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Introduction

Dear colleagues,

Sometimes it feels as if we need to do our work in spite of government rather than with government. Last week's announcement of the decision to withdraw PE and Sports Premium from primary schools is an example of this exasperating experience. The information announced is insufficient to allow us to plan; when exactly will the funding be withdrawn? What is the touted replacement going to be like and will any of our schools benefit? Most frustratingly this decision's timing shows a near complete ignorance of how schools operate. Our use of Sports Premium often involves contracts with other providers meaning commitments that we cannot just stop. We are literally setting budgets this week and are now scrambling to recalculate them based on an indirect announcement heard via the press. This is just not respectful.

The Sports Premium has always been confirmed year by year (this in itself is a whole other issue!) so we do not object to government exercising its power to alter national priorities. The problem is the timing and what it tells us about a deep disconnect between ministers and schools. Louise Malik and I have written to the Secretary of State, our various MPs and senior Civil Servants on your behalf. Basically, our request is that the changes are not implemented until September 2027. In the meantime, you will have seen the work that needs to be done set out in [yesterday's additional bulletin](#) (also linked again below). I am sorry that this is landing on your desks.

Just before half-term we interviewed Holly Cefai, currently Deputy Head at Whitchurch for the Headship at that school. I am delighted to tell you that Holly has been appointed to the role. Holly is a graduate of the Reach West 100 programme and has been supporting us at SMRP through a part-time redeployment. She is a most impressive person and will play a great role in our Trust in coming years. It is a sign of our maturity that we are becoming more confident in promoting our own people within the Trust. This does not mean that we wish to become a sealed vessel, but I hope that we see a trend of more of our excellent people wanting to progress in LSP.

Lastly, I'm looking forward to our Governors' Conference in a couple of weeks' time. We have been developing our reset for Local Governance to allow school boards to focus more directly on their key delegation. This will be a big opportunity for us to launch and test that thinking. It is also our opportunity to thank Adele for her time as Chair of our Trust. By the point of the conference, our Board will have elected a new Chair, so this is a punctuation moment for us.

With best wishes as ever,

Gary Lewis, Chief Executive



Upcoming Headteachers' Meeting

The next LSP Headteachers' Meeting is taking place on Thursday 11 June from 8.30am at Nailsea Baptist Church (BS48 2DS).

[Click here to view the agenda.](#)

Policy Publication: Time to Train and Long Service Awards

Following the consultation last term the following HR policies have been updated.

- Requesting Time to Train
- Long Service and Retirement Award

They can be found [on Foldr](#) (LSP Policies\HR Policies) and on the [Employee Self Service](#), Staff Policies Page.

No further action is required from schools. Individuals need to make sure they are using and referring to these versions when dealing with requests under these policies.

Policies: Model PSHE Policy for Primary Schools

As you will be aware there are changes to the RSE curriculum which primary schools need to implement from September 2026. All schools should be using the updating materials from Jigsaw from next academic year and it is therefore important for you to check that your school has a subscription to the materials and to also ensure that staff have been trained in the changes.

Through your Jigsaw subscription you will have access to a summary of changes as well as training materials for dissemination to other staff.

A model policy has been created for you which will need to be edited and on your website for the beginning of Term 1 next year. [This can be downloaded here.](#)

As it is a statutory policy this needs to be signed off by your Chair of Governors. The yellow highlighting in the text shows where you need to make amendments.

If you need any further support please [contact Neil Lankester, Director of Primary Education.](#)



Reminder: Invitation - LSP Business Breakfast

[Click here](#) to sign up to attend by 10.00am on Friday 12 June 2026.

You're invited to

Lighthouse Business Partners

Business Breakfast



Tuesday 23 June 2026

7.30-9.00am

Backwell School (BS48 3BX)

Focus: AI

Guest Speaker: John Turner MCIM CMKtr PGDipAI
Artificial Intelligence Leadership Consultant

**“AI and the Future of Work: What Organisations and
Schools Should Actually Be Preparing For”**

Free event with complimentary breakfast
Free parking available on site



2026-27 Primary Assessment Calendar

Please see attached the [26-27 primary assessment calendar](#) following feedback from the last Primary Heads' meeting. Please feel free to share with your wider teaching, support and admin team. You are welcome to add any PPM dates and deadlines into individual and school calendars ahead of the start of the new academic year.

We will be revisiting the assessment calendar once again in a future Primary Heads' meeting.

