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Introduction

Dear all,

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable break over Easter. Helping out to support a staffing shortfall in one of our secondaries in the weeks just before the holiday reminded me of the special brand of tiredness that comes from swapping hats and engaging in a myriad of interpersonal exchanges that constitute school life. Our work in education is full-on.

Despite managing to contract some 'lurgy' at the end of the holidays, I'm now back in the swing of my more usual routine and this afternoon we will have our Annual Strategic discussion with the Board of Trustees. The areas that we will be reviewing our strategic plan against are Community Engagement, Governance Effectiveness and People Development. I do not see us making a radical departure from our agreed plans and I have stated to the Board that focusing on improving Quality of Education across our schools continues to be the main thing, but we may want to open some conversations about how we might tweak things along the lines mentioned above. I will have more to say about this at our forthcoming Heads' Meeting once the Board have made their inputs.

Lastly, our development of a Bristol Hub continues apace. We are working with Horfield CE Primary School towards a July joining date. There is a lot to do in a short time and Rae Harris and her team are flat out towards that goal. Louise and I have also had conversations with several other potential joiners. Our aim here is to ensure that we have sufficient quantum of schools in Bristol to be a strong partners for the City Council and also to support the financial efficiencies that Louise articulated in her recent Financial Communications Strategy. It is becoming all too obvious that in educational structures, bigger is better and in LSP we are managing to achieve that without the challenges and changes of a merger. With a confirmed and unfunded support staff pay award of 3.2% every economy matters.

With best wishes for a successful and enjoyable Term 5,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive

Reminder: Preparing for School 2025

Following National Primary Offer Day during the Easter Break (Wednesday 16 April) a reminder that we have published the [Trust-wide 'Preparing for School' booklet](#) for parents/carers who have children joining our Reception Classes from September 2025.

Please include this with any other welcome documents you send out over the next few days/weeks - a PDF version was also emailed to Primary Heads and Early Years Leaders on Thursday 3 April.

Reminder: Parent, Pupil and Staff Surveys

As mentioned in the [last bulletin of Term 4](#), the window for Parent, Pupil and Staff Surveys this year is Tuesday 22 April - Friday 9 May 2025.

Headteachers have all been sent an email containing the full set of instructions and links to all three surveys, so you have everything you need to facilitate the surveys within the timeframe above.

Should you have any questions, please contact [Eleanor Capel-Davies, Head of Administration](#).

Reminder - Sign up to attend supply/cover presentation

In the [2 April bulletin](#) we outlined that we are looking into having a fully managed services for supply/cover staff.

A reminder to email enquiries@lsp.org.uk by 4.00pm on Friday (25 April) if you want to attend the Bidders Presentation Day during which three companies will be presenting their services. We would ideally like a Primary Head, an SBM or Office Manager and a Secondary Cover Manager from each hub, along with colleagues from the Central Team.

The presentation day will take place on Wednesday 30 April - full details will be emailed to all those who have signed up by the deadline above.

Upcoming LSP Headteachers' Meeting

A reminder that the next LSP Headteachers' Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 7 May 8.30am-12.30pm** at Nailsea Baptist Church.

The agenda will be circulated in due course.

Proposed changes to the way in which Ofsted inspect

In the bulletin last term we published the link to the webinar for school leaders where the proposals to the way in which schools will be inspected from November 2025 were discussed. If you did not have a chance to attend the webinar, a recording [can be found here](#). If you want to focus in on the key highlights and most important sections from the webinar, these are discussed from 13:56 to 36:06.

Key things to note:

- There are far more areas to be graded individually rather than as one area for example 'quality of education' will be separated out to curriculum, achievement and developing teaching.
- There will no longer be deep dives however inspectors will still use activity from the methodology.
- There is a far greater focus on leadership and its impact in each area - in order to be judged as 'secure' leadership gradings in each section will need to be achieved.
- There is a far greater focus on inclusion and securing success for disadvantaged learners within each section.

Once the toolkit has gone through consultation, and Gary and I have been trained by Ofsted, we will lead a session with Headteachers and other senior leaders. In the meantime I would urge you to engage with some of the materials released by Ofsted so that you can see the direction of travel.

Neil Lankester, Director of School Improvement



Final Call - UWE Mobile Phone research project

Thank you to those primary schools who have already confirmed they wish to take part in the UWE mobile phone research project.

This is the **final opportunity** for any LSP primary schools to request to take part - once the project starts UWE cannot add in additional schools.

