



EYQI Updates

Lidia Wolos 01744 67 1051/mobile 07784360762

Gemma Oakes 01744 67 5397/07706991364

Kate Campbell 01744 671834

Amanda Quirk 01744 674175

EY Quality and Inclusion Team

EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/EarlyYearsHub>



Week beginning

27.4.26

Upcoming training announcements

EYHUB Network Meeting Dates EYHUB Network Meeting for Settings Target audience –

Nursery Managers, Nursery senior leaders and School nursery teachers The Living Well,

Willowbrook, Alex Suite 9:00am – 12:00pm

Wednesday 10th June 2026 Please click the link to book:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADM>

EYHUB Network Meeting for Schools Target Audience – Reception Teachers and EY leads

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite 1:00pm – 4:00pm Wednesday 10th June 2026

Please click the link to book: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADL>

EYHUB Network Meetings for Childminders 6:30pm – 8:00pm

via Microsoft Teams 6:30pm – 8:00pm Wednesday 17th June 2026

Please click the link to book: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADN>

Reception Class Moderation Moderation for Reception Class Teachers & Early Years Leads

The Living Well, Willowbrook, Alex Suite 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Please click the link to book: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FADI>

Next Steps Conference Our 'Next Steps Conference' is an opportunity to discuss children who have been known to our service who are transitioning into School in September 2026. There will be refreshments and time to seek advice from the following teams, who support children and their families with SEND.

- Professionals from the Bridge centre, consisting of Specialist SEND Teacher, The Portage Team and Preschool Support Workers,
 - Speech and Language Therapy,
 - Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy,
 - TESSA Autism
 - TESSA Hearing and Vision
 - IASS
 - Quality and Inclusion Team

Date Wednesday 20th May 2026 10:00am – 2:30pm with Next Steps Follow up sessions on the morning of 16th July 2026

Target Audience This conference is aimed at Headteachers, SENCOs and Early Years teachers Places Available

Please contact the Bridge to book a place Venue The Bridge, South Community HUB, WA9 4DE St Helens.

Delivered by The Bridge /EYHUB Title and Summary

Early Years Chefs Network

A practical and supportive session for early years chefs to share ideas, recipes, and good practice. The network offers a space to discuss menu planning, nutrition, allergies, and mealtime approaches, while learning from peers and local experts. Ideal for anyone preparing food in early years settings who wants fresh ideas, shared solutions, and professional connection.

Date Wednesday 6th May 2026 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Via Microsoft teams

Safeguarding Awareness for Practitioners Working in Early Years Settings and Childminders

Safeguarding Awareness course aims to help learners understand their responsibilities for safeguarding children. It explains how to recognise and respond to abuse, how to respond to a disclosure, and how to act upon concerns about the safety and welfare of children and young people, according to Statutory guidance EYFS 2025.

Date Wednesday 20th May 2026 6:30pm – 8:30pm

For all training, click onto this Try Booking link to book your individual training sessions:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FDJU>

Integrated 2–2½ Year Reviews

Settings completing the 2–2½ year progress check are strongly encouraged to liaise with their named 0–19 representative to support the delivery of Integrated 2-Year Reviews. Working together helps ensure a shared understanding of each child’s development, strengthens early identification of emerging needs, and provides a more accurate and holistic view of progress beyond a single checkpoint. Collaboration between early years providers and health partners is essential in ensuring children and families receive the right support at the right time.

Progress check at age 2 - GOV.UK

The Progress Check at 2 will help early years practitioners to:

- review a child’s development and progress in the 3 prime areas of learning and development in the EYFS framework
- identify any areas of concern or additional development needs
- work with parents and other professionals to put in place appropriate support and intervention

The guidance informs, supports and offers suggestions. It does not replace the professional judgement of practitioners.

It should be read alongside Development Matters which sets out how children develop and learn.

What to expect in the early years foundation stage: a guide for parents can support practitioners to help parents find out more about their child’s learning and development in the EYFS.

Progress check at age two – Non-statutory guidance for the early years foundation stage

Getting Ready for Reception

Getting Children Ready for Reception is a national practice document (DfE, April 2026) that sets out how schools, early years settings and families can work together to support children’s transition into reception. Drawing on case studies from schools and early years providers with strong outcomes, the guidance emphasises that effective transition is a continuous, relationship-based process, rather than a single event.

