

News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 13: 6 December 2022



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LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

We have included guidance in today's bulletin on dealing with concerns about Streptococcus A. Quite understandably the community's concerns are high and the media has given the 'full pandemic' treatment to the story. The impact is already evident in Monday's attendance figures across the Trust. If you have any particular questions, please let us know and we will aim to offer additional support.

At our recent Head's meeting we had a request for updated behaviour and exclusions guidance. This is published below and I am grateful to Janine for getting this ready. We have also bought the compendious exclusions pack from our solicitors, Browne Jacobson. We have this on licence, so please do not share beyond the Trust. I hope that all this is useful.

School concerts and nativity plays (and SIAMS inspections) continue in the background. Good luck with this busy week.

Gary

North Somerset Consultation on funding for 2023-24

North Somerset Council has launched a [consultation on funding for the 2023-24 financial year](#). The consultation ends on the 23rd December. Please find [here](#) the Central Team's draft response to the consultation. We would welcome your input into our response by 16th December, but also encourage you to respond separately if you would like to.

The most significant area of the consultation is in relation to the transfer of funding from the schools block to the high needs block. The Council are consulting on options to increase the contribution from the schools block to the high needs block as part of the DSG management plan with the DfE. The consultation document provides information on the financial impact of each of their options. As part of the DSG management plan the Council are hoping for a significant funding allocation from the Government to pay off the deficit in the high needs block. Whilst any increase in transfer from the schools block to the high needs block will reduce the funding that schools will receive, it should be noted that the DfE are recommending this increase and are likely to approve it with, or without support from schools and the strategic schools forum.

Updated Behaviour and Exclusions Guidance

Click [here](#) to read the updated Behaviour and Exclusions Guidance, as requested at the recent Head's meeting.

Resourcing our Partnership Update

We are yet to receive information about how the additional funding for education, announced in the Autumn Statement, will be distributed, although headlines today indicate that this is imminent. However, we do now believe that this will be applied to the core schools budget only, so the schools and high needs block of the dedicated schools grant and the pupil premium. It doesn't look as if there will be any additional resources for early years and post 16, unless high needs related. Based on our current schools, we estimate this additional funding to be approximately £1,625m p.a. If you have modelled the rough impact of these additional resources for your school (of 3.62% on your current funding estimate for 2023-24 and 3.52% on your current funding estimate for 2024-25) you may need to amend this to remove any estimated increase on early years or post 16 funding.

Whilst we welcome these additional resources, there are a number of potential cost pressures that could exhaust them if they don't come with any further funding allocations. The potential cost pressures that we are concerned about include:

- The employer's contribution rate for the teachers' pension scheme increased to 23.68% (from 16.48%) from 1 September 2019 and the Government provided additional funding to cover this increase. The next increase in the employer contribution rate is due from April 2024 and we are anticipating another similar increase. If there was another 7% increase in April 2024, without any further additional funding, the estimated financial impact based on our existing schools would be £673k in 2023-24 and £1.651m in the full financial year 2024-25,
- We have budgeted for a 3% teachers' pay award in September 2023 and 2% in September 2024. It is possible that the teachers' pay award could be higher than this in September 2023 if inflation remains high. If the teachers' pay award was 5% in September 2023 this would increase our costs by at least an estimated £604k per year from then onwards,
- We have budgeted for a 3% support staff pay award in April 2023 and 2% in April 2024. It is possible that the support staff pay award could be higher than this in April 2023 if inflation remains high. If the support pay award was 5% in April 2023 this would increase our costs by at least an estimated £251k per full year from then onwards,
- North Somerset Council are consulting on increasing the transfer from the schools block to the high needs block which would reduce funding allocations to schools. If this were to progress this would reduce the funding to our schools by approximately £216k per annum,
- North Somerset Council are also due to commence a consultation in January on changes to top up funding arrangements. We understand that this will require an EHCP to receive top up funding and anticipate that this could also have a negative financial impact on schools in North Somerset.

We will keep you updated with any further information that we receive.

