



WEEKLY BULLETIN

3 February 2025

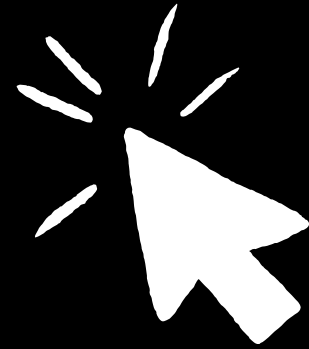
BDSIP | HELPING
STUDENTS
SHINE

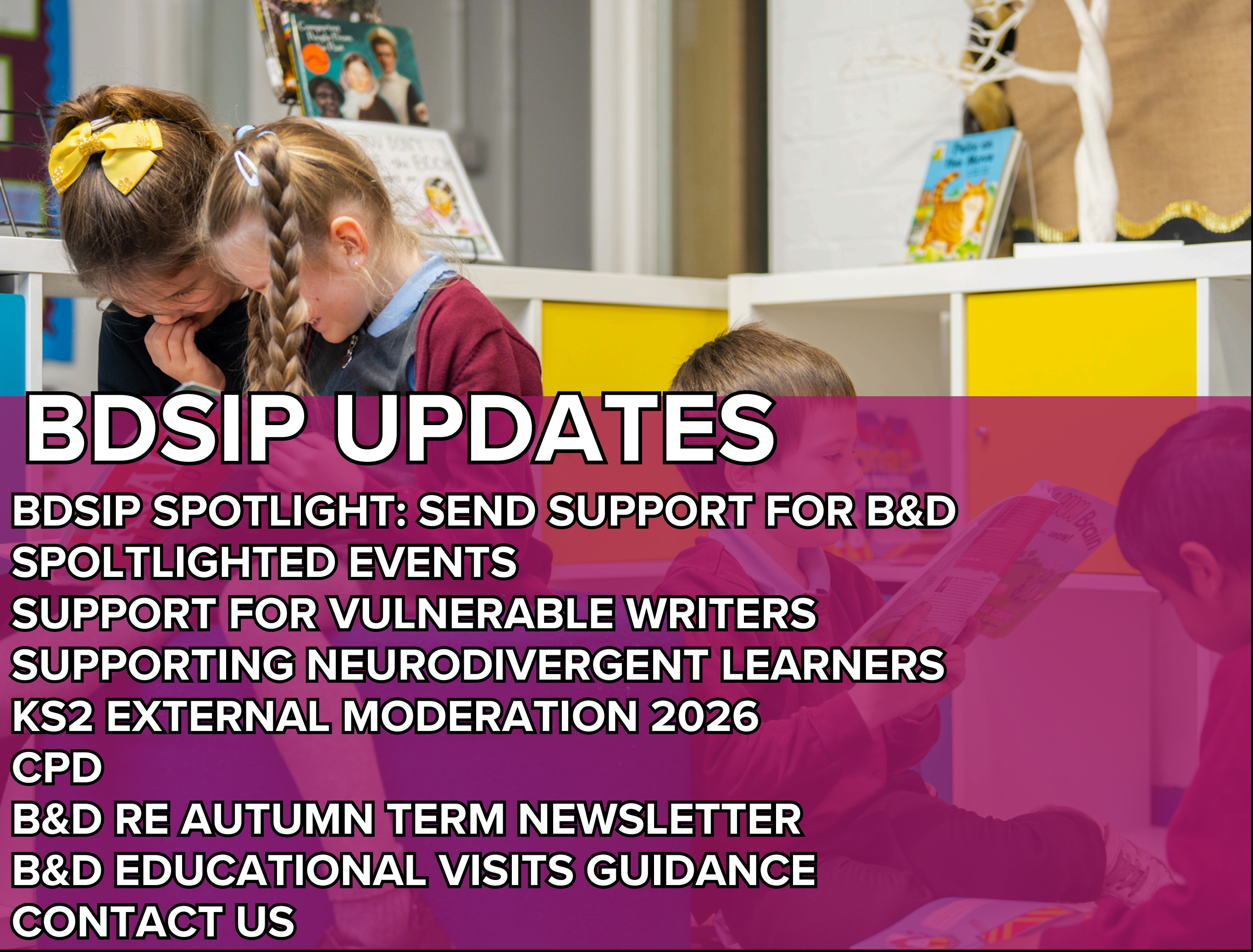
BDSIP

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TRUSTED
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EDUCATION

BDSIP IS YOUR EDUCATION PARTNER - OWNED BY SCHOOLS, FOR SCHOOLS





BDSIP UPDATES

BDSIP SPOTLIGHT: SEND SUPPORT FOR B&D

SPOTLIGHTED EVENTS

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE WRITERS

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT LEARNERS

KS2 EXTERNAL MODERATION 2026

CPD

B&D RE AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

B&D EDUCATIONAL VISITS GUIDANCE

CONTACT US

BDSIP SPOTLIGHT

Strategic SEND Support for B&D Secondary Schools - Preparing for September 2026

Plan ahead. Strengthen provision. Be ready for September 2026.

Why attend?

- 🔍 Understand the 2026 mainstream secondary cohort
- 🛠️ Create a clear action plan with time and support
- ★ Ensure high-quality provision from September 2026

Course focus:

- 🤝 Inclusion – supporting vulnerable and SEND pupils
- 📖 Teaching development – strengthening classroom practice

Who should attend?

- 👤 Headteachers & Senior Leaders
- 👤 Deputy Heads
- 🧩 SENCOs & ARP Leads



👉 [Book here](#)

✉️ Course queries: helena.brooks@bdsip.co.uk

✉️ Booking/CPD queries:
CPDEvents@bdsip.co.uk

Spotlighted Events

Inspire and Develop the Vulnerable Writer

Friday 6 February,
1:00pm


[Click Here](#)

Primary English Subject Leader Briefing

Tuesday 10 February,
2pm

[Click Here](#)

Support for Vulnerable Writers

 If you are concerned about some of your vulnerable writers, we have a two-part course that you may find useful to support your teachers and teaching assistants.

The sessions will explore ways to engage some of our more vulnerable writers, who are often difficult to motivate, and reluctant to put pen to paper. Practical strategies will be provided, alongside resources to try out in between sessions.

Please see here for the attached [flyer](#) for further details and the [booking link](#).



KS2 External Moderation 2026: Head Teacher Briefing

CPD to Support KS2 Teacher Assessment in 2026



Training To Assess Writing in Year 6

Tuesday 3rd February 2026, 1pm-3pm, BDSIP Eastbrook School



<https://bdsip.co.uk/our-services/cpd/?cadpath=bdsip%2Ftraining-to-assess-writing-in-year-6>

This course will include guidance on assessment and moderation for Y6 teachers – please ensure you register at least one member of your Year 6 teaching team.

Strengthening Understanding of 'Greater Depth' at the End of KS2

Thursday 19th March 2026, 1.30pm-4pm, BDSIP Eastbrook School



<https://bdsip.co.uk/our-services/cpd/?cadpath=bdsip%2Fstrengthening-understanding-of-greater-depth-at-the-end-of-ks2>

If you want to develop knowledge and understanding of the greater depth standard and confidence in making accurate teacher assessment judgements at the end of KS2, this course is for you!

Strengthening Understanding of 'Working Towards' at the End of KS2

Thursday 16th April 2026, 1.30pm-4pm, BDSIP Eastbrook School



<https://bdsip.co.uk/our-services/cpd/?cadpath=bdsip%2Fstrengthening-understanding-of-working-towards-at-the-end-of-ks2>

If you want to develop your knowledge and understanding of working towards the expected standard and how it differs from the pre-key stage standards, for greater confidence in making accurate teacher assessment judgements at the end of KS2, this course is for you!



Sarah Carpenter
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Barbara Turner
Moderation Manager
Barbara.turner@bdsip.co.uk

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Supporting Neurodivergent Learners



It Takes All Kinds of Minds: Fostering Neurodivergent Thriving at School

It Takes All Kinds of Minds is a multi-contributor handbook. It provides an inspiring and accessible introduction to neurodiversity in educational settings, informed by research and real-world experience.

The book is available to pre-order from the 1st of December from www.routledge.com

Use Code - GDM30 - 30% off

Find out more:



STUDIO III Training Systems @gdmorewood @studioiii www.studio3.org

LASER Low Arousal Supports Educational Resilience

A new book, **It Takes All Kinds of Minds: Fostering Neurodivergent Thriving at School (2026)**, edited by Rachael Davis, Claire O'Neill and Sue Fletcher-Watson, has been published, and includes a chapter by Gareth titled **Creating Inclusive Learning Spaces for Neurodivergent Young People: A Personal Journey, 30 Years in the Making.**

The book brings together contributions from leading voices and offers valuable insight for SENCos, aspiring leaders, and all staff interested in inclusive practice.

 **Discounts available:**

- 30% off using code GDM30 at checkout

If you would like to explore bulk purchase options or be put in touch with the publisher, please get in touch.

UPCOMING CPD

Click on the course titles to learn more and register

CPD

Mon

Tues

Weds

Thurs

Fri

w/c 2 February		Secondary Religious Education Network Meeting ----- Training to Assess Writing in Year 6		Science Leadership Meeting: Driving Excellence in KS4 and Beyond	Inspire and Develop the Vulnerable Writer
w/c 10 February	Primary English Subject Leader Briefing		Strategic SEND Support for B&D Secondary Schools - Preparing for September 2026		
w/c 23 February		Primary Religious Education Network Meeting	Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 5	Mastering Physics Required Practicals: AQA Combined Science Paper 2 Made Simple ----- EYFS Coordinator Meeting	
w/c 2 March				Primary Computing Professional Learning Network	
w/c 9 March			Arbor Assessment - Analysis Tools	Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 6: Preparing for Ofsted – ‘How to demonstrate impact of governance to inspectors’ ----- Arbor Assessment - Analysis Tools	
w/c 16 March		Nursery Meeting		Strengthening Understanding of ‘Greater Depth’ at the End of KS2 ----- Primary Maths Professional Learning Network	

This calendar shows the upcoming CPD for the term ahead, further dates can be found via [our website](#)

B&D RE Autumn Term Newsletter

 **B&D Dates for Your Diaries**

Junior RE Conference

A unique leadership and dialogue experience for Y4/5 pupils and teachers.

Dates: 20th Mar 2026 & 7th May 2026

Book: nnadeem@bdcs.org.uk

Please find in our BDSIP resources:

[Summary Advice for Schools on Ramadan 2025](#)

[A Briefing Paper on Ramadan by B&D SACRE for Schools 2025](#)

[RE Agreed Syllabus for Barking and Dagenham 2025](#)

Please click [here](#) for the January's Newsletter.

B&D Educational Visits Guidance

All maintained and voluntary controlled schools must follow OEAP national guidance, have a trained Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC), and gain Local Authority approval for higher-risk trips.

Schools should ensure robust risk assessments, use licensed providers, and record all visits on EVOLVE. EVC training is renewed every 3 years, and audits are carried out every 3–4 years.

For advice or training, contact educationcoreteam@lbbd.gov.uk.

Click [here](#) to read the full guidance.

CONTACT US

All feedback and questions are welcome. If you have any queries about any aspects of this briefing or any wider issues, please use the contacts below:

Lee Boyce, Chief Executive – Lee.Boyce@bdsip.co.uk

Paul Claydon, Deputy Chief Executive – Paul.Claydon@bdsip.co.uk

General enquiries – info@bdsip.co.uk

CPD enquiries – cpdevents@bdsip.co.uk



USEFUL RESOURCES

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2026

INSPIRING CHILDREN TO READ FOR PLEASURE

SUPPORTING ASPIRING HEADTEACHERS

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026

MATHS WEEK LONDON 2026





Children's Mental Health Week 2026

'This Is My Place' – Supporting Belonging & Wellbeing

As schools prepare for Children's Mental Health Week (9–15 February), the theme 'This Is My Place' highlights the importance of creating environments where all children feel safe, valued, and included.




To support this work, Circles for Learning offers a range of free resources for schools.

What's available:

-  [FREE Schools Bundle](#) for Children's Mental Health Week
-  [FREE monthly newsletter](#) with resources, articles, podcasts, and wellbeing support for pupils, staff and parents
-  A wide range of [FREE lesson plans](#), assemblies and activities to support positive mental health
-  [Circles for Learning Programme](#) – a year-long, hands-on approach bringing wellbeing into the classroom through real-life emotional and social learning



Programme includes:

-  Online staff training
-  Five resource books with lessons and activities
-  Coaching sessions across the year

 [Watch the short video](#) to find out more and see the approach in action.

Inspiring Children to Read for Pleasure

National Year of Reading

As part of the National Year of Reading, BDSIP continues to champion approaches that help children develop a lifelong love of reading. At last year's Reading Conference, we were pleased to hear from keynote speaker Charlotte Hacking.

In her Books for Keeps article, How to get children reading because they want to, not because they have to, Charlotte shares practical, classroom-ready ideas for primary settings, including:

- 📖 Reading aloud regularly
- 🎯 Giving children choice
- 📚 Valuing different reading formats
- 🤝 Building positive reading communities

The article is a timely reminder that reading for pleasure supports attainment, wellbeing, and opportunity for every child.

👉 Read the article [here](#)



Supporting Aspiring Headteachers

Teach First: Headship Next

Headship Next is an 8-month development programme for aspiring headteachers ready to take the next step and make a lasting impact on outcomes for young people.

What you'll gain:

- 👤 1:1 coaching from a former headteacher
- 🤝 Connections with serving heads through the Leadership Ally community
- 🚀 Post-programme support and access to headship opportunities
- 🧠 A safe, collaborative peer network

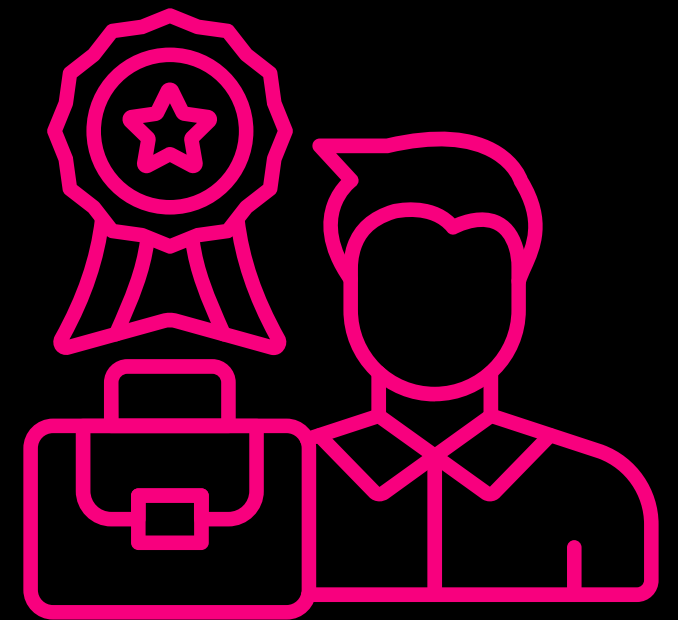
You'll explore:

- 🌱 Your leadership philosophy
- 💡 Personal strengths and development areas
- 🏢 The mindset and culture behind sustainable leadership

The programme is particularly keen to hear from leaders underrepresented at headship level.

👉 **Apply now** (applications reviewed on a rolling basis)

✉ Questions: istewart@teachfirst.org.uk



Safer Internet Day 2026

Smart Tech, Safe Choices – Using AI Responsibly

Safer Internet Day 2026 takes place on 10 February, focusing on the theme ‘Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI’.

The day will explore how AI affects everyday life, how it can be used positively, and how children and young people can be empowered to use it safely and responsibly.

What's available:

- 🧠 Guidance on safe and responsible AI use
- 📖 [Education resources](#) for different age groups
- 👤 Assembly slides, activity ideas and quizzes
- 🤝 Option to register as a supporter

👉 Find full details and resources on the [Safer Internet Day website](#).



Maths Week London 2026

Spring MSL Twilight Meeting

Traditionally, Maths Week London is held in the last week of June. They have recently announced that this is being discontinued owing to running costs. Their website is going to be phased out also, so please download the available resources ASAP before they disappear.

Please still participate though as this is a great way of engaging children and getting them to think differently about maths. For instance, last year I delivered a whole day workshop in a school focusing on outdoor reasoning and problem solving chalked games. Pleasingly the children continued playing these independently thereafter, applying the skills acquired.

I will discuss this further at the spring MSL twilight meeting (online) on Thursday 19th March 2026 (book here:

[Click here for resources](#)), but please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything specific for your school.

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NATIONAL GUIDANCE

PREMIER LEAGUE AND LITERARY GREATS

SEND TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

RISE SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING ATTAINMENT

GENERATIVE AI: PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARDS

GOVERNMENT'S UPDATED GUIDANCE ON PHONES

DFE: Premier League and Literary Greats back National Year of Reading

Press Release - 13 January 2026

The government and the National Literacy Trust have launched the National Year of Reading to reverse the decline in reading for pleasure, particularly among young people.

Why it matters:

-  Reading enjoyment is at its lowest level since 2005
-  Only 25% of boys aged 8–18 enjoy reading in their spare time

What the campaign promotes:

-  A national effort across schools, families, libraries and communities
-  Reading linked to personal interests (e.g. sport, music, gaming, food)
-  Reading in any format – books, comics, e-readers or blogs

The campaign is supported by ambassadors including Leah Williamson, Michael Morpurgo, Julia Donaldson, Richard Osman and Joe Wicks.

It was launched by Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson at Arsenal Football Club, highlighting how passions like football can inspire a love of reading.





👉 Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

DFE: £200 Million Landmark SEND Teacher Training Programme

Press Release - 16 January 2026

The government has unveiled the most ambitious SEND training programme to date, helping more children and young people with SEND to thrive in local nurseries, schools and colleges.

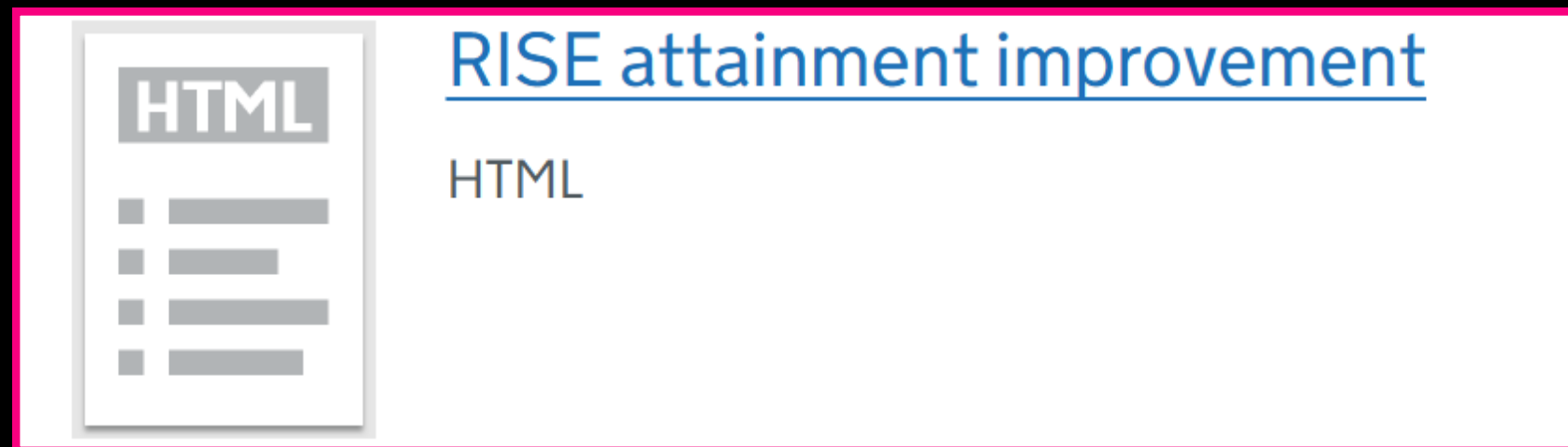
Key points:

-  £200 million investment in SEND and inclusion training
-  All teaching staff will access new courses to adapt teaching for diverse needs
-  Focus on areas such as speech and language, visual impairment, and assistive technology
-  Builds confidence and consistency across the workforce

A new expectation in the SEND Code of Practice will confirm that all staff in every setting receive SEND and inclusion training—ensuring consistent, high-quality support nationwide.

👉 Click [here](#) to read the full press release.

DFE: RISE Support for Improving Attainment in Schools Guidance - 14 January 2026

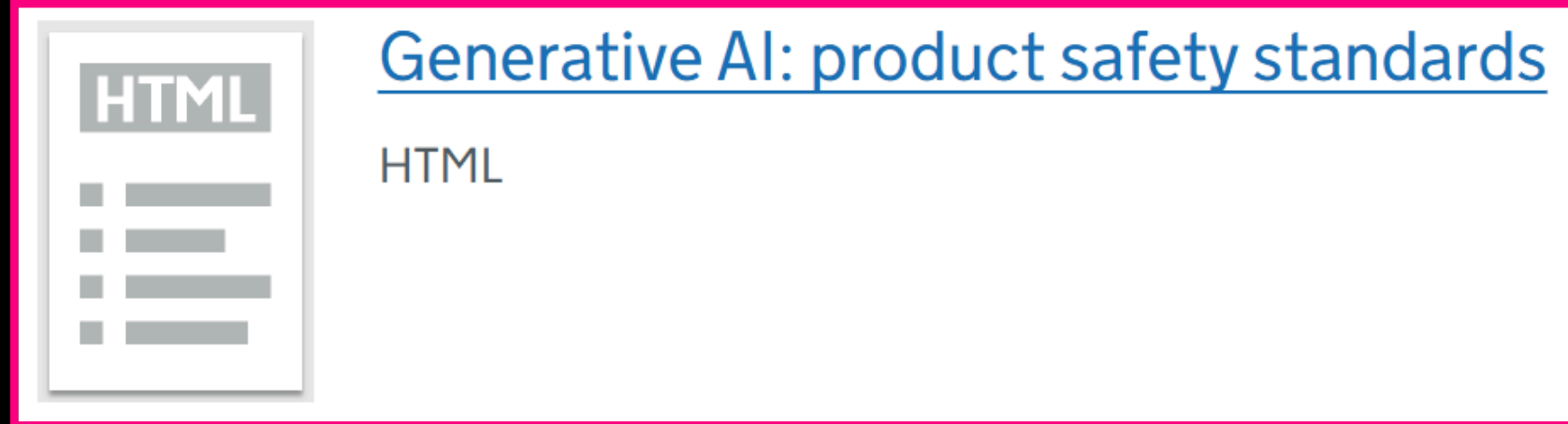


Details

A range of online and in-person school support and professional development available through the regional improvement for standards and excellence (RISE) programme to help:

- improve the attainment of children and young people
- develop the skills of teachers and leaders
- share best practice

DFE: Generative AI: Product Safety Standards Guidance - 19 January 2026



Details




- Guidance on the capabilities and features that generative AI products and systems should meet to be considered safe for users in educational settings.
- These standards are for edtech developers and suppliers to schools and colleges. Schools and colleges may also find them helpful in assessing which AI products are safe for use in education.
- You should also refer to Generative artificial intelligence (AI) in education.

OFSTED: What the Government's Updated Guidance on Mobile Phones Means for School Inspections

Blog - 23 January 2026

The DfE has tightened guidance stating that schools should be mobile phone-free by default. Ofsted has reiterated full backing for schools to ban phones, as they often disrupt learning and wellbeing.

From 1 April, inspections will:

-  Discuss schools' mobile phone policies and how they're communicated
-  Check understanding and consistency among staff and pupils
-  Evaluate the impact on learning, behaviour and wellbeing

Schools that allow exceptions must clearly justify and apply them consistently. Where guidance isn't followed, inspectors will consider the impact on behaviour, focus, bullying and mental health—potentially affecting judgements.

👉 Read the full blog [here](#).



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