The document highlights three core principles for successful transition: working closely with families, building deep, reciprocal partnerships between early years settings and schools, and identifying children's needs early to provide timely support. It stresses the importance of clear, consistent communication with parents, building children's sense of belonging, and ensuring continuity of learning, particularly in communication, language, and social and emotional development.

A strong focus is placed on inclusion, especially for children with SEND and those at greater risk of poorer outcomes. The guidance demonstrates how early, coordinated planning and collaboration help children feel confident, secure, and ready to engage with learning from the outset of reception, supporting improved attendance, wellbeing and longer-term outcomes

[Getting children ready for reception: How schools and early years settings can work together with families to support transition into reception](#)

[Working Together to Support Families and Help Children Thrive](#)

Settings and schools are warmly encouraged to make early contact with their local **Family Hubs and Children's Centres** and begin building a positive, collaborative relationship. Having a named person within the Family Hub as part of your wider team around the setting or school can make a real difference—helping staff feel confident in signposting families, clearly understanding what support is available, and knowing who to turn to for advice. These shared relationships create a friendly, joined-up approach around children and families, ensuring support feels accessible rather than daunting. By working closely with Family Hubs, settings and schools can help families connect with the right help at the right time, strengthen engagement, and contribute to improved outcomes—supporting children not just to cope, but to feel supported, confident, and able to truly thrive in life. Please email Eamonn to arrange a friendly visit or an introductory call. EamonnO'Donnell@sthelens.gov.uk

[St Helens Family Information Directory | Family Hub](#)

**BEST
START
IN LIFE**



Family Hub



[Deaf Awareness Week | Free Deaf Awareness Training](#)

To celebrate Deaf Awareness Week (4–8 May), they're pleased to offer a limited number of FREE places on their Deaf Awareness Training.

The theme is Right to understand – Together, we break barriers' with aims of raising awareness of the communication needs of the deaf community and advocating for greater access to communication tools and services. It will encourage individuals, organisations, and governments to work together to create a more inclusive society where deaf individuals have the same access to communication as their hearing counterparts.

This session is open to everyone and is an excellent first step for anyone interested in developing their understanding of Deaf awareness or progressing to British Sign Language (BSL) learning.

Training Details

- Date: Tuesday 12 May 2026
- Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm
- Location:
Deafness Resource Centre
32–40 Dentons Green Lane
St Helens, WA10 2QB
- Cost: FREE

How to Book

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
Please book your free place using the link below to avoid disappointment:

👉 <https://buytickets.at/thedeafnessresourcecentre/1756118> (Alternatively, copy and paste the link into your browser.)

[Improving School Food Standards in England: Consultation Launch - 13 April 2026](#)

Every child deserves food at school that helps them feel good, learn well, and thrive.

A nutritious breakfast or a good-quality lunch can make a real difference to children's concentration, behaviour, and long-term health. That is why the Government has made school food a priority - and why we are today launching a national consultation on updated **School Food Standards in England**.

The current standards, set more than a decade ago, no longer reflect the latest nutritional guidance or the preferences of children today. Too many children are consuming too much sugar and too little fibre, and health inequalities remain stubbornly wide.

While we know many schools are already serving healthy school dinners, these new standards level the playing field so that every child - no matter where they live - gets good-quality food at school.

We are proposing updated, modern School Food Standards that:

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- Support healthier breakfasts and lunches across the whole school day.
 - Increase fibre, reduce sugar and restrict foods high in fat, sugar and salt.
 - Remove the reduced set of standards for maintained nurseries and nursery units within primary schools, where the early years foundation stage nutrition guidance applies.
 - Promote healthy, nutritious and appealing food.
 - Are inclusive of children with different needs, cultures, allergies and diets.
 - Work practically for schools, caterers and governors.
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These new standards build on the government's extension of Free School Meals to every child from a household in receipt of Universal Credit from September 2026 - reaching over half a million more children and lifting 100,000 out of poverty. Together, these reforms represent the biggest expansion of school food provision in a generation.

We want to hear from those who know school food best: children and young people, parents and carers, schools and governors, caterers, health professionals and the wider food sector. Your insight will help ensure the new standards are workable, inclusive, and sustainable, and that they make a real difference in classrooms and communities across England.

 **Have your say:**

The consultation is now open and runs until **12 June 2026**.

You can read the proposals and submit your views here: [School Food Standards: updating the legislative framework - GOV.UK](#)

You can read our press notice here: [Government scraps high-sugar food from school menus - GOV.UK](#)

By working together, we can create a school food system that supports children's wellbeing, reflects local needs, and makes healthy eating an enjoyable and familiar part of every school day. Thank you for taking the time to get involved.

[Share your experience identifying special educational needs and support](#)

The Department for Education is recruiting reception and primary teachers working in mainstream primary schools to participate in research.

Purpose of the research

To understand how special educational needs (SEN) are currently identified in schools and how support is selected to meet those needs.

What the research involves

1 hour Microsoft Teams call in May 2026.

You will receive a £50 voucher for taking part.

Who can take part

Reception and primary teachers working in mainstream primary schools.

If you are interested, [complete this expression of interest form](#). We will then get in touch with more details about booking your session.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact isobel.comley@education.gov.uk

Dear SENCOs,

As the Next Steps Conference for schools' SENCOs and Reception teachers is taking place on 20th May 2026, this is an appropriate time to begin transition conversations for children who will be moving to school in September 2026, if you have not already done so.

We are planning to arrange Inclusion Meetings for the Summer term in June. However, if you feel that a meeting would be beneficial before then, please contact either Amanda or me to arrange this.

If you have any questions regarding transition to school or ideas to support Preparing for school ([Preparing for school - Best Start in Life](#)), please do not hesitate to get in touch via EYHUB@sthelens.gov.uk.

Kind regards,
Lidia Wolos

Baby Showers in Family HUB

The poster is attached; see poster for details.

We have a baby shower event on at Sutton FH on Fri 5th June 1-3pm. This is an event where new and expectant parents and their support networks can come along, meet services and professionals that can offer support, advice and guidance on parenting newborns and infants.

They can also sign up to the Family Hubs, enter a raffle for a baby hamper and receive promotional materials. If they bring along any children we will have the playground open and toys and resources for them to play with.

Attending such events helps parents feel supported, informed, and connected. It gives them direct access to expert advice, early years support, and a community of other families, all of which contribute to better outcomes for both parents and children.

Family Hub and Early Help Specialist Manager

Recruitment in Early Years

Thank you to all providers who have shared their latest vacancies with us. Our team recently attended a careers event at St Helens College, where we promoted careers within

Early Years. While the candidates we spoke to were at an early stage of their training and not yet ready to be signposted to employment opportunities, it was a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of the sector. Please continue to share your vacancies with us, as we are hopeful to attend further events in the future to help support recruitment within Early Years.

[Childcare Expansion- Staff recruitment and retention. – Fill in form](#)

Job vacancies can also be advertised on the **Do Something Big** campaign website. To post a vacancy, you will need to go to **Find a Job**, which will direct you to the government webpage **Finding a Job – Early Years Careers**. [Finding a job - Early Years Careers](#)

At the top of the page, select **Employers**. This is where you can sign in or sign up and post job vacancies.

Find a job

[Sign in](#) [Create account](#) [Employers](#) [Cymraeg](#)

[This week's Education and Learning Newsletter](#)

[Education and Learning Weekly Newsletter](#)

Fridays 8th, 15th and 22nd May

9:30am - 2:45pm - Face-to-face in St Helens, WA10

Come along, meet other parents/carers in similar situations and learn more about autism

This Autism Learning Programme has been designed to support and empower parents and carers to understand how autism is experienced by children up to around age 10 and to provide guidance and strategies to enable you to meet your own child's individual needs around:

- Exploring Autism, diagnosis and presentations
- Unique thought processes
- Sensory Processing Difficulties
- Communication, social interaction and relationships
- Eating and sleeping difficulties
- Anxiety, stress and understanding behaviours
- Meltdowns and shutdowns
- Building independence skills

Call us on 01744 582172 or email info@advancedsolutions.co.uk to book.

PVI MS Teams Forum for private nurseries and childminders: [Here](#)

Schools MS Teams Forum: [Here](#)

EY Quality and Inclusion Team

Atlas House

PO Box 512

ST HELENS

WA10 9JX