

Oxfordshire
SEND

SEND Briefing

Primary SENDCOs & Heads

21.05.26

Please write your name, role, and school in the chat



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

- The adoption process and school recording systems
- EHCP Casework Team updates
- SEND Strategic Early Intervention Team project links
- Inclusive Support Series updates
- SENDCO CPD – final sessions and poll about other SENDCO specific training needs
- Local Offer
- Enhanced Pathways update
- Special School Outreach
- Relational Schools Programme
- What updates would you like to hear about in future SENDCO Briefings?

Safe record-keeping for adopted children

Dr Hester Riviere

Senior Specialist Educational Psychologist

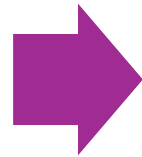


R e f l e c t C o n n e c t T h r i



When a child in your school moves into adoption

Before an Adoption Order is granted, the child is still a Child We Care For and keeps their birth name, even if they are living with their prospective adopters.

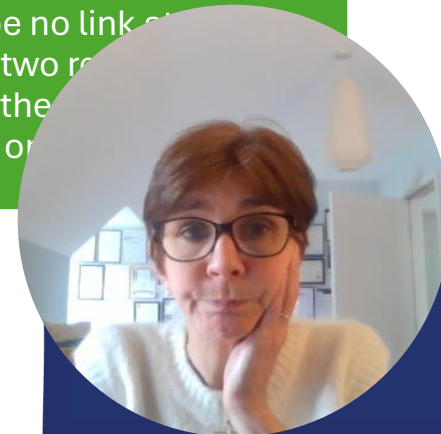


You must use their birth name on your official records (if it is easier you might want to put their first name only on their books etc)



When the adoption order is granted, you MUST:

- Create a completely new record for the child with a new UPN
- End the current record by treating them as a leaver (you can add attendance to the new record)
- There must be no link between the two records with the name stored on



Using paperwork for official purposes

If you need to request funding or an EHCNA you MUST redact the child's birth name from any documentation you submit. There can be no link at all between the child's birth name and adoptive name. This is a data breach, even on your internal systems.

You need proof of adoption to record a child as previously Cared For on your census. You should ask to see proof of eligibility, for example an Adoption Order, but you must not take or store a copy of it on the child's file in their adoptive name.



Oxfordshire's SEND Reform Plan

Partnership Development

- The plan is being jointly developed by the local authority, Thames Valley ICB, education partners and the Parent Carer Forum, with engagement from children and young people, reflecting shared accountability across the local area.

Building on Existing Improvement and Priorities

- It brings together Oxfordshire's existing SEND Priority Action Plan, Education & Inclusion Strategy and high needs financial recovery work, ensuring reform is grounded in what is already delivering impact, while addressing areas requiring more fundamental change.

Clear Framework for Reform

- The plan is structured around four national SEND reform building blocks (inclusion, specialist support, system leadership and value for money), supported by key delivery enablers including workforce, data, capital and communication.

Oxfordshire SEND reform plan

Four key building blocks

1: Strengthening inclusion across education settings

Organising places and provision to meet as many needs as possible, as close to home as possible, with all settings and providers moving towards a shared understanding and consistent practices around inclusion.

2: Access to specialist support and local placements

Improving collaboration between settings and deploying expertise from a range of specialist and expert sources, to support schools and settings to meet the needs of children and young people earlier and locally.

3: System leadership, local partnership collaboration and co-production

Putting in place the enabling conditions across a local area that ensures planning and provision reflects the local area & is joined up, including strategic co-production with parent carers and children and young people.

4: Encouraging inclusive culture & behaviours

Using funding and shared accountability towards a system that works for children and families while achieving value for money.

Plus four system enablers

Capital

Workforce

Data/digital systems

Communication

Outcomes, governance and next steps

- The reform plan balances improved outcomes for children and families with long-term financial sustainability and system stability.
- The SEND Reform Plan will be formally signed off through SEND governance and Cabinet-level leadership, with named Senior Responsible Ownership, clear milestones and regular reporting to maintain momentum and accountability

Key dates

- **Local Authority SEND consultation response was submitted on May 18 2026**
- **Final SEND Reform plan to be submitted 19 June 2026**

- 8,954 students with EHCPs as of 19.05.26
- 605 students currently undergoing statutory assessment
- c.3% increase in EHCNA requests in 2026 to the end of April compared
- Positive impact in 2026 on 20-week timeliness compared with previous years
- Additional focus currently on Phase Transfer and Annual Reviews

EHCP Casework Team Update

Key priorities - Annual Reviews

- Work with SESLIP to review Annual Review Processes
 - Review of the end-to end AR process – took place in April 2026
- Next Steps
 - Reviewing and updating AR paperwork – CYP contributions and feedback, AR reports/advice templates/ROAR
 - Reviewing and updating guidance around processes and expectations for settings and families
 - Reviewing training needs for professionals and settings
 - Embedding a process for post AR feedback