LSP Bulletin: Special Edition - PE and Sport Premium funding

On Tuesday 2 June we circulated a special edition of the bulletin covering PE and Sport Premium funding. Following an announcement made by the DfE, the bulletin details several actions that need to be made by schools by the end of this week (Friday 5 June).

[Click here to view this publication.](#)

Yesterday Gary Lewis wrote to the Department of Education, and our local MPs, with our concerns about the timescales of this change.

We will keep you all updated on this matter.

Reminder: Operational Away Day

Details have been emailed out this week regarding the LSP Operational Away Day, which is due to take place on Thursday 9 July. Please can we remind you to confirm your attendance and let us know of any dietary requirements by 12noon on Friday 12 June [by using this form.](#)

Reminder: LSP Summer Newsletter (The Beacon)

A reminder that the next LSP Newsletter (The Beacon) will be published at the end of Term 6 and we would love to include news stories (this could be school, staff, or pupil celebrations) from across the Trust.



If you have any news stories or photos from your school that you would like us to include, could you [please email them to me](#) by Friday 3 July.

We will also create a parents' version of the newsletter focused on *news, milestones and celebrations* across the trust, which is to be distributed to all parents.

Leah Evans, Communications Officer



Update on Approved Mileage Allowance Payments

Please be advised there has been an increase in the mileage rate for reimbursement of employee's business mileage. Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAPs), Mileage Allowance Relief (MAR) and self-employed mileage will be backdated to 6 April 2026 for the 2026 to 2027 tax year. The changes to the rates are:

- increase to 55 per mile for the first 10,000 miles
- remain at 25p per mile for mile 10,001 and over

For any expense claims that have been processed to date relating to journeys post 6 April 2026, please process an additional claim for each staff member at the increased margin of 10p.

For further information please refer to the [government publication here](#).

Policies will be updated in line with the newly published guidance.

Audit Workbook 2025/26

The new and revised template of the Audit Workbook for 2025/26 has now been uploaded to the LSP Audit Secure Channel on Teams [General | LSP Audit Workbooks - Secure](#) and can be found within the 2025-26 folders in the individual school files.

Please check that you can access the copy and rename appropriately using your school prefix as it appears on PS Financials, i.e. LSP - Lighthouse Schools Partnership.

The School Workbook Funds will be issued at a later date (date TBC).

As a reminder the Interim Audit commences on 29 June 2026, please ensure that all tasks as outlined in the Audit Workbook are carried out before the start of the interim these include:

Sales Invoices / Purchase Invoices / Remittances (Scanned to PSF), Staff Expense Claims (Scanned to PSF), Petty cash records (Secondary Schools only), Sales Ledger (PSF), Purchase Ledger (PSF), Month End Task List (from Sept 25 onwards), Payroll Reports (Prepay/Final Reconciliations) (IMP/Excel), Employee Records (iTrent), Statutory Records (In-house) and Declarations of Business/Pecuniary Interests.

Please contact [LSP Finance](#) should you require any support with access to the workbook or require guidance.



Final 2026-27 Budgets

As you know, schools should have final budgets ready for Central Team quality assurance review by **tomorrow (Thursday 4 June)**. Schools will be expected, as far as possible, to set 3-year budgets with an in-year balanced position for both 2026-27 (including any deficit previously agreed and notified) and 2027-28. Schools should have considered, costed and incorporated the changes to staffing and non-staffing budgets as necessary. Primary Schools should also make sure that an up-to-date Deployment Model (with staffing tabs for both years and the comparison tab updated to balance with their Master Scenario for 2027-28) is uploaded to the secure Organisational Change Teams folder. All schools should update the organisational change log shared in April and upload this to the Teams folder too. The form can be [downloaded from Foldr](#).

School Business Managers - Trust Wide - Information for 2026-27 budgets - Organisational Change Log for Deployment Model

SBMs should update their estimated revenue and capital brought forward balances to match those from their April forecast.

All of the above will be completed by the Finance Business Partner for schools in the centralised service, following discussions with the Headteacher.

After the 4 June deadline, schools should make no further changes to the Master Scenario (unless agreed with the Central Finance Team) until Tuesday 7 July.

LGBs should scrutinise and propose a balanced budget to the Trustees by Friday 3 July. In the meantime, the Central Finance Team will review these final budgets and supporting documentation and give feedback to schools as soon as possible. It would be helpful if LGB meetings are as close to the 3 of July deadline as possible so that feedback can be given before papers are issued to governors.

