

WEEKLY BULLETIN

28 April 2026



BDSIP

SERVICE OFFER

TRUSTED
PARTNER IN
EDUCATION

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



TRUSTED PARTNER EVALUATION

We're committed to continuously improving the services we provide and your feedback plays a crucial role in helping us to do that.

If you haven't completed our Trusted Partner Evaluation, we'd love to hear from you. Your feedback helps us refine our approach and ensure we continue to meet your expectations.

Thanks for helping us to make our services even better.

Please click [here](#) to complete

A photograph of two young girls in a library. The girl on the left has a large yellow bow in her hair and is looking down at a book. The girl on the right has a braid and is also looking at the book. In the background, there are bookshelves with various books, including one with a cat on the cover.

BDSIP UPDATES

BDSIP SPOTLIGHT: 2026/27 SERVICE OFFER

SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER – AT A GLANCE

BREAKING BARRIERS WITH BOOKS

LBBB FOOD EDUCATION NETWORK

BDSIP AT FESTIVAL OF EDUCATION SPAIN

DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS CONFERENCE 2026

HEADTEACHER CONFERENCE 2026

CPD

CONTACT US

BDSIP SPOTLIGHT

BDSIP Service Offer 2026/27

Explore Our Services & Secure
Your Support

Our new Service Letter and
Order Form for 2026/27 are
now available.

Discover the full range of BDSIP
services designed to support
your school next academic year.

View our [Service Offer here](#)

Click [here](#) to place your
order



Breaking Barriers with Books

Using Book Creator for Inclusive Classrooms

Join Us to Explore How Book Creator Can Transform the Learning Experience for Students with SEND and EAL

During this [Book Creator](#) webinar, we'll demonstrate how to use audio notes, video integration and "read to me" features to support every learner to become a published author.

Discover how to create:

Social Stories

Personalised visual schedules

Scaffolded workbooks

Enable students to demonstrate learning beyond traditional writing.

Wednesday 6th May

3:45 – 4:45pm

Register via [BDSIP website](#)

LBBD Food Education Network: Summer Term CPDs

Free CPD sessions for LBBD school staff (2026):

3 June (9:00–12:00) – Inclusive & Sensory Food Education

Barking Park Lodge

Focus on picky eaters & SEND, with practical strategies for inclusive dining

Delivered by experts including TastEd and Health Education Partnership

Gain classroom-ready resources, practical activities and confidence to deliver inclusive food education.

Click [here](#) to book your place.

BDSIP at Festival of Education Spain

Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership (BDSIP) will be presenting at the Festival of Education Spain 2026 on 13 June in Barcelona.

Helena Brooks will deliver a session on Adaptive Instructional Environments, focusing on how to design learning to better meet diverse pupil needs and support inclusive practice.

The event brings together educators and leaders internationally to share best practice and innovation.

Click [here](#) to book your place

THE SPAIN
**FESTIVAL OF
EDUCATION**
The British School of Barcelona Castelldefels

BDSIP | IGNITING
TALENT

**I'm
speaking!**

13 JUNE 2026

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF
BARCELONA, CASTELLDEFELS

educationfestspain.com

Where those
who inspire
find their
own inspiration

DEPUTY HEADTEACHERS CONFERENCE

LEADING CONNECTED TEAMS



Friday 5 June 2026
9am - 4pm



Hyatt Regency,
London Stratford

Are you a current or
aspiring Deputy or
Assistant Head?

Register now
<https://bdsip.co.uk/our-services/cpd/>

Join us for this year's Deputy Headteachers' Conference, focused on the theme Leading Connected Teams. Deputy and Assistant Headteachers play a pivotal role in shaping the culture, cohesion and effectiveness of school teams. This one-day conference explores how leaders can build strong working alliances, foster a sense of belonging and create the conditions for teams to thrive.



Agnus Fitzpatrick
Regional Director,
Teacher Engagement Platform



Katherine Powell
Coaching CEOs, Exec Leaders and
Senior Leaders. Team Coach, AcL
Facilitator, Leadership Consultant.

Conferences by BDSIP

Click [here](#) to
sign up for
BDSIP's deputy
headteacher
conference!