Key things to note are:

- £50 cost per primary school (for administration and analysis of results/data by UWE staff - this will be paid out of the individual school budgets of those who sign up.
- Link to UWE survey and guidance for parents provided to each school, for circulation towards the end of Term 5
- UWE will analyse the data, and include it in their wider research

If you did want your school community to take part please [complete this form](#) by 4.30pm on Thursday 1 May.

Mobile phones and the impact on children and young people is an ongoing area of cultural and media discussion as the recent popularity of the Netflix show Adolescence demonstrated. Taking part in this survey should provide valuable parental opinion/experience data to schools.

Draft LSP Term Dates 2026-27

[Click here to view the proposed Term Dates](#) which would apply to all LSP schools for the 2026-27 academic year.

Working across three local authorities means it can be hard to coordinate/match across all LAs. These dates match with North Somerset Council's Term Dates and [one day different than BANES](#). Bristol City Council have not yet outlined their dates. We feel these term dates are the best fit, as they allow for a full week at the end of Term 6.

If you have any comments/views you would like to be considered on the dates that are being proposed for LSP schools in 2026-27 please email enquires@lsp.org.uk with your thoughts by 3.30pm on Wednesday 30 April.



Aspens Catering - Spring/Summer 2025 Menu

The new Aspens Spring/Summer menu has launched across all LSP schools. Please see below the new menus for Primary and Secondary Schools:

- [Primary Spring Summer 2025 Menu](#)
- [Secondary Spring Summer 2025 Menu](#)



Please note, some schools will have slight variations to these menus - all schools will have been emailed their specific menu prior to the Easter Break.

Please promote the new Spring/Summer menu on socials and/or in your communications with parents/carers, to encourage uptake of the new menus. Can you also ensure that the catering pages available on your school websites are updated with the current menu.

We are currently working on updating the Primary and Secondary Aspens pages that will be available on the LSP website. Once the pages are live, there is an option for the relevant page to be shared directly to your school website. The pages will contain relevant catering information and current menus, and allows information to be updated centrally, rather than by each individual school. We will be in touch regarding this in the next few weeks.



Pupil Premium Data from the DfE

The Department for Education now share Pupil Premium data for all our schools via the Trust. The latest data is the Quarter 1 (for April to June 2025 and paid to Academies in July 2025) based on the October 2024 census. We have downloaded and saved this data [in Folder](#) for information:

School Business Managers - Trust Wide - Information for 2024-25 Budgets - Q1 DfE Pupil Premium numbers - for April to June 2025 (based on Oct 24 census)

This is an opportunity for SBMs and Finance Business Partners to revise 2024/25 eligible pupil numbers in IMP for FMS6, PLAC as well as those pupils eligible for Service Pupil Premium that will determine funding from April 2025 to March 2026. Schools have already been advised where IMP needs updating.

Where census numbers used to estimate Pupil Premium income are different than the actual data used for funding, this is most likely to be where some pupils on the census have been counted twice for both PLAC and FMS6 but will only attract PLAC or LAC funding. Service pupils and any other eligibility criteria will attract the service premium rate on top of the other eligibility rate.

We would recommend that schools confirm all the pupils included in the DfE allocation and which element of funding they attract via the Get Information About Pupils (GIAP) site. GIAP can be accessed via [DFE sign in](#). It is worth highlighting that the DfE can only allocate FMS6 funding if the pupil's eligibility for FSM is recorded on the census and it is up to individual schools to ensure that the information is complete and correct. Please be aware that for those schools with a centralised service SLA, the check on GIAP and MIS will need to be carried out by school-based staff.



PSF New User Training

We have organised a day of New User PSF training on Tuesday 10 June, from 9:30am to 5.00pm via Teams. Although the training has been set up to enable us to successfully onboard Horfield Primary School, there are places available to new finance staff from other LSP schools. Please advise Natalie Fear on nfear@lsp.org.uk if this would be useful to your school. Areas that will be covered include:

- PS-Online - Raising Purchase Orders, GRN's, Invoices, Reporting
- Document Input - Non-Purchase Invoice/Credit Notes/ Journals
- Reporting - Aged Receivables/Payables, Budget Holder, Outstanding Purchase Orders, etc.
- Allocation
- Creation of Paylists/Management
- Customise Desktop and Reports
- Document Emailer
- Document Attachments
- System Navigation i.e. Account Enquiries
- Account Management for Sales Ledgers
- Credit Card Transactions
- Sales Invoices

PS Online users training will be covered during the first part of the morning session, but we are unable to advise timeslots for individual areas and would advise any Financial Accounting user to attend the full session.



