

SWINDON HEALTHY SCHOOLS

NEWS



Welcome back after half term! We hope you managed to get some time out.

This edition of Swindon Healthy Schools e-bulletin includes:

- the latest healthy schools news
- events and training for staff and governors
- healthy schools resources for schools
- services for pupils and families.

If this email has been forwarded to you, you can sign up to receive future editions [here](#).

News

Two related consultations: school accountability reform and improving the way Ofsted inspects education

You may want to respond to these consultations and share them with parents and carers.

Plans unveiled by the Education Secretary in February aim to invest in new regional improvement teams, known as [RISE teams](#) which will prioritise "stuck" schools. They will draw up bespoke improvement plans with those schools, with government making up to £100,000 available initially to each school for specialist support.

The consultation information is available via the following link: [School accountability reform - GOV.UK](#)

[The consultation document PDF can be downloaded here.](#)

Running alongside this, DfE is consulting on proposals for a new Ofsted inspection model.

The consultation questions can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education-consultation-document

Both consultations will run until 28 April 2025.

Swindon Healthy Schools Awards: Congratulations!

Congratulations to Millbrook Primary School and Westrop Primary School for renewing their Bronze Healthy Schools Awards since our last newsletter.



In January, The Mayor, Councillor Imtiyaz Shaikh and Councillor Adorabelle Amaral-Shaikh, Cabinet Member for Education, presented awards to teachers and students at Goddard Park Primary School (Gold Award), Holy Rood Catholic Primary School (Silver Award from Wiltshire Council), Crowdys Hill School (Bronze Award), Liden Academy (BSW Asthma Friendly Award) and Oliver Tomkins CE VA schools (BSW Asthma Friendly Award). You can view photos via [the Swindon borough Council Facebook page](#)

Several other primary and secondary schools are working towards gaining or renewing their awards. For more information about the support available to achieve the above awards and the Swindon Schools Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Award please view the [Swindon Healthy Schools website](#).

UTURN newsletter



In this month's newsletter, UTURN focuses on substance use and mental health.

You can download a PDF of the newsletter here: [U-Turn February Newsletter](#)

Launch of the Girls Active Survey

The Youth Sport Trust's Girls

Active Survey aims to understand the participation levels, attitudes, motivations and barriers to participation. Schools have until 6 May to register and if your school



takes part in the survey, you will receive an insight report based on the collated responses from your pupils. Learn more and register via the [Youth Sports Trust website](#).

Swindon banding framework review

Feedback from schools is being sought on the current banding framework used to determine the top up (or element 3) funding provided to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. You can read more and contribute your views [via this online survey](#).

Young Voices



Young Voices aims to be "the heartbeat of music for primary schools across the UK, where children and teachers unite in an electrifying choir experience". They say, "Through our unforgettable concerts, children discover their voices, gain confidence and create lasting memories". Is your school preparing to be involved in 2026? View more information on the [Young Voices website](#).

10-year study to shed light on youth vaping

Groundbreaking research will investigate the long-term health effects of vaping on children, supporting major plans to tackle youth vaping and create a smoke-free generation. Read more on the [Department for Health and Social Care](#) website.

Events and Training for Staff and Governors

Swindon Healthy Schools network meetings and events



The following online events are free to schools in Swindon.

Tuesday 4 March, 3.45-5pm. PSHE Leads network for primary and secondary schools: Theme: smoking and vaping. [Book here](#).

Tuesday 18 March, 3.45-5.15pm. Swindon Senior Mental Health Leads network. [Book here](#).

Tuesday 13 May, 3.45-5pm. Swindon Affordable Schools Network. [Book here](#).

Wednesday 21 May, 3.30-5pm. B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire Senior Mental Health Leads network. [Book here](#).

Wednesday 11 June, 3.45-5.15pm. Swindon Senior Mental Health Leads network. [Book here](#).

May and July PSHE Leads Network meeting dates are to be confirmed. Please get in touch if there are topics you would like to discuss.

If you have any problems booking via the above links, please email SwindonHealthySchools@swindon.gov.uk

View dates for future Swindon Healthy Schools events [here](#).

Knife crime and belonging: Equipping professionals with creative tools to tackle Youth and Group based violence

Thursday 27 February. 3.45pm-5.15pm, online.

Unique Voice would like to invite you to attend their free online CPD:

'Knife Crime and Belonging: *Equipping professionals with creative tools to tackle Youth and Group based violence with young people*'

The event is designed for teachers, Safeguarding leads, PSHE leads, SENCOs, Youth workers and Community agents, predominantly, but

not exclusively working with primary school children, their families and communities.

You can register [here](#).

Swindon safeguarding partnership training

Responding to exploitation in Swindon

Thursday 6 March, 9.30am-12.30pm, Swindon Borough Council Civic Offices.

This course is relevant to all frontline professionals who work with children and families. Find out more about:

- Exploitation and the Opal Team
- Missing procedures and practice guidance for Swindon
- The updated child exploitation framework (CERAF)
- The National Referral Mechanism.

You can register [here](#).

Other safeguarding training opportunities include: early help assessment and plan, family safeguarding, Children Looked After, child neglect, level of need, recognising and responding to child sexual abuse, supporting and exploring child development, introduction to national referral mechanism. To book and for further information, view the [Swindon Safeguarding Partnership website](#).

New perspectives on wellbeing in school CPD

Thursday 13 March, 4-6.30pm.

Palladian Academy Trust, The Bridge, 150 Frome Rd, Bath BA2 5RE.

- How can we flip the script on education policy to centre wellbeing in schools?
- How can we foster feelings of belonging, agency and power in schools?
- How can we create cultures of care that benefit everyone?

Keynote speaker: Dr Sarah Bell, University of Bristol, who will talk about the 'Behaviour in Schools' (BISS) programme.

View more information and booking details on the [PDF flyer here](#).

A directory of further staff training opportunities, many free of charge, is available on the [Swindon Healthy Schools website](#).

Resources

Chameleon PDE free resources for primary schools

Chameleon PDE is developing PSHE 'wrap around support' for primary schools. This includes fully editable PSHE lesson packs, staff CPD and a pupil survey. Lessons are around 30 minutes long. Chameleon is working with primary schools including one in Swindon to trial new material. Their current primary school library includes around 90 lessons, which will be updated to reflect their new styling and multi-media options. To access the free current material and be the first to use the new lessons, get in touch with Chameleon PDE: Info@chameleonpde.com

Chameleon PDE legacy pricing extended for Swindon's secondary schools

Following the 'Raising Aspirations' programme where secondary schools had access to the Chameleon PDE resource library, several Swindon secondary schools have taken advantage of their legacy pricing offer which is a 50% saving on the annual licence price. The pricing model will change after Easter. However, any school in Swindon subscribing before 30 March 2025 can take advantage of this discount. New resources include more video and recorded material, new look teacher notes, example schemes of work and accredited CPD opportunities.

Chameleon PDE smoking and vaping lesson pack: primary and secondary schools

Keep an eye open for soon to be launched updated primary and secondary schools staff training and teaching materials, which will become available via the Swindon Healthy Schools website. New video resources have been added allowing you to run the session as a workshop or assembly. These will be launched at our [March PSHE Leads Network meeting](#).

Also, to remind you that Swindon Borough Council has also recently updated it's year 5 lessons and resources, which can be adapted to different age groups across all key stages or modified to suit the needs of your school. If you would like to receive training or jointly take action on how we can address this problem, please feel get in contact with our Public Health Stop Smoking Practitioner, Michael McEwan: mmcewan@swindon.gov.uk who can also send you an updated version of the lesson plans and presentation, or arrange for delivery of this at your school.

