

SENCo newsletter



Autumn 2020

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Sophie Maltby, SEND Support Service Manager

Dear SENCOs

Welcome to this year's first SENCO Newsletter.

What a start it has been to a very extraordinary academic year. I know that you all have been working hard to create a 'new normal' for the children and young people in your schools and to meet their SEND needs whilst juggling with risk assessments, bubbles and one-way systems. I know this will have been a time consuming and exhausting endeavour for you all. So, I hope you are looking forward to a well-earned rest at half-term.

SEND service is here to support you all both virtually and through visits into schools, in addition our training offer is now available virtually. Please speak to your school links if you would like more information around any support. We are always here to help. This year we are also delivering the SENCO Network meetings virtually. I hope many of you will be able to join us for these meetings, as they are an invaluable source of information about what is going on nationally and locally in SEND.

Can I draw your attention to the Wellbeing for Education training, this is a national programme led by the DfE and its aspiration is that every school in the country will have access to this training during the autumn term. It is FREE training for key staff in schools. Booking for this is open now and details are on the flyer below and on the Schools' Extranet. So please book yourself on!

Take care and look after yourselves.

Sophie Maltby

Sophie Maltby, SEND Support Service Manager
Email: sophie.maltby@leicester.gov.uk

Sign up to receive the weekly e-Bulletin

The Schools' Extranet e-Bulletin is issued weekly to schools during term time, providing access to the latest information issued from the local authority and partner organisations.

We recommend all SENCOs are receiving this directly - [please sign up here](#)

Learning, Communication and Interaction (LCI) Team

A Recovery Curriculum: Loss and Life for our children and schools post pandemic

Barry Carpenter, CBE, Professor of Mental Health in Education, Oxford Brookes University.

Matthew Carpenter, Principal, Baxter College, Kidderminster, Worcestershire
<https://www.evidenceforlearning.net/recoverycurriculum/>

This podcast and additional “**Think Piece**” addresses the difficulties our children and young people will face on their return to school and what schools need to provide on return to school. It discusses the effect the COVID-19 pandemic had on our children and young people and highlights two important issues that will be affecting our children and young people on return to school:

- many will be very anxious upon return and we all know an anxious child is not a learning child
- for many school is no longer the safe, constant place they thought it was

Barry and Matthew Carpenter suggest there are 5 losses which our children and young people have experienced - routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. These can trigger the anxiety, trauma and a sense of bereavement. They suggest that all our learners will need a holistic recovery, some may also need a focused recovery intervention programme, personalised to their needs and some - a deeper and longer lasting recovery period.

They suggest schools plan a Recovery Curriculum which is built on 5 Levers in order to lead our children and young people back to their rightful status as a fully engaged learner.

Lever 1: Relationships - many of the relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored.

Lever 2: Community - We need to listen to what has happened in this time, understand the needs of our community and engage them in the transitioning of learning back into school.

Lever 3: Transparent Curriculum - all of our children and young people will feel like they have lost time in learning and we must show them how we are addressing these gaps, consulting and co-constructing with them to heal this sense of loss.

Lever 4: Metacognition – our children and young people will have been learning in different ways during lockdown. We need to re-teach the skills they need in order to learn again.

Lever 5: Space - to be, to rediscover self.

Learning, Communication and Interaction (LCI) Team

While we are very aware that many of our children and young people with SEND may well need great support in transitioning back into school this podcast reminds us that this pandemic has had a profound effect on all of our children and young people and this does need to be addressed.

Secondary Discussion resources on Coronavirus

Voice 21 (the National Oracy Education Charity) has highlighted 2 new (free) downloadable resources from the economist education foundation which can be used at home to promote self-reflection and discussion on Corona Virus.



This resource aims to help students reflect upon the present situation and their own well-being. It is designed for the student to work through independently but does encourage discussion within the family or with a teacher. It also encourages the student to “present” the activities to other family members.



This resource uses Coronavirus as a medium for exploring gender inequality. It is set out in a student friendly way and also encourages discussions with family members and others (via telephone or video link).

These resources are designed for all students not just for SEND students.