Receipts & Artificial Intelligence

With AI becoming more and more common our Central IT Team have highlighted how easy this technology can be used for fraudulent purposes.



Above we have two typical receipts submitted on the morning of 02 April, can you tell which one of them is real?

Initially, I believed the receipt on the right to be the fake one on the basis that the left receipt had the VAT number on it, only to be advised that both receipts are indeed fake, as the left receipt is a future time/date and therefore false.

I'm sure you will agree that the receipts themselves look genuine and if it wasn't for the future date how would you know whether it was genuine?

Please be mindful when receipts are submitted - was the claim expected? Is the expense justified and within the spend limits of the LSP Policy? Is the source reliable? Check email addresses to ensure that the recipient is a staff member and agrees to the members details on PS Financials. Simple checks and common sense will provide some, but not complete, defence against this activity.

This also raises the importance of being mindful of invoices that are received by email; fraudsters intercept emails and can easily change bank details. Please remember to check the bank details against those on PS Financials and do not change any details unless you have verified them with the supplier using alternative contact details to those provided on the invoice and email.

The Central Finance Team are always available to support with any queries relating to documentation. Please feel free to contact Finance@lsp.org.uk.

Natalie Fear MAAT, Finance Manager

Bath & North East Somerset SEND Funding Update

Due to an increase in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2025-26, Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Council have increased their support funding for children and young people with SEND, effective from Tuesday 1 April 2025.

Funding Overview

The High Needs Block (HNB) funding for 2025-26 has been increased by £2,878,951, bringing the total to £31,976,586. Additionally, we have identified a further £214,000 from other DSG budget lines, making the total increase available for allocation £3,092,951.

Addressing Demand Pressures

B&NES anticipates an increase of 172 Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) in 2025-26, which will require an estimated £1,775,844.

To meet the growing demand for Transitional Support Funding (TSF) and Inclusion Support Funding (ISF) for early years pupils, B&NES will allocate:

- Transitional Support Funding (TSF): £168,000
- Inclusion Support Funding (ISF): £124,000

In total, £2,067,844 will be allocated to address these demand pressures

Tackling Inflationary Pressures

To ensure funding keeps pace with inflation, B&NES will be increasing banding values across various sectors:

- **Mainstream:** 2% increase costing £155,061
- **Resource Bases/Units:** 5% increase costing £41,428
- **Special Schools:** 5% increase costing £310,013
- **Independent:** 3% increase costing £297,482
- **Early Years:** 2% increase costing £20,893

This brings the total allocation for inflationary pressures to £824,877

Supporting Mainstream Schools

The remaining resources (£200,203) will be used to support mainstream schools with a higher-than-average numbers of EHCPs. This will increase the Local Authority's discretionary contribution to the notional budget for each pupil above the B&NES average to approximately £4,400 per pupil.

Continued...

Bath & North East Somerset SEND Funding Update

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Overcoming Technical Challenges

B&NES will be looking to make the new payments available as part of the April payment run, However this may slip into May for some schools. If this occurs they will back date the payment to include the April payment.

See below the B&NES Top Up Banding Rates for 25-26:

Uplifts for Exceptional Funding Rates

B&NES have confirmed the following information on how they will apply an uplift when a child/ young person has an exceptional funding rate (previously known as band 7) outside of the usual banding amounts:

Mainstream & Special Units				
Band	Annual Mainstream	Increase	Annual Special Units	Increase
1	0		0	
2	2,249	44	2,315	110
3	5,403	106	5,562	265
4	8,968	176	9,860	470
5	10,864	213	12,324	587
6	12,273	241	14,790	704

1. Where this funding is being used to pay for external alternative provision or therapies agreed by the LA, there will not be an increase in money received by the school as this funding is matched to a provision map that has not changed.
2. Where funding is for school staff, for example an additional TA, a percentage increase will be applied to that funding of 2% for mainstream and 5% for specialist.
3. In the exceptionally rare case that the LA is funding a TA or medical assistant who is being provided by an agency at full cost to the LA, no increase will be applied as the funding is matched to a provision map that has not changed.
4. Where there is a combination of school staff and other providers, an increase will be applied proportionately to the element relating to school staff, as evidenced by the provision map previously sent to the LA. For example, a child at a mainstream school has a package of support that includes 3 days a week at MIAG, funded by the LA. The school receives 2/5 of band 5 for support on the days they are in school. MIAG has not increased in cost, and so this element is not increased. The 2/5 of band 5 is increased by 2% to reflect the banding uplift.
5. Where a personal budget is provided to a parent, that element of the banding will not be increased, for example a CYP is allocated band 2 but £7.99 per month is removed from school funds for a personal budget for a subscription. The balance (band 2 - £7.99 x 12) will receive an uplift but not the £7.99 as this cost has not changed.