25 - 26 JUNE 2026 - HYATT REGENCY STRATFORD

Join the Barking & Dagenham School Improvement Service for our 2026 Headteachers' Conference, focusing on Transition—one of the most important journeys pupils experience throughout their education.

From early development through adolescence and into adulthood, pupils encounter many transitions that shape their learning, identity and future success. This two-day conference brings together leading researchers, practitioners and leaders to explore how schools can better understand and support these key moments.

Hear insights on corporate leadership from Sandra Schembri, collaborate with peers on practical transition strategies, and conclude with an inspiring reflection from children's author Christian Foley, whose work explores pupils' experiences of moving from primary to secondary school.

This conference will enable headteachers to:

- Engage with the latest research on child development and learning
- Reflect on how transitions impact pupil outcomes
- Collaborate with peers to develop effective transition strategies
- Strengthen leadership approaches that support pupils at every stage

A valuable opportunity for reflection, collaboration and forward thinking with fellow school leaders.



Zachary Walker



Dr Liory Fern-Pollack



Dr Gisele Dias



Dr Rebecca Gordon

Click [here](#) to sign up for BDSIP's headteacher conference!

UPCOMING CPD

Click on the course titles to learn more and register

CPD

Mon

Tues

Weds

Thurs

Fri

w/c 27 April		Moderators Process Training KS2	Kami all-in-one platform - interactive, accessible learning experiences	Arbor Admin – Data Quality ----- Secondary Deputy Heads Network	Making effective use of your phonics scheme
w/c 4 May			Arbor Assessment – Setting up DfE assessments ----- Breaking Barriers with Books: Using Book Creator for Inclusive Classrooms		
w/c 11 May		Summer Census Workshop ----- SENCO Network	Arbor Admin – Summer Census Support Workshop		
w/c 1 June			Inclusive Eating – Supporting Picky Eaters and Children with SEN		Deputy Headteachers’ Conference 2026 – Leading Connected Teams
w/c 8 June		Primary Religious Education Network Meeting	Arbor Admin Drop-in Workshop	Science Leadership Meeting: Reflection, Impact and Next Steps	
w/c 15 June		Secondary Religious Education Network Meeting		Primary Maths Professional Learning Network	
w/c 22 June	Primary English Subject Leader Briefing		Arbor Assessment – Submitting DfE assessments	Headteachers’ Conference ----- EYFS Coordinator Meeting	

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

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

LITERACY SUPPORT IN LBBD

STARTING RECEPTION

ADELA KAY'S APRIL RESEARCH

PSHE SUPPORT 2025–26

SCREEN TIME FOR UNDER 5S

Literacy Support in LBBD

Literacy Pirates

Literacy Pirates is an award-winning charity supporting young people aged 9–13 who are falling behind in literacy. Through creative, pirate-themed small group tutoring, pupils build reading, writing, confidence and communication skills.

Delivered in local learning hubs and online, working closely with schools to support pupils who need it most.

Get involved:

Partner as a school

Volunteer as a tutor

Workplace partnerships & fundraising

<https://literacypirates.org/>

BDSIP Literacy Programmes

Active in 12 schools (primary & secondary), supporting pupils at different stages of need through targeted, evidence-informed interventions.

Proven impact (based on latest programme data):

Developing Reading for Pleasure

Small group intervention for pupils with low engagement and comprehension gaps

+12 months progress in 12 weeks

Literacy Skills (1:1)

Bespoke support for pupils significantly behind age-related expectations

Pupils make between +18 months to 2 years progress in literacy after 20 weeks of targeted 1:1 support

Why it works:

Tailored to individual pupil needs

Builds confidence, fluency & comprehension

Engages reluctant readers through structured support



Next impact update: July 2026

Please contact louise.harding@bdsip.co.uk directly for further details.

Starting Reception

Your Child's Journey to School Starts at Home

A helpful guide to support your child's transition into Reception, recognising that every child develops at their own pace.

Focuses on building confidence, independence and key early skills before starting school, with support from nurseries, pre-schools and childminders.

Covers:

- Growing independence
- Communication & relationships
- Physical development
- Healthy routines

Includes guidance on additional needs and where to seek support.

Click [here](#) to download the PDF.



Adela Kay's April Research

Sibling Contact for Children in Care, Attendance and Early Years: Screen Use and More

For April's research, Adela explores a range of issues affecting children and young people, including:

- Children and Wellbeing Bill updates
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026
- Attendance guidance and impact
- Race, ethnicity and culture in practice
- Knife crime and county lines exploitation
- Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Domestic abuse in pregnancy
- Early years screen use

Click [here](#) for the full blog



PSHE Support 2025–26

RSHE Updates & Training

The Department for Education has released updated RSHE guidance. Support is available to help schools review and strengthen provision over the academic year.

Free RSHE Training:

Primary – 7 May, 1–3pm (Online)

Secondary – 19 May, 9:30–11:30am (Online)

Click [here](#) to book

PSHE Network Meetings (In Person):

A space for PSHE Leads to share effective practice, explore new resources, discuss implementation challenges and stay up to date with local and national developments

Opportunities to reflect on provision, align with updated guidance and collaborate with peers across LBBD

Secondary – 17 June, Robert Clack School

Primary – 18 June, Hunters Hall Primary

Invites have been sent — contact [us](#) if you would like to attend.

Screen Time for Under 5s

Guidance for Parents and Carers

How much screen time?

Under 2 years: Avoid screens except for shared activities with family that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation

2-5 years: Try to keep it to 1 hour per day. Less if possible

Choose better content

Slow-paced, predictable shows are better for young brains

Avoid social media and AI tools, toys and chatbots for young children

Use parental controls to block harmful content

When and where?

Never alone: Watch together and talk about what you see

Screen-free zones: Keep bedrooms and mealtimes screen-free

No background TV during play, meals or family time

Your screen use matters

Lead by example: children copy your habits

Being on your phone makes it harder to notice what your child needs

Put your phone away during quality time together

Why it matters

90% of brain growth happens before age 5

Too much screen time can affect language, sleep, eyesight and healthy weight

Play, reading and conversation build the foundations for life

Children with SEND

A tailored approach may be needed - assistive tech can be valuable

Still protect time for screen-free play, sleep and interaction

Screen swaps

Mealtimes > background music, colouring, 'I Spy', conversation

Bedtime > read stories together. Avoid screens for 1 hour before bed



Juggling family life and raising children in a digital world can be challenging. Find out more about how to support healthy screen habits for children under 5.

Find full guidance [here](#).



NATIONAL GUIDANCE

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

GETTING CHILDREN READY FOR RECEPTION

AI TUTORING TOOLS FOR DISADVANTAGED PUPILS

SCHOOL FOOD STANDARDS

SEND REFORM: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FIRST

DFE: Support for Pupils with Medical Conditions

Open Consultation - 12 April 2026

The Department for Education is seeking views on proposed updates to guidance to strengthen how schools support pupils with medical conditions and allergies.

Key proposals include:

Mandatory policies – every school to publish a medical conditions policy

Stronger support plans – improved Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

Better incident management – clearer recording, reporting, and learning from incidents and near misses

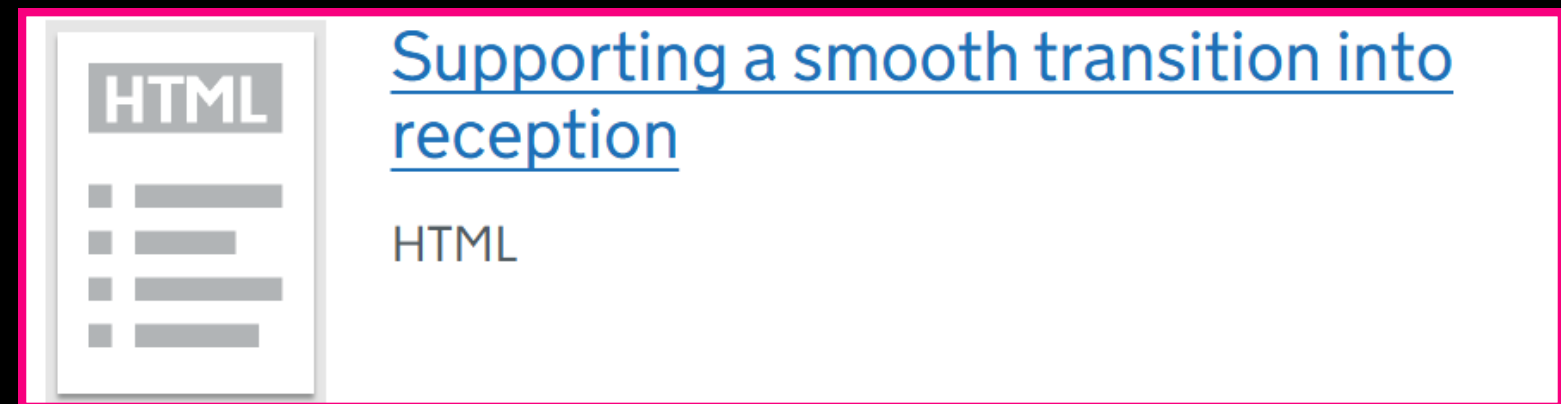
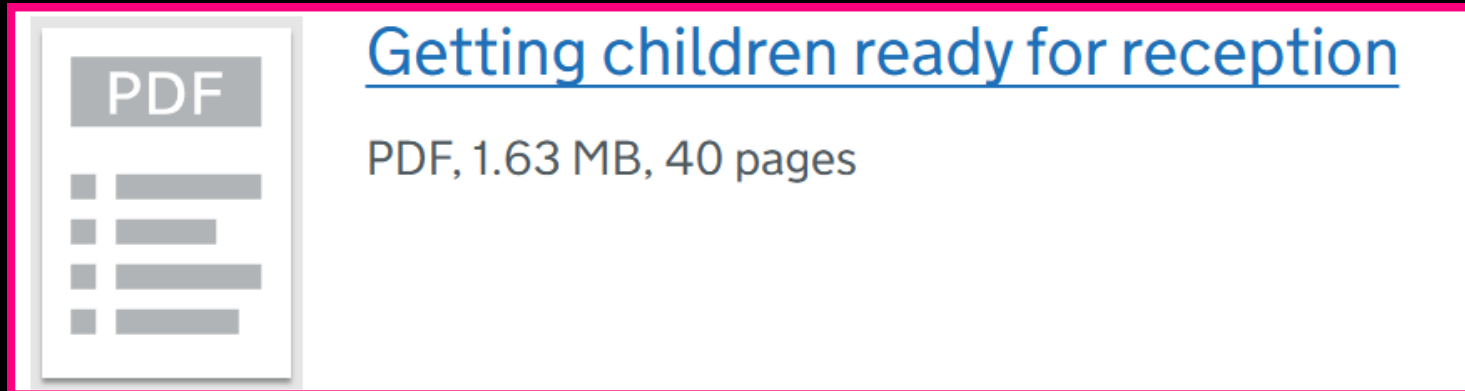
Allergy safety measures – a new requirement for a dedicated allergy policy, including staff training and use of adrenaline devices



Closes: 1 May 2026

Click [here](#) to take part in the consultation

DFE: Getting Children Ready for Reception: Supporting Effective Transition Guidance - 16 April 2026



Details

New guidance supports smooth, inclusive transition into Reception.

Includes practical case studies and an at-a-glance guide.

Focus on:

- **Strong relationships with families**
- **Year-round partnership with early years providers**
- **Early identification of children's needs**

Access RISE resources to support Reception teaching and leadership.

Click here to explore the guidance and support.

DFE: Edtech and AI Companies Invited to Help Build Safe AI Tutoring Tools for Disadvantaged Pupils

Press Release - 16 April 2026

The Department for Education is inviting EdTech companies to develop AI tutoring tools to support pupils — particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Designed for Years 9–10 (English, maths, science, MFL), tools will:

- Adapt to individual learning needs**
- Provide targeted support when pupils get stuck**
- Identify gaps and reinforce learning**

Developed with teachers, to enhance — not replace — classroom practice.

Aims to support up to 450,000 disadvantaged pupils per year, helping address barriers where private tutoring is often unaffordable.

Tools will be tested in schools this year, with national rollout expected from 2027.



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

DFE: School Food Standards: Updating the Legislative Framework

Open Consultation - 13 April 2026

Have Your Say

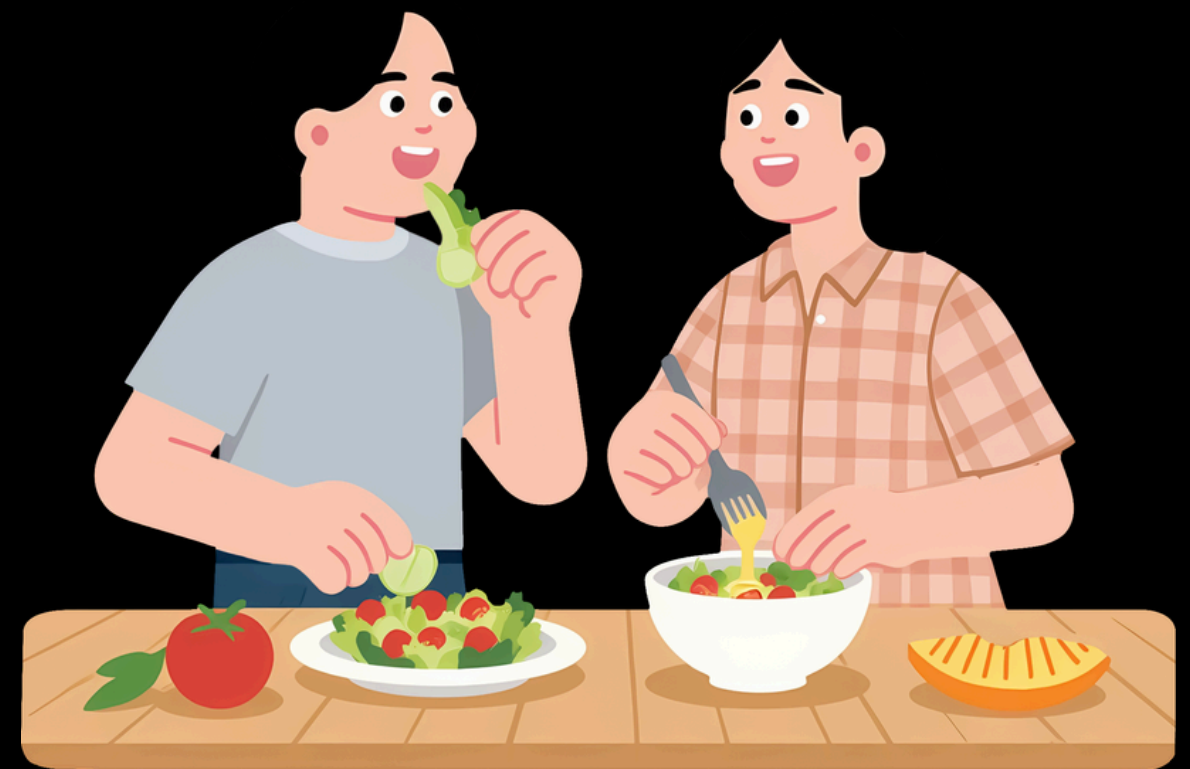
The Department for Education and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities are seeking views on updating School Food Standards in England.

The current standards (2014) are being reviewed to align with latest nutrition guidance and support healthier eating in schools.

Aim: ensure pupils receive nutritious food and develop healthy eating habits.

Consultation closes: 12 June 2026
(11:59pm)

Click [here](#) to take part in the consultation.



DFE: SEND Reform: Putting Children and Young People First

Open Consultation - 30 March 2026

You The government is consulting on proposals to reform the SEND system (0–25) to improve support for children and young people.

Open to:

Families, children & young people

Teachers, leaders, schools & trusts

Also relevant to early years, post-16 providers, local authorities and sector organisations

You can respond to the consultation and join events and webinars with Ministers.

Includes the Every Child Achieving and Thriving reforms and simplified summaries for parents and professionals.

Click here for the consultation.





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