If schools are unable to make any further savings and are continuing to project an in-year deficit for 2027-28, they will be able to make an application to the new Support Fund for short-term additional revenue costs. Final details of the operation of the new Support Fund will be issued after the Trustees meeting on Wednesday 10 June. The application form will be made available for schools to complete shortly after this. Headteachers of schools operating under a centralised services SLA will be supported by their Finance Business Partner for the completion of the application form. The application will need approval by the LGB - it is worth submitting the application form to your LGB for approval alongside the final budget, although the Assessment Panel will not meet until Term 1. It is accepted that LGBs will need to scrutinise the final budget, without knowing the outcome of the Assessment Panel decision.



Waste and Recycling Contract

Our current Hills Waste & Recycling Contract has been extended until 30 June 2027. Please see full information and pricing in the email sent to all schools on 01/06/2026, this information has also been saved on Foldr.

Legionella Services Contract

We are in the final year of our contract with Broadwater for Legionella Services. Following a robust tender process the contract going forward has been awarded to Primary Water Solutions (PWS) from September 2026. The move to PWS will produce some significant savings due to the size of the company and local availability of engineers. It is hoped that these savings may fund parts of the remedial work identified in the Legionella Risk Assessments.

Unlike Broadwater, PWS are able to carry out remedial work and so when actions are identified on monthly visits they can quote for the work and it won't be necessary to call in a third party (although you may still need to seek alternative quotes depending on the value of the work).

Part of the reason for the savings is that PWS have a higher number of engineers in the area and will be able to dovetail our PPM visits around their other work. Whilst schools will still receive notification of visits in good time it is important for schools to let these visits go ahead. The PWS staff will all have the necessary DBS checks in place, and this information will be able to be found [in Foldr](#), as usual, within the Contractor Safeguarding Information folder.

Trust Services are meeting with PWS in early July to agree a plan for mobilisation and have earmarked the INSET days in September as a good opportunity for the first primary school visits to take place. It will obviously take a few months for PWS to become familiar with school sites, and we hope that the impact on school staff will be minimal, but it is likely you will be asked questions during the first few months.

If you have any questions about this contract, please do not hesitate to contact the [Trust Services Team](#).



Health and Safety Services

The contract for Health and Safety services has been awarded to **North Somerset (NS)** for three years from September 2026. The scope of the service will remain unchanged and NS contact details will be shared with schools before the end of term. There will be a slight change to the process for primary schools seeking approval for **adventurous school trips** - we will utilise **Forms** in iAM Compliant for this from September and will share instructions before the end of term. Secondary schools should continue to use Evolve from September 2026 (please [contact Trust Services](#) if you are in a secondary school and not using Evolve).

Any potential RIDDOR incidents will continue being reviewed via the incident module in iAM Compliant, but they would need to be assigned to North Somerset for review rather than Delegated Services. iAM Compliant will be updated to reflect this change at the end of August 2026.

iAM Compliant Data Protection Actions

Following last year's Data Protection Officer (DPO) Supportive Audits, a number of schools will have the following action on iAM Compliant:

'Set a retention period for general correspondence within the Retention Schedule and enforce this. (As part of this, consider implementing an auto-archive and delete policy on emails older than 12/24 months, to help reduce the impact of any future SARs, as well as enable good records management.)'

As explained in the recent [Bulletin](#), the Records Management Policy will be updated in Term 1 with retention periods for general correspondence emails. At the same time, the Retention Schedule will also be updated, to reflect that all general correspondence (both physical and electronic records) should be retained for 12 months only.

Once the Records Management Policy and Retention Schedule have been updated, we will mark the above iAM Compliant action as 'completed' for all schools.

In the meantime, you may see new action(s) being added to iAM Compliant regarding compliance with the Retention Schedule. We appreciate that in the short term these may appear to be similar/duplicate actions, until the original action is 'completed' by Trust Services in the Autumn.



October School Census 2026

Please note that the Autumn School Census is on **Thursday 1 October 2026**. We always work with schools to ensure the maximum uptake of meals on this date in order to secure the maximum amount of funding. Therefore, we ask that you log this date in school diaries and no offsite trips for KS1 are planned for this date. Meals will once again be **free of charge** on this date for all pupils across the primary phase.

Aspens Contact: Catering Area Support Manager

Aspens are advising schools of a change to Joe Magin's email address. Going forward his contact address is joe.kemp@aspens-services.com.