EHCP Casework Team Update

Key priorities - consultations

- An internal review is nearing completion within the EHCP Casework team to look at consultations and the consultation process in general.
 - This considered changes to current processes around the number of consultations being sent to settings whilst ensuring we meet our legal obligations.
 - The review covers EHCNAs, Phase Transfer and in year transfer consultations. It also consider implementing summer exemptions for schools when requesting advice as part of EHCNA processes.
- The outcome of this review will be considered, and then relevant partners (including schools) will be invited to contribute to this after half term
- Part of the work is also looking at ensuring school consultation responses are being appropriately considered and that there is effective communication with settings for any negative responses, with further training and guidance planned for the EHCP Casework team.
- We have already had several schools/Trusts state that they would like to be involved in this piece of work so please do contact me directly if you are interested in taking part

Key priorities - Banding

Over the last 12 months' work has been underway to develop an Oxfordshire SEND EHCP Banding Matrix.

During last term we asked mainstream schools to run a sample of EHCPs through the Matrix - thank you for completing these!

Alongside this there was a process of quality assurance carried out by OCC staff

Currently there is work underway to analyse the outcomes of this and also the next step of financial modelling of the banding to sit alongside the Matrix.

EHCP Casework Team Update Reminders

- Post EHCNA survey
 - This is an opportunity for parents/carers to tell us what worked well and what could be better during the EHCNA process
 - The feedback we receive from this survey will enable the Local Area partnership to identify areas for improvement. Results will be shared as part of wider QI work and will help us to improve this process for families.
- Guidance for settings on EHCNAs
 - This guidance is still available and is designed to advise education settings when considering whether to request an EHCNA, including a list of purposeful actions for settings

SEND Strategic Early Intervention Team

Targeted School Support

- [Enhanced Pathways](#)
- [Special School Outreach](#)
- [Relational Schools Programme](#)
- [Behaviour Inclusion Officers](#)

Professional Development

- [Ordinarily Available SEND Provision](#)
- [Inclusive Support Series](#)
- [SEND Framework](#)
- [SEND Indicators Tool](#)
- [Evaluate My School](#)
- [SEND CPD Programme](#)
- [SENDCO Helpdesk](#)

All ISS now contain links to relevant SEND Framework pages. Full set: [High quality, inclusive teaching and learning | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

Professional Development Inclusive Support Series

| You asked for... | What is happening... |
|---|---|
| EBSA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPS EBSA toolkit published March 2025 EBSA school toolkit (pdf format, 1.7 MB) • EBSA Webinars on – 3 sessions from EPS • Workshop at SEND Live |
| Masking, anxiety, PDA, foetal alcohol syndrome | Working group with health to look at ISS linked to MH and neurodivergence, medical diagnosis |
| Maximising the impact of TAs | EEF guidance exists on this. Training offered as part of Evaluate My School as this is section 5. |
| Global delay, executive functioning, processing speed | Working group to look at ISS linked to cognition and learning and neurodivergence |
| Behaviour support | <p>These are available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inclusivesupportseries-semhprimary.docx • inclusivesupportseries-semhsecondary.docx |
| Attachment | The ATTACH team Oxfordshire County Council Shame |
| Selective mutism, verbal dyspraxia, DLD, | Met with Children's Integrated Therapies and C&I team – additional links on these to be added to SEND Framework, content of SLCN ISS covers best practice for these too. inclusivesupportseries-speechlanguageandcommunicationdifficulties.docx |

Autumn Term

- SENDCO Essentials Your Statutory Role
- SENDCO Essentials: SENDCO Essentials: Ordinarily Available SEND Provision (OASP)
- SENDCO Essentials: The Graduated Approach: making the APDR cycle work for you
- EHC Needs Assessment Requests
- The sections of an EHCP & Smart Outcomes in EHCPs
- Annual Reviews
- SENDCO Essentials Preparing for Ofsted Responding to Local Authority EHC Plan consultations

Spring Term

- Preparation for Adulthood (PFA)

Summer Term

- School age Phase Transfer
- Post 16 Phase Transfer
- Preparing for Ofsted – 18th May
- **Preparing for Ofsted part 2 –workshopping questions – 8th June**

Booking links

- [SENDCO Essentials Preparing for Ofsted | Oxfordshire | Education Services](#)
- [SENDCO Essentials Preparing for Ofsted Part 2 | Oxfordshire | Education Services](#)

Post SENDCO training impact survey coming soon

What other SENDCO specific CPD would you benefit from? Live Poll

Free self-led online learning

- [Online CPD Units | Whole School SEND 20](#) units under these headings;
- Foundations of inclusive classrooms
- Speech, Language and Communication
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs
- Physical and Sensory
- Cognition and Learning
- Preparation for Adulthood

Training and CPD opportunities

[SEND framework | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

Oxfordshire-specific training is available to help you meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.

