



Department
for Education

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES & BEHAVIOUR, ATTENDANCE, EXCLUSIONS AND ALTERNATIVE PROVISION DIVISIONS

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the November 2019 edition of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), Behaviour, Attendance, Exclusions and Alternative Provision Newsletter. This Newsletter includes information about:

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The SEND Review

The government has announced the launch of a crosscutting review of SEND. Five years on from the Children and Families Act, the review will look at how the system has evolved since then, how it can be made to work best for all families and ensure quality of provision is the same across the country. Recognising the importance of joined-up support, it will also explore the role of health care in SEND in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Care. The review will consider:

- the evidence on how the system can provide the highest quality support that enables children and young people with SEND to thrive and prepare for adulthood, including employment;
- how to better help parents to make decisions about what kind of support will be best for their child;
- how to make sure support in different local areas is consistent and joined up across health, care and education services, as well as ensuring that high-quality health and education support is available across the country;
- how we strike the right balance between state-funded provision across inclusive mainstream and specialist places;
- how we align incentives and accountability for schools, colleges and local authorities to make sure they provide the best possible support for children and young people with SEND;
- what is behind the rise in education, health and care (EHC) plans and the role of specific health conditions in driving demand; and,
- how we ensure that public money is spent in an efficient, effective and sustainable manner, placing a premium on securing high quality outcomes for those children and young people who need additional support the most.

It will conclude with action to boost outcomes and improve value for money, so that vulnerable children have the same opportunities to succeed, as well as improving capacity and support for families across England.

Extension of national Trial to extend powers of SEND tribunal to 31 August 2020

In April 2018, the Department for Education began a national Trial to extend the powers of the SEND Tribunal to hear appeals, and make non-binding decisions about, health and social care aspects of Education, Health and Care plans. The Trial was due to end on 31 March 2020. The Department is extending the Trial until 31 August 2020 and we have today written to Directors of Children's Services to inform them and provide further details. A copy of the letter is available from here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-tribunal-trial-letter-to-childrens-services-directors>

The SENCO Forum

Have you ever thought about joining the SENCO Forum? The SENCO Forum is an independent e-community of SENCOs and other SEND professionals, including class teachers, working across the UK. The Forum provides a peer support space for SENCOs and others to ask and answer questions, debate and discuss topics of professional interest and share experience and knowledge.

To find out more about the Forum, including how to join, visit the SENCO area of the SEND gateway: <https://www.sendgateway.org.uk/whole-school-send/sencos-area/>

Feel free to contact Christopher Robertson (Chair, SENCO Forum Advisory Group) with any questions about the Forum by emailing: robertsoncml2@gmail.com

Supporting children and young people with asthma and/or severe allergies

Set out below is information about supporting children with asthma and/or severe allergies. This information will be of interest to all schools and many people working in other educational or linked institutions and organisations such as colleges and early years settings. Please make sure you share this guidance with your colleagues and through your networks to help raise awareness of the options available.

Asthma emergency inhalers

Schools can buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for emergency use on children who have asthma but whose own device is not available or not working. The guidance gives schools that choose to keep an emergency inhaler the basis to create a policy or protocol for using it. It is on gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-asthma-inhalers-for-use-in-schools>

Managing the risks of anaphylaxis

We have recently published practical advice, including resources to help schools manage allergy risks. These are materials are on gov.uk at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/allergy-guidance-for-schools>.

One of the steps that schools can take is to buy adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices from a pharmacist (without a prescription) for emergency use on children who are at risk of anaphylaxis but whose own device is not available or not working. Government guidance to help schools taking up this option is at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645476/Adrenaline_auto_injectors_in_schools.pdf.

The guidance advises schools on the supply, storage, care and disposal of AAI, including ensuring on a monthly basis that:

- AAI are present and in date; and,
- replacement AAI are obtained when expiry dates approach.

Allergy UK have a range of fact sheets and resources for schools covering a wide range of allergies, available at <https://www.allergyuk.org/information-and-advice/for-schools/useful-allergy-resources-for-schools>.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign also has advice to help schools manage severe allergic conditions, available at <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/schools/schools-help/>.

NatSIP (the National Sensory Impairment Partnership) updated guidance on public examination access for children and young people with sensory impairments

This updated guidance is to help teachers of children and young people with hearing impairment (HI), vision impairment (VI) and multi-sensory impairment (MSI) understand the key principles underpinning reasonable adjustments for public examinations and the main access arrangements that may be appropriate for candidates with sensory impairment. It also includes examples of specialist reports written to support applications for access arrangements. Much of the content can be applied to all forms of summative assessment, but the primary focus of the guide is on general qualifications, i.e. GCSE and A level.

You can access the guide here: <https://www.natsip.org.uk/exams-and-access/3697-2019-update-ensuring-equal-access-to-public-examinations-for-candidates-with-sensory-impairment>

Primary school nasal spray flu vaccination

As you may know, this autumn term, for the first time, all primary school aged children in England will be offered the nasal spray flu vaccination. This vaccination programme helps to protect children against flu, which can be a very unpleasant illness and lead to complications like bronchitis and pneumonia.

Public Health England has issued a briefing for schools to explain the flu vaccination programme for 2019/20, as well as template letters to send to parents to obtain their consent. You can view it here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-in-schools> or, if you prefer you can order printed copies from the Health publications order line at:

Health and Social Care Publications,
PO Box 777,
London
SE1 6XH

Contact form: www.healthpublications.gov.uk/Home.html

Telephone: 0300 123 1002

Information, Advice and Support Services: animation

The Council for Disabled Children has produced a 5-minute animation that provides an introduction to SEND local Information, Advice and Support Services (IASS). IASS are a statutory function of local authorities and provide support to children and young people with SEND, and parents, about matters relating to SEND. We hope you find it useful and informative, and that it is a communication tool.

You can access the animation here: <https://youtu.be/54R4cDbX6L8>

Supporting governors and academy trustees in their role in relation to SEND: strategic use of data

In September we published an update of Understanding your data; a guide for school governors and academy trustees. The resource provides a basis for board discussions through the strategic use of data to ensure that value for money is achieved, whilst focusing on educational outcomes.

Some of the key changes generally are that we:

- re-published the resource in a more accessible version
- improved all sections, adding further clarity on messaging
- included links to additional sources of information, including guidance on setting executive salaries and academy trust good practice guides on internal scrutiny and management letters

The updated guidance can be found on gov.uk at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understanding-your-data-a-guide-for-school-governors-and-academy-trustees/understanding-your-data-a-guide-for-school-governors-and-academy-trustees?utm_source=SEND%20october.

Honours nominations

Did you know that anyone can nominate someone for a Queen's birthday or New Year's Honour?

Honours are a great way of recognising the achievements of ordinary people who do extraordinary things, particularly people who:

- have changed things, with an emphasis on practical achievement;
- have demonstrated innovation and entrepreneurship;
- are examples of the best sustained and selfless voluntary service; or,
- have delivered in a way that has brought distinction to UK life.

Past nominations have included people who have made a real difference to children and young people's lives. The person you nominate should still be actively involved in the field you are nominating them for, and should not know that they are being nominated.

The application process is straightforward, and can be completed online here: <https://www.gov.uk/honours/nominate-someone-in-the-uk>

Attached is a guide on how to complete a nomination as well as the nomination form. If you would like to discuss any part of the process, just email shanaj.salah-uddin@education.gov.uk who would be more than happy to help.

LearnED Roadshow – SEND event at Rainham, Essex on 14 November

In 2018, the Department for Education (DfE) & British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) successfully launched the LearnED Roadshow. This series of one-day accredited continuing professional development conferences are aimed at showcasing the effective use of technology for education. We are delighted to announce that the second edition of Roadshow has been confirmed for the 2019/2020 academic year, with the addition of a new SEND-specific edition on 14 November 2020 at Rainham, Essex.

This practitioner-led event will see experienced school leaders and SENCOs talking about their own experiences in identifying and implementing technology for their learners, and will be accompanied by technology engagement exhibition showcasing a range of technology and tools that support learners.

For this event, BESA is delighted to be working in partnership with Corbets Tey School and the School Improvement Service at Havering Education Services.

You can find out more and get your free tickets at <https://www.besa.org.uk/events/learned-roadshow-2/>.

National Mental Capacity Forum Awareness Survey 2019

The National Mental Capacity Forum was established in 2015, following the publication of the House of Lords' Select Committee's post-legislative review of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, in order to improve implementation of the Act across all sectors.

This research is being conducted in order to assess whether there have been improvements in empowering and supporting those with impaired mental capacity to live as fully and independently as possible. We encourage as many people as possible to complete this short survey, which will take approximately 8 minutes.

<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/K4ZAD8TN>.

We hope this newsletter reaches as many people and organisations as possible. Please pass it on to anyone who does not currently receive it and invite them to join our mailing list.

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