These free resources can be downloaded at <https://economistfoundation.org/resources/>

The Tavistock and Portman Hospital has been a leader and innovator in the field of mental health for over a century, since its original founding to treat “shell-shock” after the first World War. They have collected together a collection of resources and signposted links to help to support the mental health and well-being of young people and families at this particularly challenging time.

[Thriving - Resources](#)

[Getting Advice and signposting](#)

Learning, Communication and Interaction (LCI) Team

Interventions training for secondary schools.

Join us for two online training sessions to learn how to deliver three simple interventions across the areas of Literacy difficulties, language needs and Social Communication Needs. All three interventions have been chosen to be in expensive and easy to run in secondary schools.

When: 27 January 2021 9-12:00 AND 3 February 9-12:00 (attend both sessions)

Where: Online through Microsoft Teams

Who: SENCo and teaching assistant pairs (you can send different TA's to different sessions, but there must always be a teacher attending who will oversee the interventions in school).

What: Learn how to deliver three cost effective interventions:

- Costings and purchasing information
- How to deliver the recommended interventions
 - SLCN: *Language for Thinking*
 - SpLD: *Accelerate/Accelewrite*
 - Social Communication (including Autism): *Talk About Communication*
- Further information about additional interventions for schools who may wish to take focussed action in specific areas

Why:

- Schools will have up to date information about a range of reasonably priced interventions for secondary SEND pupils
- They will have confidence to implement the interventions in their schools
- Delegates will take away further information for consideration about specific priority areas of need in their context

Run by: Learning, Communication and Interaction Support Team (LCI)

Cost: £300 per pair, per school

Introductory offer: £100 per pair, per school

Book: [Communication and Interaction training](#)



The National Award for SEN Co-ordination Postgraduate Certificate 2020/21

Do you want to achieve a nationally recognised award as a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)?

Completion of the course has been mandatory for the teacher designated as the SENCo since 2009. New SENCos must gain this qualification within three years of taking up their SENCo post. It may also be relevant for those aspiring to be SENCos or those who were already in the post of SENCo prior to 2009 and wish to pursue accredited professional development in this area. Successful completion of the course entitles candidates with 60 credits which can be used towards an MA in SEN and Inclusion.

The programme is taught by experienced senior lecturers from the Faculty of Health, Education and Society alongside local authority and teaching school partners who have expertise in Special Educational Needs. This programme is endorsed by NASEN.

Taught sessions will typically take place at venues across the East Midlands following an induction day currently proposed to take place at the University of Northampton's Waterside Campus on Saturday 7th November 2020
The overall aims of the course are to:

- develop inclusive teaching approaches and co-ordinate provision for pupils with SEN and/or disabilities in their schools
- apply methods to identify additional needs and monitor the progress of pupils with SEN and/or disabilities
- instigate evidence-based, strategic approaches when deploying, supporting and managing other teaching and support staff
- establish networks and partnerships with other SENCos and local partners

The programme includes:

- two modules each worth 30 Level 7 credits at Master's Level (assessed through two 5000 word assignments)
- Active Blended Learning including taught sessions spread across the academic year
- online support – discussion groups, networking
- access to university support and services
- mentor support

For information and applications,

email: senco@northampton.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.northampton.ac.uk/study/courses/the-national-award-for-sen-co-ordination/>

Programme Lead: Nicola.Preston2@northampton.ac.uk

Cost: £2000

Duration: 1-year Part time **Closing date for applications:** 23/10/2020

Leicestershire Dyslexia Association

Autumn Webinar

Maths for Dyslexic Young People at transition to Key Stage 3

Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 7.30pm

Presented by Pete Jarrett as a Webinar

Admission free – donations welcomed

Suggested donation: £3.00

Booking through Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/LDAOctEvent>

Background Information

Pete Jarrett is Managing Director of 'Tutorum Learning and Assessment' and Chair of the BDA Dyscalculia Committee. Pete is dyslexic himself and is passionate about helping people who find learning difficult and enabling them to be supported by teachers and technology.

Pete is a regular speaker at conferences and shows and is always entertaining and informative.

For further information, please contact:

Fiona Hossack (0116) 2415153 fionah@ldadyslexia.org.uk

Free access to the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI)



The Department of Education is working alongside the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to offer state funded schools (with a Reception class) **FREE** access to this early language programme.

The Reception NELI programme involves scripted individual and small-group language activities delivered by teaching assistants (TAs), or early years educators, to children identified as needing targeted language support. The 20-week NELI programme aims to develop children's vocabulary, listening and narrative skills and in the last 10 weeks also involves work to develop phonological awareness and early letter-sound knowledge as foundations for early literacy.

The programme has been evaluated in two randomised control trials by the EEF. This found that children receiving the NELI programme made the equivalent of **+3 additional months' progress** in oral language skills, on average, compared to children who did not receive NELI. This result has a very high security rating: 5 out of 5 on the [EEF padlock scale](#). Children receiving the NELI programme also made additional progress in early word reading and on a teacher administered language assessment.

To register your interest complete the form available [here](#) by Friday 30th October 2020. Further information about the programme can be found [here](#).

Primary School Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Team



Positive and Peaceful places award is Leicester City's anti-bullying award. It has been developed alongside cutting edge research and experts in the field of peace.

Rolleston are the first school to achieve the award in the city! They clearly demonstrated that they have 'gone above and beyond' in the way they are working with the school community on developing peace, restoration and wellbeing. Cllr Elly Cutkelvin, assistant city mayor for schools, said: "We work hard with all schools in the city to help improve children's lives and supporting their emotional wellbeing is a huge part of that. The Positive and Peaceful Places award and the wonderful approach to lunchtimes that Rolleston School has developed are excellent examples of the fantastic work that goes on every day in our schools." Keep an eye out in the local press!

We are currently working with over 30 primary, secondary and special schools in supporting them to achieve the award, 5 more schools are ready for their final 'peace walk' and completion of the award.

For more information contact Beth Pope, SEMH team (bethan.pope@leicester.gov.uk)



RA (Restorative Approaches) is a Citywide project led by the Educational Psychology Service and the SEMH Team.

We offer a 3-day RA Practitioner training course to schools wanting to join us on the Restorative journey with a follow up, bespoke package of ongoing support catered to meet the needs of individual schools.

Last year we trained RA Practitioners in 5 City schools and the staff at Leicester City Football Club's Community Outreach Team. As a result of this one school has completely reformed their environment creating a more peaceful ethos across the school with a designated safe space for children to go when needing time away from the busy classroom to regulate their emotions.

We have also delivered Peer Mediator training in 2 schools. Peer Mediators are Year 5 and 6 children who offer support and a restorative programme to other children following incidents of conflict on the playground. Peer Mediators are supported in school by a member of the Pastoral team.

We also offer whole school training to support the introduction of RA across the school community to create a more harmonious environment where the importance of relationships is celebrated and an ethos of reparation and reconnection is respected and valued.

This year we are delivering the 3-day RA Practitioner training course on 19 and 20 November 2020 and 15 January 2021.

Primary School Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) Team

Team Teach Due to the disruption related to Covid, the SEMH Team's delivery of Team Teach has undergone some changes.

COVID-19 & Training

You may have received separate information leaflets on our 3 and 6-hour training offer. These courses are 'up' and running;

- 3-hour reaccreditations are currently being done remotely, with theory delivered online – with the physical postponed until a later date or, with school staff trained in Key stage bubbles (depending on the preference of the school). We have an agreement with Team Teach, that certification can extend over the usual expiry times as long as school have engaged with the 'theory' aspect of the course.
- We are currently offering 6-hour training in schools, rather than centrally. This is suited for schools new or re-joining Team Teach accreditation. Our training offer here can suit the needs of school with a blend of remote and onsite learning that can be broken down into a series of 2-hour twilights if necessary.

When training in person we are still able to conform to Covid-19 Health and Safety expectations by training with social distancing, using face masks, shields and gloves when giving closer support – preferably training staff already in bubbles

COVID-19 & POLICY SUPPORT

Some of you may be wondering how RPI fits in with Covid-19 if you require any further information on this or our training please contact:

team.teachenquiries@leicester.gov.uk as we have exemplar RPI policies that schools can work with.