GOVERNANCE UPDATES



Reminder: LSP Governance Conference - Thursday 18 June

A polite reminder about the forthcoming Governance Conference on Thursday 18 June 2026 at Backwell School from 5.30pm to 8.00pm.

Please [click here](#) to confirm your attendance by 10.00am tomorrow (Thursday 4 June).





Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

The full programme of Lighthouse Learning CPD on offer for 2025-26 can be found on the [LSP website](#).

DATE	EVENT	AUDIENCE
Term 6		
Monday 8 June 1.00-3.00pm	Early Years Network In Person @ English Hub, St Peter's Primary	Early Year Leads
Monday 8 June 3.30-4.45pm	Primary Assessment Network Online via MS Teams	Primary Assessment Leads
Monday 8 June 3.30-4.45pm	Trust-wide DSL Network Online via MS Teams	DSLs
Monday 15 June 8.30-11.30am	Primary English Network In Person @ English Hub, St Peter's Primary	Primary English Leads
Monday 15 June 1.00-4.00pm	Church Schools Network In Person @ English Hub, St Peter's Primary	Church School Leaders
Wednesday 17 June 3.30-5.00pm	An Introduction to Maximising the Impact of Learning Partners with Sally Franklin Online Webinar via MS Teams	All teachers & SLT in schools moving to Learning Partners in September 2026
Thursday 18 June	LSP Governance Conference In person at Backwell School	Chairs, Governors, Trustees and Clerks
Monday 22 June 3.30-4.30pm	Primary Priority Pupils Network Online via MS Teams	Primary Priority Pupil Leads
Monday 24 June 3.30-5.00pm	Practical Strategies for Maximising the impact of Learning Partners with Suzy Divine Online Webinar via MS Teams	All teachers & SLT in schools moving to Learning Partners in September 2026

The rest of the Term 6 events will follow in due course.



LSP Unlocking Letters and Sounds Training 2026-2027

Please see below the details for 2026/27 ULS training sessions for new members of staff who join LSP Schools. There are limited places available at each session. [Please click here to book.](#)



In-person
FREE

Open ULS Training for LSP Schools

Lighthouse Learning is funding three face to face training sessions for new members of staff who join LSP Schools. There are limited places available at each session and schools will be charged £50 for non-attendance. Confirmation and joining details will be sent a week before the CPD.

All sessions 8.30am-3pm
English Hub Building, St Peter's
School, Portishead, BS20 6BT

9th September 2026
14th January 2027
22nd April 2027

[Book here](#)





Learning Partners INSET Day Training - Friday 4 September

Primary Headteachers should have received an email this week with details of a Learning Partners INSET day training, which is due to take place on Friday 4 September, from 9.00am - 3.00pm at Backwell Secondary School. The day is open to all staff who are currently employed in a Learning Partner role and is extended to SENDCOs and Senior Leaders who are able to attend.

This session will be led by Sally Franklin, Senior Teaching Fellow at the Centre for Inclusive Education, UCL Institute of Education. Sally has coordinated the EEF-funded Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants (MITA) project and brings a wealth of expertise in inclusive education and effective classroom practice.

The training will build on your existing knowledge and experience, offering the latest evidence-based strategies to support impactful classroom interactions.

To sign up and to inform us of any dietary/access requirements, Learning Partners, SENDCOs and Senior Leaders will need to complete this form by [clicking here](#) by 3.00pm on Friday 19 June 2026.

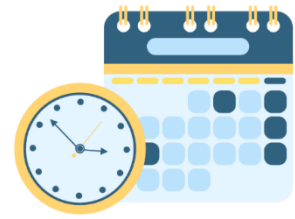
If you have any issues with accessing the form, please [do reach out to Lighthouse Learning](#).



KEY LINKS, DATES & DEADLINES



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



DATE	INFORMATION	FAO
10.00am on Thursday 4 June	Deadline to sign up for LSP Governance Conference (Thursday 18 June @ Backwell School)	Clerks, Chairs, Governors and Trustees
Thursday 11 June from 8.30am	LSP Headteachers' Meeting at Nailsea Baptist Church	Headteachers
12noon on Friday 12 June	Deadline to confirm attendance at LSP Operational Away Day (Thursday 9 July)	SBMs/OMs, Estates Leads and Central Team
3.00pm on Friday 19 June	Deadline to confirm Learning Partners attendance at INSET training (Friday 4 September)	Primary Headteachers/SENDCOs





Annual Planner 2025/26

Click to view the Annual Planner for next academic year (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



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP