness of autism leading to a positive whole school ethos and good practice which actively supports our children and young people with autism

Course title:	Making sense of autism – raising awareness (DSPL 6 & 9)
Suitable for:-	Whole school staff This training is designed to be available to all school staff including SLT, class teachers, support staff, MSAs, site staff and admin. We would ask if the whole school require training you request this separately and use this session for new staff or staff that need a refresher.
Focus of training:-	To develop understanding and awareness of autism and how it impacts on children and young people in our schools
When	You need to only attend 1 session, but have included all dates to help with planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th February • 15th April • 10th March • 16th June Sessions run as twilight training between 3.30pm – 5pm
Where	Virtually using Microsoft Teams
Aims of the training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give staff a better understanding and awareness of autism and the way it affects pupils and students in school • Offer a whole school session so that all staff have the same basic training • Time to reflect for those with previous knowledge and experience
Booking a place	E-mail Training-AET@Hertfordshire.gov.uk Please include number of staff that will be attending and their names and their email addresses. Further details will be provided on confirmation of your date

You may like to look at the AET website www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk for more detail about the work of the AET and available resources

Specialist Advice & Support
Children's Services



Free Early Years Training for DSPL 9
Supporting Children with Autism & Social Communication Needs

Dates: 24th March, 12th May, 23rd June
9.30 – 2.30pm

You only need to attend 1 session, but have included all dates to help with planning.

Suitable for: EY Teachers, SENCOs/INCOs, Managers/Senior Leaders, Early Years Practitioners, Nursery Nurses, Teaching/Learning Assistants

Hertfordshire County Council is rolling out a programme of training for all Early Years settings. The aims of the training are:

- to develop increased understanding and awareness of autism & social communication needs
- to explore strategies to support learning and development
- to enhance good practice across Early Years settings
- to ensure effective support for Early Years children across all settings

There is no charge for this training.

Training will be delivered virtually using Microsoft Teams.

To book a place on the training, please contact Charlotte Osborne via email: SENDSAS.SLCAISL@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Please provide the following details:

- Name(s) of applicants
- DSPL Area
- Course name & date
- Setting name
- Email address(es) of applicant(s) as invite to training will be sent to them directly

Primary Behaviour Partnership

Tier 4 Panel Dates 2020/2021

Request submitted by	Panel Date
17.06.2021	01.07.2021

Referral forms and further information can be found at www.dsplarea9.org.uk

The Acorn Centre now have a designated website to the service which includes information about the service, the referral process and process flowchart. The website has been created to support both professionals and parents. <https://www.theacorncentre.co.uk/>

ACORN CONSULTATION LINE

During these unprecedented times, we're aware of the struggles our children are having either at home or returning to school. The Acorn Centre are offering a consultation line for schools and professionals to give additional advice and support should you require it.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Monday 9.30am - 11.30am

07950 900442

If your call relates to any of the below, our Family Advocate will be available for calls once a week.

- Self-esteem and confidence
- housing
- debt management/ benefits
- Anger and behaviour
- routines
- choices and consequences
- emotional well being
- mental health
- bereavement

BEHAVIOURAL SUPPORT

Tuesday 12.00pm – 2pm

Lisa: 07375443987

Thursday 12.30pm – 4pm

Nikki: 07946 266107

If your call relates to any of the below, our Provision Leads will be available for calls twice weekly.

- Risk Management Plans
- Return to School worries
- Anxieties
- Therapeutic Support
- General advice & strategies

Emotional School Based Avoidance Support (EBSA)

The Educational Psychology Learning Set on Emotionally Based School Avoidance, with input from the Attendance Team, ESMA, the Advisory Teacher Service and DSPL8 have developed some excellent guidance for schools around EBSA).

All SENCos should have received this document, however if you need to access a copy please contact Harsha Kariawasam at Harsha.Kariawasam@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Integrated Services for Learning Statutory SEND Duty lines

ISL Integrated
Services for
Learning
working together locally

A general queries and advice line for schools, parents/ carers and professionals for matters relating to the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).



ISL Geographical Area Team	Main line	Alternative line
East Herts, Broxbourne, Welwyn and Hatfield	01992 588562	01438 844185
North Herts and Stevenage	01438 843758	01438 844707
St Albans and Dacorum	01442 453300	01442 453387
Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere	01442 454012	01442 453529

Available 9am-17:30pm Monday to Thursday
and 9am-16:30pm Fridays

**For support for case specific queries, please contact your allocated SEND Officer/Caseworker assistant. **

To access a range of learning resources
please click here



ISL Integrated
Services for
Learning
working together locally

SEND Advice for Parents/Carers

Helpful SEND advice lines
for Parents and Carers

Advice line	Times available (from Sept 2020)
<i>Educational Psychology Contact line</i> 01992 588574	Weds 2pm - 4:30pm
<i>SEND Specialist Advice and Support Service*</i> 01442 453920 - term time only	<i>Specific Learning Difficulties:</i> Mon & Thurs 09:30am - 12pm
	<i>Speech Language, Communication & Autism needs:</i> Tues & Weds 1:30pm - 4pm
	<i>Early Years:</i> Weds 9am - 12pm Thurs 1:30pm - 4pm
<i>West team Attendance Duty*</i> 01442 454778	Mon - Fri 09:30 am - 4pm
<i>East team Attendance Duty*</i> 01992 555261	Mon - Fri 09:30 am - 4pm

* also available to schools, settings and professionals

To access a range of learning resources
please click here



