

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

12 May 2026



# BDSIP

SERVICE OFFER

TRUSTED  
PARTNER IN  
EDUCATION

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



# TRUSTED PARTNER EVALUATION

As we continue strengthening our collaboration and the services we provide, your voice is essential. Please take a moment to complete our [Trusted Partner Evaluation](#) if you haven't yet.

We appreciate your time and perspective; it genuinely helps shape our ongoing improvements.

👉 Please click [here](#) to complete

A photograph of two young girls in a library or classroom. 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**

**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



# 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



# 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 11 May		Summer Census Workshop	Arbor Admin – Summer Census Support Workshop		
w/c 18 May		SENCO Network			
w/c 1 June	Governors' role in managing allegations against staff	EYFS Profile Assessment Workshop	Inclusive Eating – Supporting Picky Eaters and Children with SEN ----- ARP Network for Autism	EYFS Profile Assessment Workshop	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	
w/c 29 June		Arbor Admin - Year End Support Workshop ----- Transitioning into Year one ----- Primary Computing Professional Learning Network			

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](mailto:Lee.Boyce@bdsip.co.uk)

Paul Claydon, Deputy Chief Executive – [Paul.Claydon@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:Paul.Claydon@bdsip.co.uk)

General enquiries – [info@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:info@bdsip.co.uk)

CPD enquiries – [cpdevents@bdsip.co.uk](mailto:cpdevents@bdsip.co.uk)



# **USEFUL RESOURCES**

**LITERACY SUPPORT IN LBBD**

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

**DIGITALLY NATIVE OR DIGITALLY NAIVE?**

**EXPERIENCE AI**

**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](mailto:louise.harding@bdsip.co.uk) directly for further details.




# Mental Health Awareness Week

## While Awareness is Vital, Real Change Comes When We Take Action Too

 11–17 May 2026

 This year's theme is Action — recognising that real change comes from what we do.

 Organisations are encouraged to:

- ✓ Raise awareness & improve understanding
  - ✓ Reduce stigma around mental ill-health
  - ✓ Support staff through training & early intervention
  - ✓ Create a culture where mental health is everyone's responsibility
-  Start the conversation across your organisation and networks.

 Find out more and download the free resources [here](#)

 Download additional resources and watch the videos [here](#)



# Digitally Native or Digitally Naive?

## Rethinking Digital Literacy in Schools

Young people are very online - but that doesn't mean they are digitally skilled.

For example, 74% of 11-18 year olds feel confident using TikTok, but 34% have shared their personal information with people they don't know online, and 34% are not confident at spotting disinformation.

AQA recently carried out a survey with 11-18 year olds and the subsequent report has recently been published.

[AQA news post about the report](#)  
[Rethinking digital literacy in schools report](#)

The report assesses the state of digital literacy among young people in England and examines how the education system can better prepare them for an increasingly digital society.

The report considers a variety of methods for improving young people's digital literacy. It also contains a useful visual overview of the various statistics.



# Experience AI

## Free Training for Secondary Schools

For many educators, the question isn't if they should teach AI, but how to do it confidently. ParentZone have teamed up with the Raspberry Pi Foundation and Google to deliver free AI training to secondary school teachers, based around the [Experience AI](#) programme.

**19 June: Streamlined 2.5 hour 'intensive'**

**7 July: Full-day 'deep dive'**

Training will be held at the Google AI Campus, London. There is no charge for the training - travel and lunch are also provided.

[Click here for further details and to register your place](#)

[Click here to explore other training opportunities](#)



# 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**

**PHONES & SMART DEVICES IN EXAMS**

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS: GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS**

**NEW EDUCATION MISSIONS LAUNCHED**

**CHILDREN'S REFORMS BECOME LAW**

**WORKING LIVES OF TEACHERS AND LEADERS**

# **DFE: Thousands of Students Risk Their Qualifications by Taking Phones into Exam Hall as GCSE and A Level Exams Begin**

**Press Release - 5 May 2026**

 Ofqual has reminded students not to take phones or smart devices into exam halls as the 2026 GCSE and A Level exam series begins.

 Mobile phones remain the most common form of exam malpractice, with over 2,200 cases recorded in summer 2025.

 Being found with a device during an exam can result in:

 Loss of marks

 Disqualification from qualifications

 Students are encouraged to leave devices at home or hand them in before entering the exam hall.


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

# DFE: Free School Meals: Guidance for Schools and Local Authorities

Guidance - 8 May 2026



## Details

 Updated guidance is available to help schools and local authorities understand Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility and responsibilities.

 Relevant for maintained schools, academies, free schools, special schools and local authorities.

 Includes:

- FSM registration & application forms
- Universal Credit earnings guidance
- Operational readiness checklist
- Guidance for families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

 Click [here](#) to access the full guidance and resources.

# DFE: New Missions to Transform Childhoods of Most Disadvantaged

Press Release - 10 May 2026

 The Department for Education has launched Mission North East and Mission Coastal to improve outcomes for children in under-served communities.

 From September, schools in the North East, Hastings and Scarborough will receive targeted support including:

- Expert teaching & leadership support
- Mentoring and careers guidance
- Enrichment opportunities through local partnerships

 The programmes aim to address long-standing attainment gaps and improve opportunities for disadvantaged pupils.

 Inspired by the success of the London Challenge, schools will work collaboratively to raise standards and support young people to thrive.

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

# DFE: Families to Save Up to £1,000 As Children's Reforms Become Law

Press Release - 30 April 2026

New legislation aims to reduce costs for families and strengthen safeguarding across education.

## Key measures include:

💷 Cost savings for families – up to £1,000 a year through expanded support

🍽️ Free school meals – extended eligibility for an additional 500,000 children

🍳 Free breakfast clubs – over 2,000 schools offering provision from September

👕 School uniform cap – limit of 3 branded items (excluding ties)

🛡️ Stronger safeguarding – tighter regulation of children's homes and increased powers for Ofsted

🎯 Raising standards – supports wider reforms to reduce the attainment gap and improve outcomes, including for pupils with SEND







📌 Click [here](#) to read more




# DFE: Working Lives of Teachers and Leaders: Wave 4 Research & Analysis - 30 April 2026

The Department for Education has published the latest wave of its national survey exploring the experiences of teachers and school leaders in state schools across England.


The research provides insight into key areas including:


-  Workload and wellbeing
-  Flexible working arrangements
-  Pay and conditions
-  Professional development
-  Pupil behaviour
-  Career reflections and future plans

 The publication includes a full research report, summary findings, data tables, and a technical report outlining the methodology. Previous survey waves are also available for comparison over time.

 Click [here](#) to read the full report

 [Working lives of teachers and leaders wave 4: research report](#)  
Ref: ISBN 978-1-83870-779-8, RR1620  
PDF, 1.67 MB, 163 pages

 [Working lives of teachers and leaders: wave 4 summary report](#)  
Ref: ISBN 978-1-83870-723-1, RR1578  
PDF, 343 KB, 39 pages

 [Working lives of teachers and leaders wave 4: data tables](#)  
MS Excel Spreadsheet, 6.84 MB

 [Working lives of teachers and leaders wave 4: technical report](#)  
Ref: ISBN 978-1-83870-780-4, RR1620  
PDF, 4.34 MB, 207 pages



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