


# SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 186  
PAGE 1  
23RD OCTOBER 2023

## Advice and Training for schools



Are you a school that is in need of advice or training to develop your understanding of children and young people's cognition and learning needs?

The Advisory Teachers for Cognition and Learning offer a range of traded activities which are available to order on the [Hub for Education](#). 

If you are a professional who would like to know more about our service then we have organised two online drop ins:

- Tuesday 7th November @ 12-13:00 and 15:15-15:45
- Wednesday 22nd November @ 14:15-14:45

Please email [class@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:class@swindon.gov.uk) specifying your preferred date and we will send you the link.

### Training courses for schools

Next term we have a training opportunity which is available to book through the Hub for Education.

**Title:** Precision Teaching.

**Date:** Monday 6th December 10:30-11:30am online.

**Presenters:** Rachel Williams, Advisory Teacher.

**Venue:** Online.


**Suitable for:** SENCOs, teachers and teaching assistants.

**Content:** This training explains the precision teaching method, giving guidance and tools to implements this successful intervention in your setting.

**DUE TO THE HALF TERM HOLIDAYS, THERE WILL BE NO SEND NEWS SPLASH ON 30TH OCTOBER. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE ON 6TH NOVEMBER.**


### HAVE YOUR SAY



The Whole School SEND Self-evaluation is now live. This survey is for SENCOs, in collaboration with other senior leaders and SEND Governors/Trustees, to complete by the 17th November. To complete this survey please use the following link <https://localoffer.swindon.gov.uk/Wholeschoolsendselvaluation> 

## Annual SEND Survey 2023

The purpose of this survey is to ensure we have a way of annually measuring opinions and experiences of young people, parents and carers who use Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services in Swindon and also the professionals who deliver help, advice and support.

To complete this survey please use the following link <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SENDAnnualSurvey2023/> 



Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8am-5pm and 8am-4:30pm on Friday.



Alternatively, you can email [SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk).



For more information, please [visit the Meet the SEND Service page](#) on the Local Offer.

**Please subscribe to the Local Offer YouTube channel here**



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ISSUE 186

PAGE 1

23RD OCTOBER 2023

## ELSA Top-up Training

Qualified ELSAs are able to develop their skills further through our ELSA top-up training, covering topics bespoke, and exclusive to them following feedback that we receive at the end of every year. In 2022-23, this covered anxiety and school non-attendance. Feedback from both sessions showed high levels of satisfaction, as well as ELSAs' understanding of the topics improving from pre-training to post-training. Following discussions and feedback given in ELSA supervision, this year's topics will be: Trauma Informed Practice (November) and Student Voice (March).

## ELSA Quality Mark

Finally, we are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the ELSA Quality Mark, which is awarded to services demonstrating high quality in their practice and training. Our commitment to evaluating and responding to feedback, as well as providing opportunities for ELSAs to embed their learning into practice, has demonstrated to the ELSA Network the quality of the ELSA offer in Swindon.

If you want to read more about our findings from this year's surveys, [please see the ELSA Evaluation 2022/23 Visual Report](#).

The EPS are looking forward to working with ELSAs again this year, whether welcoming those new to the role or returning ELSAs attending top-up training and supervision. If you would like to learn more about ELSA or have questions specific to our ELSA offer, we have a new email address especially for these enquiries; please get in touch via [ELSA@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:ELSA@swindon.gov.uk).

## ELSA: Supporting Emotional Literacy in Swindon Schools

Swindon's Educational Psychology Service (EPS) has been offering Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) training, as well as supervision for practicing ELSAs, since 2018. Five years on, and this year's evaluation has highlighted the continued value and positive impact on the school experiences of young people that ELSA has. We are excited to continue this provision, and are pleased to share that there are still limited places available on the ELSA initial training course for the course starting in January 2024, as well as a few on our top-up training courses. These can be ordered through the Hub, which will need to be made by 20th November. Below is a brief review of this year's evaluation of ELSA in Swindon:

### ELSA Initial Training

Staff attending ELSA initial training will learn skills to support young people with a range of emotional needs. Some examples include social skills, understanding and managing emotions, and building self-esteem.

Following ELSA training in 2022-23, ELSAs were sent an evaluation from the EPS. We wanted to better understand the effectiveness of the training, as well as gather feedback so we could identify areas for improvement for our next cohort of ELSA trainees. Last year, this feedback had included wanting to focus more on setting SMART outcomes and we are pleased to see that this is something ELSAs found particularly beneficial following this year's training. Feedback from this year has also shown an appreciation for having opportunities to put resources into practice. Following suggestions for improvement, there will be additional guidance this year for ELSAs on how to structure their sessions with pupils.

### ELSA Supervision

For practicing ELSAs, who have already completed the initial training, we also offer ELSA supervision. This is a chance to get support and advice from other ELSAs, facilitated by an Educational Psychologist, which forms an essential part of continued safe practice both for staff well-being and young people.

We also wanted to gather views and evaluate ELSA supervision for 2022-23, and have gathered feedback on what has been working well this year and what improvements could be made. The rationale behind supervision is reflected in the feedback, with ELSAs agreeing that they had a clear understanding of the purpose of ELSA supervision, considering it a safe and reflective space in which they could ask questions or share concerns.

**[Please subscribe to the Local Offer YouTube channel here](#)**

