



Delivering Special
Provision Locally



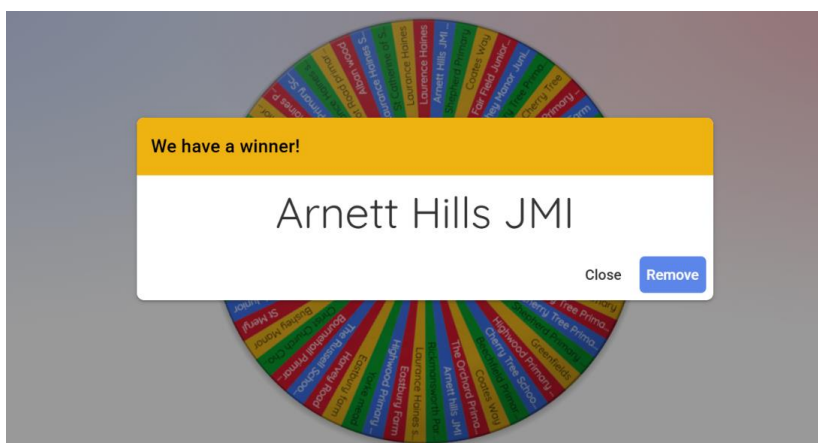
DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 10

11.02.26

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Arnett Hills JMI!!

Following your school's feedback to the whole school dyslexia training, your school has won the opportunity to access 1 hour of Laura's time to support you with SpLD within your school.



You will be contacted over the next week to organise your free session.



DSPL 9 SENCo Drop in sessions

Date: Every Tuesday

Time: 3.45-4.30pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Please use the link below for any of the Tuesday sessions:

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 340 101 177 553 9

Passcode: FD789nR7



Update on Local High Needs Funding:

Focused Intervention Funding (FIF) is being implemented at the beginning of the Summer Term following a review of the Local High Needs Funding (LHNF) system. This training will cover the principles of the new system and how it will operate. It will include details of the process, the form and how to complete it as well as the guidance and where to find it.

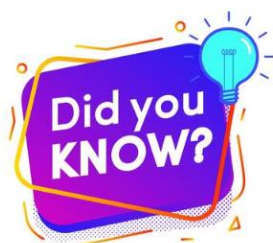
Sue Sheffield, DSPL Strategic Lead, will be delivering this webinar and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. These sessions will be held online on:

- Monday 23rd February 2026 1.30-3.30pm
- Thursday 5th March 2026 9.30-11am

Book your place via the [website](#)

If you are unable to join this session but would like to access the recording (or recordings of previous sessions) please log in to the SEND Academy Members Area using the below details:

Username: SENDAcademy
Password: Herts321



DSPL 9 Specialist Secondary Transition Support

Within the DSPL9 team we have a Specialist Transition outreach worker. They offer (subject to criteria)

- 1:1 bespoke support for children in year 6 moving up to a community secondary school, who have (including their family), complex needs that require intensive involvement to ensure a successful transition. (without EHCPs)
- September/October - surgery style sessions in primary schools to parents of year 6 students:
 - providing Secondary transition advice to parents starting the process,
 - how best to use the Hertfordshire application system
 - practical advice on supporting their child into secondary life.
- March-allocation day onwards - surgery style sessions in primary schools to parents on next steps:
 - what to do next if they are unhappy,
 - advice on appealing
 - practical advice on supporting their child into secondary life

For more information on how to access the above, please contact Lisa directly on

Lisasillitoe@dsplarea9.org.uk



**DSPL 9 is pleased to invite you to the official launch of the
DSPL 9 Lending Library**

Date: Wednesday 25th February 2026

Times:

12-12.45pm

1-1.45pm

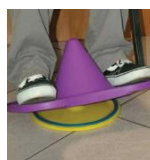
2-2.45pm

Venue: The Green Room, Bournehall Primary

To enable as many of you as possible to attend the event please book a time slot using the link below:

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2012587>

Following the launch of the lending library, the website will go live on Thursday 26th February for SENCOs to reserve items.



**HERTFORDSHIRE SENCO
INDUCTION PROGRAMME**

As part of the SENCO Induction Programme, the DSPL 9 session which will be taking place on Tuesday 24th February in The Green Room at Bournehall Primary school from 1-3pm.

In addition to hearing about the support available from DSPL 9, we will also be joined by colleagues from other local services.

Any new SENCOs who would benefit from attending are more than welcome to join us. Please can I ask that you contact gemmahall@dsplarea9.org.uk to confirm your attendance.

DSPL 9 LHNF March Panel Deadline

Please be reminded that the deadline for the March LHNF panel is **Tuesday 3rd March at 5pm.**

All applications MUST be sent via schoolsfx to dspl9lhmf@bournehall.herts.sch.uk

For further information around LHNF please click [here](#).



Please find attached a flyer highlighting the CDP on offer from HFL Education to support schools and settings with the transition this academic year.

Completion and submission of TLoNt 2026

PVI settings, childminders & nursery classes	Send TLoNt to schools by Friday 8th May 2026
Schools (nursery and reception)	Submit TLoNt overview to HFL by Friday 12th June 2026



DSPL 9

Benchmarking and Planning audit completion session

DSPL 9 would like to invite SENCOs to attend either of the sessions provided to take time to complete their Benchmarking and Planning Tool and reflect upon their current practice prior to the survey in the summer term.

Purpose of the session:

- Completion of the Benchmarking and Planning Tool
- Dedicated time to consider each of the 5 outcomes and if the school is working at an emerging, expected or exemplary level.
- Celebrate the areas that are working well and consider those areas that need to be developed.
- Network with other local SENCOs and discuss aspects of the tool.

Date: Tuesday 17th March

Time: 9.30-11.30 **OR** 1.30-3.30pm

Venue: The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School

To book your place please use the link below

<https://buytickets.at/dspl9/2010430>



Valuing SEND in Hertfordshire



Full training for schools/settings

*Virtual training for those who have never used VSEND before
Suitable for SENCOs and SLT looking to understand VSEND*

Book by emailing vsend@hertfordshire.gov.uk

1:30pm-3:00pm on Monday 23rd February

9:30am-11:00am on Wednesday 4th March

For further information please see attached flyer.



World Down Syndrome Day

21st March 2026

World Down Syndrome Day is on 21st March 2026

Let's Get Schools Involved!

We're inviting you to help spread the word and support DS Achieve by encouraging your school or workplace to take part in Odd Socks Day!

Taking part is simple - wear some mismatched or colourful socks that are going to get noticed, and then when someone comments, it's the perfect opportunity to say, "I'm wearing them to raise awareness about Down Syndrome".

This is a great way to fundraise for DS Achieve. Donations collected for wearing odd socks help us raise vital funds that go directly towards supporting children and young people with Down Syndrome. Every penny makes a real difference and helps us continue our important work.

If you would like to take part, we'd be delighted to support you with information about World Down Syndrome Day and a short explanation to share with pupils, parents and colleagues.

Donations can be made via our JustGiving page:



[Donate here](#)

Alternatively, contact us at **info@dsachieve.org** to request our bank details.



Hertfordshire Community
NHS Trust

The Speech and Language Therapist Education Leads would be really grateful if you could fill out this new service feedback form": [Speech and Language Therapy Service- Feedback form \(Spring/Summer 2026\)](#)

Please click on the image below to find all spring term courses from the Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy Service:





Spaces are still available at the following training opportunities being provided by the speech and language therapy service:

9th March – Blanks – Peace Children’s Centre: Watford
23rd March – Information Carry Words – Peace Children’s Centre: Watford

To book please click [here](#).

Assessing and Teaching Reading



Training delivered by experienced Specialist Advisory Teachers for Cognition and Learning.

For SENCos and Teaching Assistants in a primary or KS3 setting supporting pupils with reading.

The Cognition and Learning team are excited to invite you and your staff to a new training course on how to assess and teach reading.

This course is suitable for SENCos and Teaching Assistants in a primary or KS3 setting supporting pupils with reading.

This engaging two-and-a-half-hour training session will equip attendees with practical skills and valuable resources to confidently assess reading and deliver effective, well-structured reading sessions.

The aims of the course are:

To explore the reading process

To learn how to informally assess reading

To use assessment information to inform teaching of reading

To know how to carry out an effective reading session

On completion of the course, all delegates will be emailed resources to assess and support effective reading sessions back in school.

Early booking is advised.

Flyer attached to the email.



Many thanks to those of you who were able to join us for the brilliantly informative webinar from **Jess at First Steps ED** last month - the attendance and comments shared following were a true indication of just how helpful our lite bite series of system webinars will be!

The session was recorded and can be played back at any time: [First Steps ED Schools Webinar Jan 2026 \(early help with eating/body image difficulties ages 5-17\) - YouTube](#).

You'll also find attached the slides with links to further information about the service.