Fire Risk Assessments (FRA)

Following discussion with Avon Fire & Rescue and as part of the review of the H&S policy, the frequency of the completion of Fire Risk Assessments (FRA) has been amended. FRA will now be undertaken once every five years and an annual fire risk assessment review will be carried out by your Hub Estates lead in the other four years. FRA for all schools will be completed during Year 1, 2 or 3 with reviews being carried out in all other years.

The three-year rolling programme of fire risk assessments will commence in September 2025. Schools allocated for a FRA in Year 1 can be found below, and Jayne Slocombe (North Somerset Team at Avon Fire and Rescue) will shortly be contacting those schools to book dates for her team to complete your FRA:

Easton Primary, Fishponds Primary, St Mary Redcliffe Primary, Horfield Primary School, Churchill Primary, Churchill Academy, High Down Schools, West Leigh Infant School & Backwell Junior School and Whiteoak Academies.

The costs of the FRA will be paid for from the core service charge.

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact trustservices@lsp.org.uk or your Hub Estates Lead.

Beth Watts, Trust Services Manager

Stationery Supplier

If you are looking at getting your stationery bulk order together for 2025/26 you might want to consider [Gompels](#). They are offering the trust a 12.1% discount across all their ranges. [Please see their poster for details.](#)

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

Upcoming Clerks' Network

Chris Hills, Governance Professional will be hosting just one Clerks' Network in Term 5 (as it is a short term).

This will take place on **Thursday 8 May from 1.00pm.**

Chris will circulate the teams link directly to Clerk in due course.

Save the Date: LSP Governance Conference 2025

We are delighted to announce our LSP Governance Conference 2025 will take place on Thursday 12 June. Full details, including sign-up form, will follow in due course.



LIGHTHOUSE
LEARNING

LSP GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE

**THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025
5.30PM ONWARDS**

This event is for all LSP Clerks,
Chairs, Governors and Trustees.

SAVE THE DATE

**VENUE:
BACKWELL SCHOOL
BS48 3BX**

**MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW,
INCLUDING HOW TO SIGN UP,
TOWARDS THE END OF MAY
2025**



Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

Please email [Lighthouse Learning](#) if you have any questions about the below events.

Agendas, Teams links (if required) and other resources will be emailed one week in advance of each network. The full programme of Lighthouse Learning CPD on offer for 2024-25 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Monday 28 April 3.30-5.00pm	LSP Primary Assessment Network Online via MS Teams	Primary Heads and Assessment Leads
Tuesday 29 April 1.00–3.00pm	LSP Church Schools Network Flax Bourton Primary School	Church School Leaders & RE Leads
Wednesday 30 April 3.30-4.00pm	LSP Secondary Raising Standards Network Online via MS Teams	Secondary Standards Leads
Wednesday 30 April 3.30-5.00pm	LSP Secondary Networks for Maths and MFL Both Online via Teams (link to be sent from Natalie Wilcox)	Secondary Maths and MFL Leads
Wednesday 21 May 3.30-4.30pm	SEND Webinar—Dyspraxia Sign up link to be released shortly	All

Upcoming LSP Church Schools Network

A reminder that the LSP Church Schools Network on Tuesday 29 April is being held at Flax Bourton Primary School.

Both Church School Leaders and Church School RE Leads are to attend this network session.

If you have any questions please email the [Lighthouse Learning Team](#).

Primary Foundation Curriculum Update

History

As you all know we have now completed the final tranche of training on the updated History curriculum and from September all primary schools should be fully using these materials. In the Subject Leader Network last term we looked at effective monitoring of the curriculum and using this to update the action plan. As a reminder, in the launch training we discussed in detail what schools need to have fidelity to and what schools can adapt. Mainly this focussed on fidelity to the long and medium term planning and structure of units and that schools have freedom to edit and adapt the resources if they feel this is appropriate for their children. We have had some feedback coming in that some teachers do not like some of the outcomes - if this is the case teachers should change these whilst making sure that the outcomes allow pupils to demonstrate what they have learnt in the lesson in their own words at their level. History leaders in schools should be working with staff to show them what effective adaption looks like and this could form the basis of staff meeting(s). Likewise if there are children working 'significantly below ARE' it is for class teachers to think through what adaptations need to be in place, again the History Leader alongside the SENDCO should be supporting this process in school. In our final History Network of the year we will be asking History Leaders to come along ready to share any adaptations they have made to lessons within their school. As Headteachers I would urge you to support your staff to use their professional judgement and think about the pupils in their class as, like any scheme of work, it does not know every individual in every class.



The History Curriculum at Lighthouse Schools Partnership

Geography

Thank you to the staff who came along last term to the final consultation on the updated LSP Geography Curriculum which will be launched next academic year. We are now entering the final stages of the writing process - Beth Brown is currently writing the lesson planning and resources which will be quality assured over the summer term. In a similar way to this year with History, schools will be given three options for training (Term 1, Term 2 or Term 3) with everyone adopting within this time frame - we will come back with more details next term.



The Geography Curriculum at Lighthouse Schools Partnership

Continued...

Primary Foundation Curriculum Update

Continued...

Science

This year Sara Pearson has been making updates to the LSP Science Curriculum to ensure it is as high a quality as other subjects that have been written and rolled out over time. We knew that there was not any medium term planning, there was no progression in disciplinary knowledge and short term planning was not what it needed to

be. Sara has worked really hard to update the long, medium and short term planning in line with the history and geography curriculums which have been re-written this year. She has shared these materials in the Science Subject Leader Network so that schools who use the LSP Science Curriculum are clear on what has changed, why and what leaders in schools need to do. To be clear there is no expectation that the LSP Science Curriculum is adopted by schools as we have no plans to create teaching resources to go with it and are aware that other published schemes do this. If schools want to use the LSP Science Curriculum it has now been loaded onto the [Primary Curriculum SharePoint](#) however if schools want to continue to use a scheme or move to a scheme they are able to do this. What schools should not do though is to continue to use the archived LSP Science Curriculum from September for the reasons detailed above. Headteachers need to work with their Science Leader to agree a plan for September.



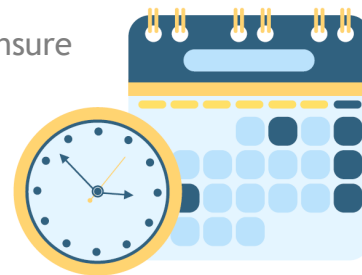
EYFS Knowledge and Understanding of the World (KUW)

We are really excited to say that the long term overview and medium term plans have now been agreed with EYFS Leaders for the EYFS KUW curriculum - as discussed in Primary Heads' Meetings this will be launched with all schools in September 2025 and in Term 6 schools should begin to prepare for this.

A group of EYFS Leaders are currently producing the short term planning and resources for us and these will be ready for the end of Term 6. The final network meeting in Term 6 will be used to train on the expectations and I will also be looking at this in the Term 6 Primary Headteacher Meeting. This is a really exciting move forward for us as a Trust as this work will tie into the work on History and Geography in KS1 and KS2 - it also sets us up really well for the updated Ofsted Inspection Toolkit.

KEY DATES, DEADLINES & REMINDERS

These reminders do not replace the LSP Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly (link on next page).



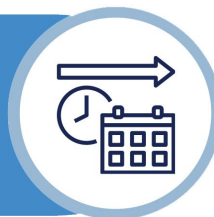
Key Dates

DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
Friday 25 April at 4.00pm	Deadline to sign up to Cover/Supply Bidders Presentation Day on Wednesday 30 April. Email enquiries@lsp.org.uk	All
Wednesday 30 April at 3.30pm	Comments/thoughts on proposed 2026-27 term dates for LSP schools Email enquires@lsp.org.uk any views.	All
Thursday May at 4.30pm	Final deadline for signing up to UWE research mobile-phone survey. If you did want your primary school community to take part please complete this form .	Primary Headteachers
Wednesday 7 May 8.30am-12.30pm	LSP Headteachers' Meeting @ Nailsea Baptist Church	Headteachers
Monday 12-Thursday 15 May	KS2 SATs	All (primary focussed)
Thursday 15 May	Spring Census	Headteachers, SBMs & OMs
19-23 May	Primary Moderation @ St Peter's Primary	Primary Leaders

Please note the following links will only work for those who already have access to the relevant site or folder. If you feel you need to be given permission to access something please [let us know](#).

Annual Planner 2024/25

Click to view the Annual Planner
(Via Sharepoint)



Bulletin Index

Click to access an index of
previous bulletin articles

Previous Bulletins

Click to access previous editions of the
LSP Weekly News Bulletin



The Beacon

Click to read the latest edition of the
LSP Newsletter: The Beacon



SHARE WITH US

Don't forget, you can submit your school news stories to
be shared in our newsletters and on our social media.

Email your stories to: newsletter@lsp.org.uk