ELECTRONIC RECORDING SYSTEM

A big thank you to all the City schools who are using the New Electronic Reporting system. Our RPI policy is due to change imminently which confirms that the Electronic System is the only way to report and record a RPI. If you require a user guide to support staff through this electronic form, please contact the email address above.

Many thanks,

SEMH Team RPI tutors

Free - DfE Wellbeing for Education Training in Primary, Secondary and Special School

Mental health and wellbeing has never before been at the forefront in education in the way it currently is; the importance of resilience and recovery for all children, young people and adults in schools is paramount in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The DfE's 'Wellbeing for Education' programme seeks to support staff working in schools and colleges to respond to the additional pressures some children and young people may be feeling as a direct result of the pandemic, as well as to any emotional response they or their teachers may still be experiencing from bereavement, stress, trauma or anxiety over the past months.

This is a great opportunity to access **free**, evidenced-based training that will better enable staff, at all levels, to support children, young people and the school communities of Leicester.

This will consist initially of FREE training for relevant key staff (for example, mental health or pastoral lead, SENCo, and/or SLT member) delivered by the Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) team and the City Psychology Service Educational Psychologists. Following this, there will be some additional support and training available from SEND services, in partnership with health colleagues. Trained staff in school will be expected to cascade this training to their whole staff team.

The initial training sessions will consist of two 1 ½ hour twilight sessions. These sessions will be delivered virtually in October and November. There will be three dates for each webinar and sessions will be tailored for Primary, Secondaries and Colleges and Special Schools including PRUs and APs.

Dates and booking information for the online webinars can be found below:

Session 1: All sessions will run 3:30pm – 5:00pm via Microsoft Teams

Phase	Session Dates	Link to book onto the session
Wellbeing in Education for Primary Schools Max. 2 places per school	Tuesday 27 October 2020 Wednesday 4 November 2020 Thursday 12 November 2020	Booking link for Session 1 - Primary Schools
Wellbeing in Education for Secondary Schools Max. 4 places per school	Wednesday 28 October 2020 Thursday 5 November 2020 Tuesday 10 November 2020	Booking link for Session 1 - Secondary Schools
Wellbeing in Education for Special Schools Max. 4 places per school	Thursday 29 October 2020 Tuesday 3 November 2020 Wednesday 11 November 2020	Booking link for Session 1 - Special Schools

Session 2: All sessions will run 3:30pm – 5:00pm via Microsoft Teams

Phase	Session Dates	Link to book onto the session
Wellbeing in Education for Primary Schools Max. 2 places per school	Tuesday 17 November 2020 Wednesday 25 November 2020 Thursday 3 December 2020	Booking link for Session 2 - Primary Schools
Wellbeing in Education for Secondary Schools Max. 4 places per school	Wednesday 18 November 2020 Thursday 26 November 2020 Tuesday 1 December 2020	Booking link for Session 2 - Secondary Schools
Wellbeing in Education for Special Schools Max. 4 places per school	Thursday 19 November 2020 Tuesday 24 November 2020 Wednesday 2 December 2020	Booking link for Session 2 - Special Schools

Leicester Psychology Services

New Principal Educational Psychologist appointment

I am pleased to inform you that Mohammed Bham will be joining the City Psychology Service as Principal EP on the 1st December. Mo has extensive experience as an EP and leading EP services for Leicestershire, Solihull and most recently at Brighton & Hove City Council where he was also the Head of Learning Support and Schools Wellbeing Services. Mo has a national standing having previously been chair of the National Association of Principal EPs and is currently the deputy chair of the British Psychological Society's Ethics Committee. Mo has roots in the City and is passionate about the social model of inclusion and promoting equality and diversity so that all members of our community have a sense of place and belonging.

Mo has shared the following message for us all:

"I am looking forward to joining the leadership teams in the City Psychology Service and SEND to work together for our staff and parent/carers to provide the best services to promote participation and progression for all our children and young people with SEND."

