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DSPL 9 Weekly Newsletter 18

08.07.26



Welcome to the final DSPL 9 newsletter for this academic year. It feels like only yesterday the first newsletter of the year was being sent out and here we are at the end of the summer term!

Thank you to all the schools and settings who have offered their school halls and classrooms to facilitate workshops and training across the year. This has enabled DSPL 9 to continue to deliver high quality support across the local area.

Thank you to all the schools, SENCO, and services that work so closely with DSPL 9 through projects, clusters, forums and commissioning to ensure that local needs are being met. These strong links have enabled the implementation of many initiatives and projects over the year.

And finally.....thank you to every single one of you for supporting the SEND children and young people across your schools and settings. It has been another busy year but the drive, enthusiasm and passion you all demonstrate towards supporting our children is incredible, your children are very lucky to have you!

Please make sure you find some time over the summer holiday to rest up, recharge your batteries and spend time with your family. It has been a pleasure working with you all and we look forward to seeing you fresh and ready in September.

**KEEP
CALM**
WINNERS WILL BE
**ANNOUNCED
SOON**

We are just waiting for the final numbers from HCC before we hold the Benchmark and Planning tool survey prize draw.

The winner will be announced via email before the end of term.



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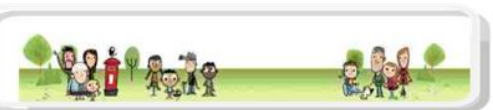
Training Opportunities and Events 2026-27

Please see the attached flyers to find out about the exciting training opportunities and events that will be available in the next academic year.....

Educational Psychology Service
Executive Functioning DSPL 9
Information for schools



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Maths Difficulties Training
Autumn term 2026



SEND
ACADEMY



Invision360

**EHCP Auditing Sessions
for SENCOs in DSPL 6, 7, 8 and 9.**



Hertfordshire

DSPL

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**Applying for an
EHC Needs
Assessment**



DSPL 9 SENCo Clusters and FIF Clusters Autumn Term Dates

Please click on the link below to access the document with all the dates, times and venues.

	Autumn 1 SEnCo/FIF cluster	Autumn 2 FIF cluster only
Cluster 1	Wednesday 30 th September 1-3pm Little Green	Tuesday 24 th November 1-2.30pm Christchurch
Cluster 2	Tuesday 29 th September 9.30-11.30am Beechfield	Tuesday 24 th November 9.30-11am Cherry Tree
Cluster 3	Wednesday 30 th September 9.30-11.30am Oxhey Wood	Wednesday 25 th November 9.30-11am Greenfields
Cluster 4	Wednesday 23 rd September 9.30-11.30am Alban Wood	Wednesday 25 th November 1-2.30pm Acorn Centre
Cluster 5	Thursday 1 st October 1-3pm The Reach Free	Thursday 26 th November 1-2.30pm Rickmansworth

Please note the FIF cluster is part of the first half term SENCo cluster meetings, therefore SENCos are expected to attend the full length of the meetings (see below) to cover the DSPL 9 update and FIF cluster:

AM session: 9.30-11.30am (FIF cluster 10.30-11.30am)

PM session 1-3pm (FIF cluster 2-3pm)

For all information regarding Focused Intervention Funding (FIF) please click [here](#).

To view the SENCo and FIF cluster dates for the entire academic year please use the link below:

[DSPL 9 Clusters 2026-27](#)

Focused Intervention Funding: Group Applications

From September 2026, schools will be able to make group applications as part of the Focused Intervention Funding system.

These applications will follow the same process as the individual FIF applications by going through a SENCo FIF cluster and those agreed at that point going onto the FIF panel.

Additional information for FIF Group Applications:

- As this is HNF we would expect each child to either be on the SEND register or being supported for a SEND/SEMH need.
- Group applications are for a maximum of 6 children; all children need to be identified on the same form
- The application MUST identify a specific intervention that meets the needs of all the children within the group
- The intervention MUST be above OAP and adaptive teaching
- The length of intervention/funding being requested MUST be identified
- The application MUST identify the expected impact for those children accessing the group intervention

To access the FIF group application form [click here](#) or access the form via the [DSPL 9 website](#).



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DSPL 9 EBSA Support Package Relaunch Webinar

Date: Monday, 21st September 2026

Time: 9:30 AM – 10.30am OR 1-2pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

DSPL 9 will be holding two virtual webinars to relaunch the hugely successful EBSA support package and provide information of the updates to the service in the new academic year.

Tier 3 solution circles have been a great opportunity to discuss individual cases and gain different perspectives, ideas, and solutions. (SENCo)

What an amazing resource. Our school have really benefited from this service and we would like to continue to use this resource next year. The advice given and professionals involved are fantastic and the children have made progress. (SENCo)

Excellent service provided, joined up approach was really successful. Luke (Nessie Therapist) was excellent, very supportive and knowledgeable. Rebecca (FSW) was fantastic and approachable. (Pastoral lead)

Life changing. (Parent)

I'm feeling very grateful to everyone who has supported us. Without the intervention I am not sure (child) would have made it through the rest of year 6. (Parent)

All new and experienced SENCos and Pastoral Leads are invited to attend EITHER session to find out what support is available through the EBSA support package and how to access each of the tiers.

Monday 21st September
2026

9.30-10.30am

[Click here](#)

Monday 21st September
2025

1-2pm

[Click here](#)

2026 - 2027

School Year Dates

The following dates for the next academic year have been confirmed:

HFL SEND Briefings

	Date and Time	Venue
Autumn Term	Tuesday 17 th November, 1.30-3.30pm	Westfield Academy
Spring Term	Wednesday 17 th March, 1.30-3.30pm	Parmiter's (TBC)
Summer Term	Wednesday 30 th June, 1-3.30pm (light lunch at 1pm)	Rickmansworth (TBC)

Booking Link

EYs SENCo Forums

	Date and Time	Venue
Autumn Term	Tuesday 10 th November, 10-11am	Microsoft Teams (to be sent September 2026)
Spring Term	Tuesday 16 th March, 10-11am	Microsoft Teams (to be sent September 2026)
Summer Term	Tuesday 25 th May, 10-11am	Microsoft Teams (to be sent September 2026)

SENCo Drop-Ins

In the new academic year Gemma Hall and Mandy Brandon will be moving the weekly drop in sessions to a Thursday morning (before school) or lunchtime and rotate this on a weekly basis.

These sessions are an opportunity for any SENCos, Head Teachers, Pastoral Leads or staff to jump onto a call and ask any question big or small that is SEND related.

MORNING SESSION:

The first session 8-8.45am session will take place on Thursday 10th September and will run until the end of the summer term:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/33742930953952?p=UVsoWANjoUGmNQEut3>

Meeting ID: 337 429 309 539 52

Passcode: 9SM3ML3v

LUNCHTIME SESSION:

The first session 12-1pm will take place on Thursday 17th September and will also run until the end of the summer term:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/381362195089344?p=npG00zLkEDiny3CZcM>

Meeting ID: 381 362 195 089 344

Passcode: Zq6kk6nK

New Speech and Language Referral Form

On 13th July 2026, the CYPT Speech & Language Therapy Service will be launching updated referral guidelines and a new referral form. We have worked closely with Hertfordshire Parents Carers Involvement and school representatives to improve and simplify the referral process for schools and we hope you will find these changes helpful.

The updated guidelines:

- Provide clearer information about when to refer a child or young person to Speech and Language Therapy, including age-specific referral criteria.
- Outline the universal and targeted support and advice that should be accessed before making a referral.
- Reflect the latest evidence-based practice.

The new guidance and referral form will be available to access via our [Speech and Language therapy webpage](#) from the 13th July 2026

If you have any queries about this, you are able to contact your local Education Leads at hct.watfordsltdleads@nhs.net



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DSPL 9 Young Carers Event

DSPL 9 would like to invite all local primary and secondary schools to attend a Young Carers event to find out more about how to identify and support young carers within your schools.

The morning will be an amazing opportunity to hear from [local](#) schools and services and gain a better understanding of how and what support looks like. The event will be attended by:

Hertfordshire Young Carers Team

Laurance Haines School

Akshaya Patra: Empower Hour

Herts School Nursing Service

Date: Wednesday 11th November 2026

Time: 9.30am-12.30pm

Venue: The Niland Centre

Booking link available in September!



The DSPL 9 Lending Library will be closed over the summer holidays out will open on **Friday 18th September**.



If you want to find out more about the DSPL 9 Lending Library and see the range of resources available we will be open to all SENCOs on the following date:

Friday 18th September
10-11am
The Green Room, Bournehall Primary School

Come and see what we have!!



Hertfordshire Autism Training



Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

"SLCN and learning – essential training for teachers by teachers"

Hertfordshire ADHD Training

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All autumn term flyers advertising a wide range of training opportunities have been attached to the email.

Please take a look and book onto any sessions that you or your colleagues may find useful!



Contacting the DSPL 9 SISO (SEN Implementation and Support Officer)

Please be reminded that when contacting Mandy Brandon (SISOs) with any queries, full names of children can be used. This will enable a quicker response.

Don't forget, both Mandy are also available to provide PrISM (Pro-active Implementation and Support) meetings. These will enable you to meet and consider if an EHCP is appropriate and if all avenues of support, paperwork and APDR cycles are in place.

Mandy.Brandon@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Mandy will be working throughout the summer and can be reached via email or phone: 01442 453135.

The Ask SALI line will also be open during the summer anytime between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Friday) – 01438 843310.



Education Training Autumn 2026

We're delighted to let you know that bookings are now open for our Supporting Pupils with Down Syndrome in Education training this Autumn.



SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH DOWN SYNDROME IN EDUCATION

A **THREE PART** course in autumn for teachers, TAs and other education professionals working with children with Down Syndrome, in Hertfordshire and the surrounding counties.



Meet our trainer:
Helen Long
Down Syndrome Specialist Advisory Teacher, SENCo, parent and teacher



For further information including autumn term dates please [click here](#).



EMWiE Newsletter June/July 2026

Please [click here](#) to access the latest EMWiE newsletter.