Based on the information detailed above, we feel that it is important to continue the plans we shared at our *Resourcing our Partnership* event. A reminder of this is provided below:

Short term actions for schools:

- Take any opportunity that you can to make savings,
- Only fill posts if absolutely necessary and on a fixed term basis, if possible,
- Put on hold any significant spending plans beyond your planned budget,
- For those schools projecting deficits even before the pay awards - work with the Central Team to establish change management plans for implementation in September 2023,
- For secondary schools - start planning to amend curriculum delivery models to manage the increased cost pressures from September 2023.

Longer term actions for the Central Team:

- Consider changes to the operation delivery model within the Trust to deliver efficiency savings from September 2024, or earlier,
- Develop and trial new education delivery models and SEND support structures for primary schools for implementation in September 2024. The Central Team are currently working with three schools to develop the trial of the new Learning Partners model.

INSET DAYS 2023/24

Thank you for everyone's input into the discussion about INSETs. Working across two LAs for this has provided us with an additional level of challenge this time. This means that there will have to be some compromises as we work with this, especially at the start of September 2023.

In light of all that you said at the HTs meeting, we have come to the following decisions:

	North Somerset Term Dates	BANES Term Dates
Term 1	Monday 4 th September to Friday 20 th October	Friday 1 st September to Friday 20 th October
Term 2	Monday 30 th October to Wednesday 20 th December	Monday 30 th October to Friday 15 th December
Term 3	Thursday 4 th January – Friday 9 th February	Tuesday 2 nd January to Friday 9 th February
Term 4	Monday 19 th February to Thursday 28 th March	Monday 19 th February to Thursday 28 th March
Term 5	Monday 15 th April to Friday 24 th May	Monday 15 th April to Friday 24 th May
Term 6	Monday 3 rd June to Tuesday 23 rd July	Monday 3 rd June to Tuesday 23 rd July

Primary INSET day proposals:

BANES only: Friday 1st September (School Agenda)

BANES and NS: Monday 4th September (Expected to be morning on Trust SEND agenda introduction and afternoon on School agenda)

NS only:

- Tuesday 5th September (School Agenda)

All schools:

- Friday 20th October - (School Agenda but with possible Trust Curriculum workshops sessions where required TBC)
- Friday 17th November - Shared INSET across Trust on Pedagogy (Developing on with Rosenshine)
- Monday 19th February - Shared INSET across Trust (possibly Trauma Informed Behaviour Strategy)
- Monday 3rd June (school agenda)

NB: Following discussion at HTs meeting the SEND staff meetings will be staff meetings and we will get dates to you. Therefore expect one staff meeting per term to be at Trust Level. Dates will be published well in advance.

Secondary INSET day proposals:

2 agreed joint INSETs:

- Wednesday 22nd November - Shared Secondary INSET - proposed 'thematic' approach - range of options, including potentially, for some (probably mainly English/Maths), opportunities to visit Primaries to see KS2 in action.
- Monday 19th February - Shared INSET across Trust (likely subject focus / ? link to Primaries above)

4 other dates decided at school level but typically:

- Monday 4th September (School agenda)
- Tuesday 5th September (School agenda, possibly join some of Trust level SEND agenda)
- End of September (Appraisal)
- Plus one other

Additional funding for energy efficiency upgrades

The Government has announced today an additional £500 million for schools and colleges in England to spend on energy efficiency upgrades.

Information so far shows that on average, a primary school will receive approximately £16,000, a secondary school will get £42,000. Improvements could include installing better heating controls, insulation to reduce heat loss from pipes or switching to energy efficient lighting.

This builds on the Government's Energy Relief Scheme which is supporting some schools until 31st March 2023.

More information about both schemes will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Guidance on Strep A infections

There is understandable concern in the community about the tragic deaths of a number of children from Strep A infections.

Our guidance on managing the risk of infection is set out in our [Respiratory and infectious diseases risk assessment](#). Please remind your communities that they should not send their children to school if they are unwell or have a high temperature and provide some reassurance that our continued focus on good respiratory and hand hygiene will help prevent the spread of any respiratory or infectious diseases.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has issued some guidance of Strep A infections and we also recommend that you share this with your communities. It provides good advice on symptoms and when to seek medical advice.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-scarlet-fever-and-invasive-group-a-strep>

The UKHSA has also issued guidelines for the public health management of scarlet fever outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other childcare settings

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1110540/Guidelines_for_the_public_health_management_of_scarlet_fever_outbreaks.pdf

This guidance says that schools should promptly notify their [local HPT](#) of suspected scarlet fever and other Strep A outbreaks. For the purpose of these guidelines an outbreak of scarlet fever is defined as a credible report of 2 or more probable or confirmed scarlet fever cases attending the same school notified within 10 days of each other (2 maximum incubation periods) with an epidemiological link between cases, for example they are in the same class or year group. Please also notify the Central Team if you are in this position.

Please reassure your community that Scarlet fever is usually a mild illness and it is very rare that the bacteria causes the serious illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS). However, it is important that they are on the look out for symptoms, which include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel, and keep their child(ren) away from school if they are unwell.

Admission Arrangements

NORTH SOMERSET

North Somerset Council and the below Own Admissions Authority Schools are consulting on the proposed admission arrangements for the 2024/25 academic year.

The consultation process will run from **28 November 2022 to 31 January 2023**.

If you would like to comment on the proposed admission arrangements, or have any queries, please put them in writing to the relevant admissions authority:

North Somerset Primary and Secondary Coordinated Schemes

- Removal of the set dates for the third admissions round, replacing it with further admission rounds will take place, as and when required, until the end of the coordinated admissions process.

- Simplifying the method for alternative school offers, where required.

https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/admission_arrangements_2024_25/consultationHome

Christ Church C of E Primary School (Kaleidoscope MAT)

- Additional oversubscription criteria and Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for '*Children who attend or their parents attend, a Christ Church Sunday service at least once per month for 12 months, with a signed recommendation from the Vicar and Family Ministry Worker, prior to the application closing date.*'

<https://www.christchurchprimaryschool.org/admissions>

St Mark's Ecumenical Anglican/Methodist Primary School (Bath and Wells MAT)

- The proposal is to re-word criterion 2 related to siblings and remove criterion 3 related to faith. This will also mean the removal of the Supplementary Information Form (SIF).

<https://www.bwmat.org/admissions/index.asp>

Trinity Anglican Methodist Primary School (Bath and Wells MAT)

- The proposal is to remove the designated catchment area which is currently used to prioritise admission applications in the event of oversubscription (Criterion 2, 3, and 4).

<https://www.bwmat.org/admissions/index.asp>

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

BANES

Bath & North East Somerset Council is consulting on the proposed schemes for co-ordination of admissions for the 2024/25 school year.

All of the consultation documents are available by clicking on the link below.

[Admissions Consultation 2024/25](#)

The consultation started on 29 November 2022 and will end on 24 January 2023.

To respond to this consultation please send your comments by email to:

admissions_transport@bathnes.gov.uk Alternatively you can write to The Admissions & Transport Unit, Bath & North East Somerset Council, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

LSP

Lighthouse Schools Partnership - Admissions

School Leaders Meeting 18th January - change of venue

Please note a change of venue for the January meeting, where it will be held at Thatcher's Cider Company Ltd.

The address is Myrtle Farm, Sandford, Somerset, BS25 5RA

FINANCE UPDATES

Monthly Finance Checklist

We appreciate that it is a busy time of year, but please could you send your Month 3 monthly finance checklist to lpfinance@lsp.org.uk by 13th December at the latest as these will be reported to Trustees the following week.





MATHSHUBS

BOOLEAN

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

EQUITY OVER EQUALITY

IN THE CONTEXT OF MATHS EDUCATION

Bringing together teachers and leaders from Early Years to Post-16 interested in providing high-quality maths education as a means to address the disadvantage gap in the South West.

Professor Alf Coles

University of Bristol
Co-author of 'I Can't Do Maths'

Sally Apps

Executive Principal,
Cabot Learning Federation

Matt Stevenson

Deputy Director
DfE (South West)

Charlie Stripp

Director of the NCETM
MEI Chief Executive

£45

*including lunch and refreshments

REGISTER HERE

www.booleanmathshub.org.uk

WEDNESDAY
25 JANUARY

TAUNTON RACECOURSE
SOMERSET, TA3 7BL



Working with

NCETM

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE
IN THE TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS