

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

NEWSLETTER



Our Mission

We are an ambitious and inclusive Church of England School, dedicated to ensuring all students live life to the full.

Welcome to the SEND newsletter for Summer 2026.
In this issue you will find information about SEND issues, with a particular focus on autism.

Are you were aware of Autism Central?

It's an NHS England-funded service for families and supporters of autistic people and it offers thousands of online support sessions for families and supporters of autistic people.

Autism Central, delivered by Anna Freud, a mental health charity for children, young people and families, provides peer support nationally and now offers 7,000 one-to-one and 1,000 group support sessions every year.

There are lots of sessions for parents and carers. Here's a link to their website: [Autism Central - England's Peer Education Programme](#) | [Autism Central](#)
The website is an amazing resource.



Resources

Watch videos and animations, read opinions and experiences in our blog, listen to real stories and honest conversations in the podcast.



One-to-one coaching

Confidential and personalised peer coaching from trained peer guides with lived or family experience.



Group learning

Join a free online event including virtual meet-ups, education family guide sessions and reflective sessions.

Invitation to join a PPIE group supporting PhD research on RSE and autism

We have been asked to share the following invitation from **Kirstin Williams**, a PhD researcher at the University of Plymouth and Deputy Headteacher/SENDCo within the Ted Wragg Trust. Kirstin is recruiting volunteers for a **Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) group** to support her research on autistic young people's experiences of Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) in mainstream schools.

She is seeking volunteers from the following groups:

1. **Autistic young adults (18–25)** – diagnosed, on a waiting list, or self-identified, with experience of RSE in a mainstream English school
2. **Parents/carers of autistic children in Years 5–11** – diagnosed, on a waiting list, or parent-identified

The group will meet **online 5–6 times between Oct 2026 and April 2030** (dates/times agreed collectively). No prior research experience is needed.

Anyone interested can contact: kirstin.williams@postgrad.plymouth.ac.uk



This summer, **Active Devon** is shining a spotlight on fun, inclusive activities happening across the county – helping children and young people of all abilities get active, try something new, and feel part of their community.

Through the Active Champs programme, Active Devon is working with physical activity and leisure providers across Devon to better understand the barriers faced by children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). They are supporting providers to make practical changes that create welcoming, inclusive environments where every young person can feel confident, connected, and able to take part.

This work forms part of Devon Children's Services' development of **Universal and Universal+ Short Breaks**.

So why not take a look at the free **Devon Connect hub** and discover the wide range of inclusive sessions, activities and opportunities available in your local area this summer? From swimming and sports to outdoor adventures, there's something for everyone to enjoy.



Parent Forum

Every term we hold a SEND Parent Forum. This is an informal chance to come and chat with our SENCO and other parents, and explore one aspect of SEND in a little more depth. In the past year we have considered sleep difficulties, mental health, what is 'typical' for teenagers, and support services for parents. Please keep a look out for next year's dates and times.



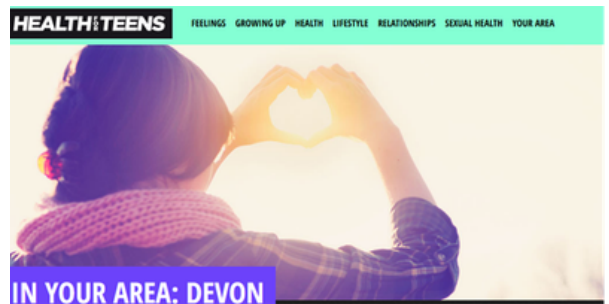
Health for Kids and Teens

Health for kids – a new website for health needs:

www.healthforkids.co.uk/devon

And for teens:

<https://www.healthforteens.co.uk/devon/>



Additional Help

You can always access free, impartial and confidential help about SEND issues through DIAS.

<https://devonias.org.uk/> <tel:441392383080> devonias@devon.gov.uk

For Wellbeing Support and also to find our One Minute Guides to SEND and also Early Help, please visit our website page.

<https://stlukescofe.school/send/>