Paul Riddick
Snr Educational Psychologist

Local Offer Updates



In these unprecedented times it has been busier than usual, we have all had to adjust to new ways of working and often with different resources and equipment. Families have struggled and there has been a rise in need to access online resources and support.

The Local Offer has been updated to include a section on Covid 19 information and resources. Information about companies such as Bamboozle and FTM dance and others offering on-line sessions and You Tube videos to support families has been shared with families.

Regular contact and support has been offered to parents through the Parent Carer Forum teams meetings and through emails when queries have been raised through Local Offer. One positive achieved from this pandemic is there has been a real sense of co-production with families and young people feeling that they have a voice and are being listened to.

The website has continued to be updated with the Learning Communication and Interaction team have updated their section over the summer.

The **Preparing for Adulthood** Section is currently being updated, if there is information that you feel needs to be included please share your ideas via localoffer@leicester.gov.uk

Family Fund

Family fund have received funding to support parents to purchase laptops, outdoor play equipment and sensory toys
<https://www.familyfund.org.uk/>

Secondary Transfer Process 2021

[School Admissions – EHC Plans](#)

Parent Carer Forum Recruitment



We're looking for Parents and Carers of children and young people (aged between 0 and 25) with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Contact us if you'd like to get involved!

We engage with Parent Carers, the Local Authority, Health Services, Special Education Services, Disabled Children's Services and the Voluntary Sector to co-produce, develop, improve and scrutinise the City's SEND Services.

Forums are held at Barnes Heath House, Leicester LE5 4LU

Email: rjaramba@lcpcf.net

Telephone: 07723 801676

www.lcpcf.net

SENDIASS Leicester

Information pack for SENCOs

Last term we offered you access to our new resources to **support children and young people (CYP) giving their views** within school and college. We were delighted that our tools were greatly received by you as SENCOs and support staff and we hope to continue offering support throughout this unprecedented time.

As you know it is so important that young people are given the opportunity to be involved in the Annual Review process and are supported in giving their views. To ensure that you are able to include young people in this process, SENDIASS can offer an **Interactive Picture Card Activity** that can support children and young people to give their views without having to physically speak out if they find this challenging or are unable to do so.

The pack includes the **printable PDF picture card pack, heading cards and a 'How to' guide**. We also offered SENCO support **live online sessions** which some SENCOs were able to join and this is now available for **all SENCOs** to view.

Please see the webpage: <https://sendiassleicester.org.uk/get-advice/sendiaas-resources/interactive-picture-card-activity/>

As you may know, this is an additional and time limited funded program supporting us to create specific CYP resources. **It is vital that we capture your professional feedback to ensure the support we offer is appropriate and can continue**. Please could you provide this feedback using an online form that takes **2 minutes** to complete: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GAWWU8/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Natasha Kelly, Children & Young Peoples Officer

natasha.k@sendiassleicester.org.uk

Website: www.sendiassleicester.org.uk

Leicester College – Transition Event

The Transitions Event is for secondary school SENCOs and Colleges from Leicester City and Leicestershire. The main aims of the event are:

- To develop strong links between schools and colleges to enable smooth, successful transitions for young people
- To share support plans and develop holistic transition programmes for individual students
- To increase understanding of the post-16 offer
- To ensure that support offered by colleges matches student need

This year the event will be online. It is **free** to attend and will take place **on 12 and 13 November 2020**.

To register your interest, please email Caitlin Smith: casmith@leicestercollege.ac.uk

PSA Dance in Partnership with Welly's Workplace presents...

SHOOTING STARS

Movement, dance and drama classes for children with special educational needs. Delivered by dance teacher Jess in partnership with Welly's Workplace, a provider for adults with learning difficulties. The class will be supported by SEN specialist Zoe from Welly's.

To enrol, please contact: info@performingstart.co.uk

FUTURE DATES: 2021

Spring Term

[SENCo Briefing 17 March 2021](#)

1-3:30

Summer Term

[SENCo Update Day 16 June 2021](#)

9-4:00