



As February begins we are fast approaching the end of this half term and there have been many wonderful moments that have been shared in PEP meetings about Wokingham children.



As always, we are thankful for such dedicated professionals who work with us in ensuring that the children we care for are championed within their educational setting.



Spring term PEPs are in full swing with many already completed. May we remind you that any outstanding funding requests must be added to the PEP and submitted by **Friday 8th March** to ensure that they can be considered before the close of the financial year.



nasen's Early Years SEND Seminar

Online | 27 Feb 2024 (12:30 - 15:30)

early years

This DfE-funded seminar is FREE to attend and is aimed at Early Years and SEND practitioners, SENCOs and managers and Local Authority Teams from across England.

You need to register to book your place and this can be done by [clicking here](#).

Whats On

- ★ Tuesday 30 January 2024 Emotional Based School Avoidance training (Shute End)
- ★ Monday 12 February 2024 – Friday 16 February 2024 Half Term (WBC)
- ★ Thursday 22 February 2024 – 15:00 – 16:30 Wokingham DSL Meeting (Virtual)
- ★ Friday 1 March 2024 National Places Offer Day (Secondary)
- ★ Monday 11 March 2024 PP+ Deadline
- ★ Monday 18 March 2024 PEP Deadline
- ★ Friday 29 March 2024 – Sunday 14 April 2024 Easter Holiday (WBC)
- ★ Monday 15 April 2024 National Place Offer Day (Primary/Junior)



NSPCC



From the 5th - 11th of February 2024 at 16:00 to 17:00 the NSPCC will be collaborating with developers, platforms, industry bodies, esports and influencers to play and act for a better way to game. As part of the Game Safe Festival, the NSPCC is encouraging those working with children and young people within the education sector to have conversations about online gaming.

On the 8th of February from 16:00 to 17:00 the NSPCC under the auspices of the Game Safe Festival, will be hosting a free webinar aimed at helping you understand how young people game online, discover what tools and resources are available to support safe play and how to help them stay safe.

NSPCC  GAME SAFE FESTIVAL TIMETABLE						
05 FEB	06 FEB	07 FEB	08 FEB	09 FEB	10 FEB	11 FEB
<p>10 AM Welcome</p> <p>1PM NSPCC Podcast: Why we are in gaming</p> <p>3PM EDI Gaming Moment</p> <p>6PM - 8PM Party Game Stream from Sunderland</p>	<p>10 AM Safer Internet Day Youtube Livestream</p> <p>4PM - 7PM Family Gaming for Safer Internet Day</p>	<p>2PM Industry Roundtable</p> <p>5PM - 7PM Party Game Stream from Sunderland</p> <p>7PM Parents Workshop</p>	<p>4PM Professionals Workshop</p> <p>5PM Fireside Chat</p>	<p>9 AM Esports Conference</p> <p>4PM Esports Networking Social - Confetti X</p>	<p>9 AM Esports Grand Finals Day 1 - Confetti X</p> <p>Look out for our Creator live streams from Confetti X throughout the day</p>	<p>9 AM Esports Grand Finals Day 2 - Confetti X</p> <p>Look out for our Creator live streams from Confetti X throughout the day</p> <p>4PM Close & Prizegiving</p>

In partnership with  Vodafone

For more information please click [here](#). There are free workshops for parents/carers and educational professionals.



Help young people get the skills and knowledge they need to look after their mental health. Get free mental health resources for schools and colleges through the Mental Health Foundation's Peer Education Project (PEP).

The Peer Education Project is a secondary school-based educational programme that aims to give young people the skills and knowledge they need to safeguard their mental health and that of their peers.

The Mental Health Foundation developed the programme in 2015. From 2015 to 2023, the evaluated programme was delivered to over 40,000 pupils in over 200 secondary schools across the UK and internationally.

The programme resources are now openly available for any school or organisation to use. You will have access to pre-prepared lesson plans, training videos and guidance documents to support you to introduce PEP in your school. . Click [here](#) to find out more.



NSPCC
'Learning'

Listening to children and young people's experiences of disclosing child sexual abuse

A central recommendation from the Independent Inquiry for Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA, 2022)¹ was the introduction of a mandatory reporting duty in **England** and **Wales** for disclosures of child sexual abuse.

To help understand the potential implications of this proposal, the NSPCC commissioned researchers from the University of Bedfordshire to review the evidence on:

- the barriers to disclosure children and young people face
- the motivators and facilitators that help them to disclose sexual abuse
- their experiences following disclosure.

The review identifies a number of key insights to inform thinking on the proposed mandatory reporting duty. It also highlights gaps in the current research, including a lack of consideration of the reporting systems in place in the countries in which children disclosed abuse, and limited research into children's perspectives and experiences of those systems. The report recommends further direct research with children and young people to inform the design of any proposed system.

For more information or to read the full report please click [here](#).



Statutory guidance

Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

Summary of changes for group and school-based providers, since the previous issued framework. Updated 19th January 2024.

Group and school-based settings must:

- ⇒ ensure setting managers appointed on or after 4 January 2024 hold a level 2 maths qualification, or they achieve one within 2 years of starting in the position (Section 3, Staff:child ratios)
- ⇒ ensure your setting's safeguarding policies and procedures include all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities, not just mobile phones and cameras (Section 3, Safeguarding policies and procedures)
- ⇒ ensure all level 2 and level 3 staff members who gained their qualification since June 2016, hold a valid paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate, otherwise they cannot be included in ratio (Section 3, Paediatric first aid)

Group and school-based settings may wish to consider applying the following flexibilities, if appropriate:

- ⇒ level 3 practitioners in group and school-based settings will no longer be required to hold a level 2 maths qualification to count within staff: child ratios (Section 3, Staff: child ratios)
- ⇒ a manager in group and school-based settings can now allow students and apprentices to count in staff:child ratios at the level below their level of study, if the manager is satisfied that they are competent and responsible (Section 3, Staff: child ratios)
- ⇒ settings may provide opportunities for children to develop and use their home language in play and learning, previously this requirement stated this 'must' be done (Section 1, English as an Additional Language)

Group and school-based settings should also be aware that the following updates have been made to the EYFS:

- ⇒ there is a new [statutory document](#) on early years qualification requirements and standards
- ⇒ the language has been changed to clarify that physical evidence does not need to be collected for assessments (Section 2, Assessment)
- ⇒ a clarification made that while qualifications must be verified, employees do not have to provide physical copies of their qualifications (Section 3, Suitable people)
- ⇒ a clarification made on the wording on the validity of paediatric first aid (PFA) certificates (Section 3, Paediatric first aid)



There is a new free tool called CyberSecure Check for Schools, which has been developed by SWGfL for the Department for Education (DfE) and it officially launched at the end of December. This innovative new tool will help support schools with their cybersecurity practices and support policy development. CyberSecure Check for Schools works very similarly to our award-winning online safety self-review tool 360Safe, providing schools with a framework to self-assess against and work towards improvement.

What is CyberSecure Check for Schools? CyberSecure Check for Schools is a comprehensive tool designed to assist schools in reviewing and enhancing their cyber and information security policies and practices. This tool is particularly relevant in the context of the increasing volume of cyber-attacks, such as ransomware, which has posed significant risks towards the education sector over many years. Here's an in-depth look at CyberSecure Check for Schools:

1. **How Does it Work?:** CyberSecure Check for Schools is a free self-assessment tool specifically for schools. It is designed to help school leaders be proactive and better informed about their institution's cyber resilience. The tool allows schools to self-assess their current cyber and information security provisions, providing a structure to categorise safety and security levels, ranging from level 0 (most basic) to level 5 (most aspirational).
2. **How Do I Navigate It?:** The tool is organised into elements, strands, and aspects, with each aspect featuring six level statements. Users can select a rating from 0 to 5 for each aspect, with 5 indicating the highest level of achievement. The review dashboard offers an overview of progress, including a radar graph that shows selected levels for each aspect, the current national level, and recommended benchmark levels. This structure facilitates an instant assessment of areas needing improvement.
3. **Who is This For?:** CyberSecure Check for Schools is suitable for any school setting, including multi-academy trusts, and is beneficial regardless of the establishment's size. By using this tool, schools can work to strengthen their defenses against cyber-attacks. It is designed to be accessible to both experts and non-experts, offering guidance and action plans for improvement based on the current assessment. The tool also emphasises the importance of evaluating the risk posed by supply chain attacks, where trusted suppliers may inadvertently become conduits for cyber threats.
4. **How Does it Help Us to Improve?:** After selecting a level for each aspect, the tool presents relevant improvement actions. Users can enter commentary on their current position, provide evidence, and outline an action plan for enhancements. Progress in each aspect is calculated based on the selected level and the commentary entered.

CyberSecure Check for Schools is a valuable, free resource for schools to assess and improve their cyber and information security practices.

For further information click [here](#).



Last year we had a fabulous conference and we are pleased to announce that we will be holding this year's conference at the same venue. It is a wonderful opportunity to network with other DTs & DLs in the local authority and for those out of authority we hope to make the event virtual too.

The conference will take place on: Tuesday 2nd July 2024

The Venue : Crowne Plaza Reading East

Address: Wharfedale Road, Winnersh Triangle. RG41 5TS

How do you book your place?

To reserve your place at the conference please click [here](#) or scan the QR code:



Don't forget the virtual school are here to assist you should you require any support. You can email us at the following addresses and we promise we will respond within 24 hours.

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Here's how to
CONTACT US!



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