Free Platform workshops and complimentary rail trips

Bring the railways directly into your classroom with fun, free and

Platform [flexible range of workshops: View more on the Platform website.](#)

Also, as part of Platform's offer to schools, they can arrange complimentary travel for classes to take a trip by train, giving them the opportunity to put their learning around rail safety and confidence into practice. [View more about the rail journeys here.](#)

Breakfast clubs

Feeding Britain has recently developed materials that will be useful for those of you with, or planning to launch, a breakfast club.

The free materials can be accessed [here](#) and cover: rules and regulations; planning; nutrition; cognition and educational attainment; social behaviours.

Please also see the Healthy Zones resources for secondary and primary schools [here](#). This includes:

- [Breakfast club guide and recipes](#)
- [After school club guide and recipes](#)
- [Primary school food policy guide](#)
- [Secondary school food policy guide](#)



New e-learning course for schools: gender diversity



£35 delivered by Brook.

What is covered?

1: What is gender and gender diversity?, 2: Language and allyship, 3: Gender and RSE, 4: Supporting trans, non-binary and gender questioning young people

3 hours to complete (45 minutes per module)

- It will support professionals to deliver high quality care surrounding gender diversity in a way that aligns with the Equality Act 2010
- It will also give professionals the confidence to better support trans young people at your school, improving their life chances and educational attainment

View further information and book via the [Brook website](#).

Biggest ever girls football session: 7 March

Be part of a fun day of celebration that will inspire and empower the next generation through girls' football at your school.

Organised by England Football, you will receive free resources and guidance.

You can register via the [England Football website](#).



Empathy Week: 10-14 March

Empathy Week runs from 10–14 March, and this year's theme, 'What's your spark?', is all about helping pupils discover what makes them shine.

Here's what you can expect:

- Two film-based assemblies per age group
- On-demand talks with inspiring guests—including adventurers and international sports stars!
- Live in-person events for UK schools
- Online CPD sessions for teachers.

All of the above is free of charge. Please register here: [Home | Empathy Week 2025](#)

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel: 24 March - 4 April

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, to improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.



Your school can access resources and register to take part here: <https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk/register>

Learning Resources Hub

Services for schools who pay a membership include:

- Specially selected ebooks to encourage reading for pleasure. With Immersive Reader to support EAL children, children with dyslexia and some children with visual impairment.
- Virtual author events.
- Discounted curriculum relevant books and packs.
- Tailored to the needs of your school, advice and practical online and onsite support to improve and develop your school library.

Find out about a 10% discount for new member schools on the [Swindon Healthy Schools website](#).

Mental health first aid kits for children & young people

NSPCC Learning has published a podcast episode about the use of mental health first aid kits to help young people manage their mental health if they are struggling.

Listen to the episode: [Podcast: mental health first aid kits](#)

Listen on YouTube: [Mental health first aid kits | NSPCC Learning podcast](#)



Education Business Partnership programme for schools



Education Business Partnership deliver a range of programmes and initiatives designed to improve the work-related skills of young people so that they are better equipped to enter the world of work. [View their website for more information.](#)

Report Remove tool

When a young person loses control of a nude image of themselves, it can be very distressing. It's important that young people don't feel judged when this happens and you should reassure them that they haven't done anything wrong. You should also follow your school's child protection procedures.

You can also help a young person aged under 18 to use the [Report Remove tool](#) to see if the image or video can be taken down, and [Childline](#) can provide further support.

Wiltshire Treehouse

Do you have a bereaved pupil who needs extra support? Wiltshire Treehouse is accepting referrals for their free 2025 bereavement support programmes.

The Swindon NEST bereavement programme is for young people in school years 7-13. Read more here: [Swindon NEST leaflet email version 2023.pdf](#)

Referrals can be made by a parent or carer via the following referral form: [2025 WTH Referral Form](#)

General enquires can be made to servicedirector@wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk

Please let us know what you think of this newsletter



We are keen to have your feedback on both the format and content of this e-bulletin. Please do [get in touch](#) with your suggestions. Thank you.

Previous editions of this newsletter can be downloaded at: [Newsletter : Swindon Healthy Schools](#)

Swindon Borough Council

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