- [SENDCO training \(school age\)](#)
- [Early Years SEND Training offer](#)
- [School Support Staff induction tools](#)
- [Oxfordshire SEND CPD offer for all staff](#)
- [Special School Outreach SEND Clinic offer](#)

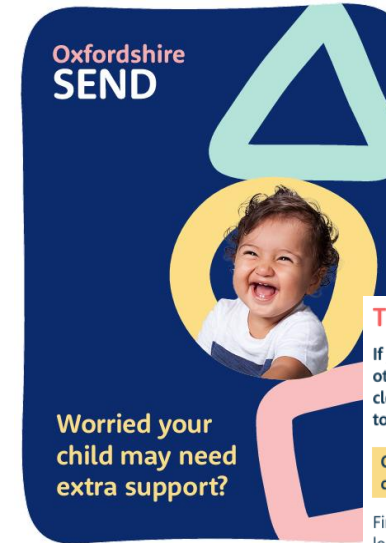
SEND Digital Communications Toolkit

What is the SEND Digital Communications Toolkit?

We have produced a toolkit of resources to help schools, early years settings, health professionals, community organisations and partners **communicate clearly and consistently** about the support available for families, parents, carers, children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire.

The toolkit is relevant for both **online** and **offline** communication, and free physical copies of the material can be ordered online.

Local Offer



The Oxfordshire Local Offer is here to help

If you're noticing your child is finding things harder than others, you're not alone. The Local Offer brings together clear, trusted information to help you understand what to do and where to go for support.

Get help understanding early concerns and your child's needs

Find simple guidance on what to look for, how to spot patterns, and how to talk to your child's school or nursery.

Know what support should look like in school

Learn about SEND Support, reasonable adjustments, and what you can expect from teachers and special educational needs and disabilities coordinators (SENDCOs) – even without a diagnosis. Get clear information on how to find support based on your child's needs.

Understand how health services work

Find out when to talk to your GP or health visitor, how referrals work, and what help is available while waiting.

Explore all SEND support in one place

The Local Offer brings together information on:

- ▶ School and early years support
- ▶ Therapies and health services
- ▶ Social care and short breaks
- ▶ Support for parents and carers including advice, guidance and local activities

Get independent advice when you need it

Find links to SENDIASS (special educational needs and disabilities information, advice and support service) and local parent groups and organisations offering free, impartial guidance and advice.

The Local Offer helps you feel informed, prepared, and supported every step of the way.

Explore support at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/localoffer

SEND Digital Communications Toolkit

The aim of this toolkit is to help families feel **informed**, **reassured** and **supported** from early concerns through to transition.

To access [downloadable information](#) on the support available for families, parents, carers, children and young people with SEND in Oxfordshire, scan below.



To [order free physical copies](#) of leaflets and posters that promote aspects of the Local Offer – scan below.



- 20 pathways were approved in April to commence in Sept 2026. We now have almost 60 pathways in total.
 - 13 primaries/7 secondaries
- We hope to open applications again next academic year. More information will be shared via the SENDCO Bulletin when we have more news.
 - Please sign up directly for the SENDCO bulletin here [Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Since launching in **September 2023**, the **Special School Outreach** service has received **461 referrals** (*April 2026 data*)

Allocation of further funding for this project has now been secured until July 2027.

- **Has your school made a referral?**
- **Could you benefit from using the service again?**
- **Do you know of another school or professional who might benefit from this support?**

The service is here to help schools access specialist advice, guidance, and support to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND. The support from special schools aims to build a bespoke package around the schools needs and may include one or more of the following:

- **Leadership Package:** Developing an inclusive culture in your school, working alongside Senior Leaders to empower staff through lasting cultural change.
- **Key worker development Package:** Support to upskill staff including, but not limited to training, modelling of good practice and developing effective strategies for SEND.

Further details about Special School Outreach and how to make a referral can be found here [Special School Outreach | Oxfordshire Schools](#).

SEND Clinics

The SEND Clinics offer a rich programme of themed sessions designed to support professionals in making meaningful, impactful change in their schools. Clinics are hosted at various locations across Oxfordshire and are available both face-to-face and online. To book a place at a SEND Clinic, schools should contact the delivering school directly. A booking form will be provided during this process and must be completed to confirm attendance. Full details can be found here [SEND Clinics](#). Upcoming SEND Clinics include:

- **Engagement and Interactions for Everyone**
- **Communication supports and approaches, and an insight into the curriculum, adaptations and environments**
- **Maximising the Impact of Support Staff**
- **SEND ready for September**
- **Continuity in the Classroom**

Updates -

Cohorts 3 and 4 have completed the 18 month programme so are now in the implementation stage.

Cohort 5 is at the half-way point.

Cohort 6 is due to start in September, with invitations going to schools on the waitlist.

The waitlist is open for interested schools.

Cohort 7 will potentially start in Spring 2027

For more information on the programme, please visit

[Oxfordshire Relational Schools Programme | Oxfordshire Schools](#)

If you have any questions or would like to join the waitlist, please email

laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk

What updates would you like to have at future SENDCO Briefings?

- Live Poll