

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 200
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Travel transformation

There has been a lot of changes in SEND Travel. New travel hubs were formed (North and South), to help eligible children and young people with SEND get to and from school. A new team was created called Independent Travel Training, providing travel training to eligible young people, where appropriate, to encourage independence and valuable life skills. Also, a weekly travel panel was introduced to consider:

- New requests that have a significant financial impact
- Any changes to travel that have a financial impact
- Deep dive of the top 20 high cost packages of travel, EHCP Co-ordinators are invited to attend panel for these slots
- Deep dive of travel routes to consider efficiencies

For more information on SEND travel assistance please click on the following Local Offer link:
https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20203/travel_assistance

Celebrating

200



Issues of the SEND News Splash

A message from the Head of SEND, Lisa Savage

Welcome to the 200th Issue of News Splash, the weekly SEND newsletter asked for by you. Who can believe that there have been 200 editions of this weekly newsletter. That's 200 week's worth of information which equates to around 4 years! So much has happened in this space during that time, far too many highlights to mention them all, but our wonderful editor Andrew Myrie, our Local Offer Officer has been delving into our archives to highlight some of the successes here in Swindon. We are always keen to improve further and ensure that you receive the information that you need, if you have any ideas for further improvements please email LocalOffer@Swindon.gov.uk. We hope that you enjoy a brief reminder of some of the successes we have achieved working together.

Conference for SEND Strategic Leaders

This annual event, hosted at Swindon's STEAM museum, started in June 2022 and has grown in popularity ever since.

The conference brings together colleagues from across the sector: School SEND Leaders, SENDCos, SEND Governors, SEND Support Services, Local Authority officers and national representatives. Also, internal and external services that are available for Swindon's residents and professionals are available at the conference's 'market place.' This is where attendees can find out what work our SEND services are doing in the community and is also a great way to network.

In 2023, the theme of the conference was mental health. Speakers and activities were based around providing a better understanding of the mental health issues that are impacting upon our children and young people in schools, as well as our own mental health.

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200 Issues OF SEND NEWS

The SEND News Splash started with issue one on October 4th 2019. Each issue has aimed to provide up to date information on news and services affecting the SEND community in Swindon.

Issue 16 saw us improving communication to the SEND Team with the launch of our telephone helpline for two days a week in 2019 and each week day in 2020.

In issue 51 we launched the SEND Portal, a digital way of working, involving the child and their family in the process of their EHCP plan as well as providing effective multi-agency working.

In issue 76 we announced that the SEND News Splash, after feedback from our parent/carers, would be introducing a monthly edition, called the Monthly SEND News Splash.

Issue 100 was a special edition of the News Splash as we announced that the October 2021 OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) and CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection resulted in the inspectors finding that sufficient progress had been made in all eight areas since the 2018 inspection, and the weaknesses that were identified had been addressed and improved upon despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is of course only a small sample of the great work that has been promoted in this newsletter and will continue to be promoted for another 200 issues.



Changing Places Facilities at Lydiard, Coate and the outlet

Two new accessible toilets were opened in November 2023 at Coate Water and Lydiard Park thanks to a grant of £100,000.

The Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) are larger accessible toilets for children, young people and adults who cannot use standard accessible toilets, and feature equipment such as hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, and space for carers.

The funding, from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Changing Places toilets fund, has also been used to provide similar facilities at Swindon Designer Outlet, which is in the process of being delivered.

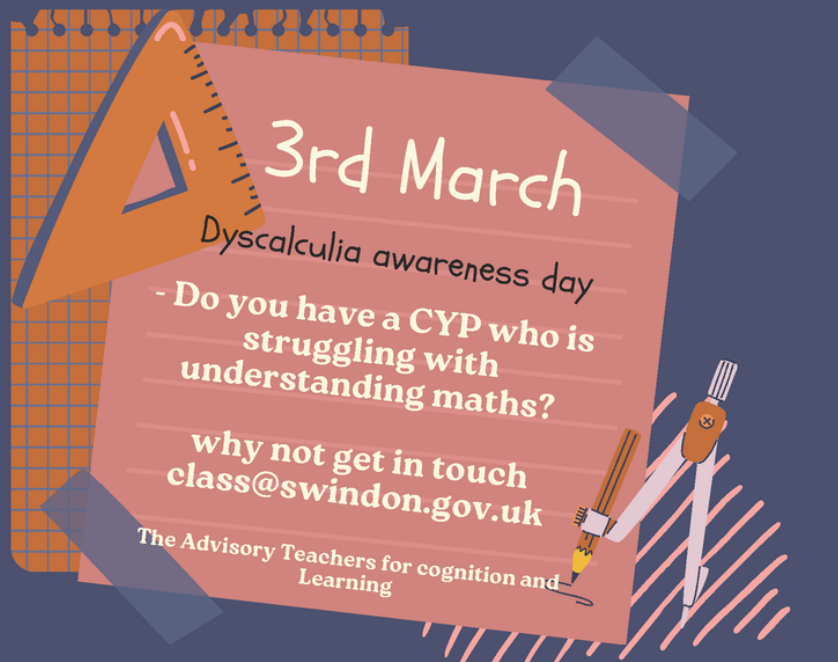
The awards kept coming in 2023!!

In 2023, Delivering Better Value provided us with an opportunity to secure a grant allocation of one million pounds that will support the delivery of a SEND training programme and National Inclusion Award to all schools in Swindon .

Swindon were also awarded the joint lead role for the South West Region for the Change Partnership Programme (CPP) with Gloucestershire. The CPP is a national programme to test some of the changes the Government wants to make to the system for supporting children and young people with SEND.

Also on 2nd March 2023 the Government published the SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan Right Support, Right Place, Right Time.

This paper proposes a number of reforms to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system.



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