



IAS Newsletter - March 2026

Hello from a very busy IAS office. This academic year we have had our busiest September, November, December and February on record, and second busiest October and January!

The small glimpses of spring sunshine are most welcome, and are keeping us going - roll on Spring!

We wanted to take the opportunity to recognise that the recent SEND Reform and White paper proposals may be unsettling for the families we work with and we are reading through the consultation paperwork ourselves. We want to reassure parents, carers, and young people that there are no immediate changes. From now until new legislation begins, the current SEND system, including all existing duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, remains in place.

We will endeavour to keep you up to date through this period of consultation and the next steps involved for all. We have collated some useful links below regarding the White paper and would suggest that you keep up to date with reliable sources of information such as the Independent Provider of Special Educational Advice I.P.S.E.A and The National Council for Disabled Children (CDC).

It is really important you have your say on the consultation and details of how to do this are below. We are working on adding a page to our website to put all the White paper information on - so do check in with it when you can.

Best wishes,

Donna, Jean, Kate , Lucy and Millie

IAS RBWM Coffee Morning & Information Sessions for 2026



Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Information, Advice and Support Service for children, young people and parents

Thursday 12th March
Online Session 1230-1345

ONLINE SESSION: EDUCATION HEALTH CARE (EHC) NEEDS ASSESSMENTS EXPLAINED



An explanation of the process of applying for an Education Health Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) and what happens if the Local Authority agree to issue an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

Book a free place via www.ias-rbwm.info or via QR code



Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Information, Advice and Support Service for children, young people and parents

Wednesday 25th March

Alternative Provision, Section 19, Education Welfare Service & ERSA

Coffee from 9.30am, info session 10-11am
Riverside Family Hub,(Family Room)
West Dean, Maidenhead SL6 7JB



Join the IAS team, Education Welfare Service & Social Emotional Mental Health team to discuss Alternative Provision, Section 19 of the SEN Code of Practice, the Emotionally Related School Avoidance Code of Practice and the support the EWO service can provide.

Book your free place via QR code or www.ias-rbwm.info/events



Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

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Visit our Events page on our Website

An animated series: See lived SEND experiences

Behind every child or young person's diagnosis, every school meeting, and every busy morning routine, there is a story that often goes unheard.

To highlight the day-to-day experiences of families with children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), teams from Achieving for Children collaborated directly with parents and carers from **SEND Voices RBWM**, the parent carer forum for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, to co-produce three short animations.

Whether you are a fellow parent looking for solidarity or a professional looking to better understand the families you serve, these films offer a window into the heart of the SEND experience.



Understanding Autism 11th March - Online 10-11am

Are you at the start of your child's SEN journey, or looking to better understand autism? Join Witherslack's free webinar with Anne-Marie Harrison, Education Director at Ideas Afresh, as she unpacks the autism spectrum. Discover practical insights, celebrate their unique strengths, and gain tips to support your child's growth and confidence.

Supporting parents & carers



Date: Wednesday 11th March



Time: 10am - 11am

In this webinar, Anne-Marie will:

- ✓ Explain the meaning of 'spectrum' and how the commonly used rainbow visualisation illustrates the wide range of traits and experiences within an autistic profile.
- ✓ Explore the diagnostic criteria
- ✓ Highlight the skills and positive traits your child may also demonstrate

[Register Your Free Place here](#)

Inclusion Ambassadors

For young people 11-18years old in RBWM.

Do you want to make a difference in your school and community?

Is inclusion for all important to you?

Do you want to make sure the voice of all children and young people is heard?

Then being an 'Inclusion Ambassador' is for you - find out more this weekend with **FREE PIZZA!**

<https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/young-people-s-participation/inclusion-ambassadors>

INCLUSION COMES FIRST • HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD • THE DIFFERENCE STARTS WITH YOU

RBWM INCLUSION AMBASSADORS INCLUSION ACTIVITY DAY



Saturday 14 March

11am to 2pm

Windsor Family Centre Hub

Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3HD

11 to 19 year olds

Come along to listen to **GUEST SPEAKERS**, workshops to have your voice heard, do **fun activities** and have **free pizzas**.



FREE TO ATTEND the event, but you must book on via this form [RBWM/AfC Inclusion Activity Day 2026](#)



People can contact Elaine Keating on elaine.keating@achievingforchildren.org.uk for more information.



Schools white paper and SEND reform consultation

The government has recently outlined its vision through the **schools white paper, 'every child achieving and thriving'**. This proposes a package to reset and reform support for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The **Council for Disabled Children** (CDC) will be delivering a series of online consultation conversation events to discuss the SEND consultation paper in more detail. We will share this information on our **Linkedin** and update this (<https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/work-us/events-training/events-training-calendar/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people>) page when these events are available to book.

I.P.S.E.A has a webpage - What you need to know regarding the reforms
<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/Pages/Category/schools-white-paper-what-you-need-to-know>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/specialist-send-support-in-every-school-and-community>

You will find up to date information via social media channels for the following organisations:

I.P.S.E.A - <https://www.facebook.com/IPSEAcharity>

Council Disabled Children - <https://www.facebook.com/councilfordisabledchildren>

Contact a Family - <https://www.facebook.com/contactfamilies>

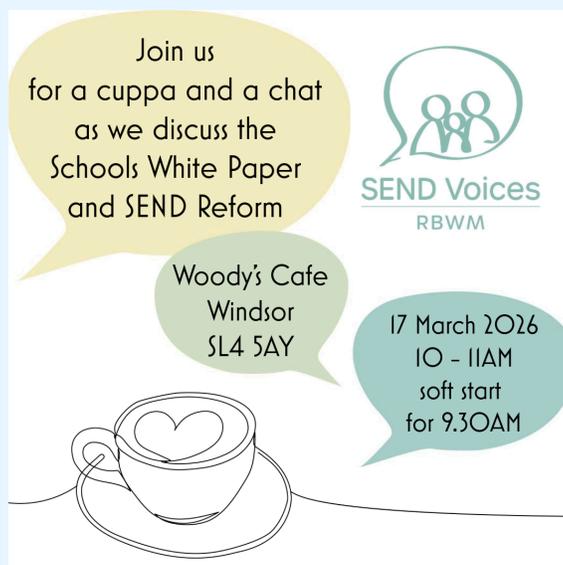
SEND LEGAL ROUNDTABLE on the implications of the Schools White Paper's SEND Proposals.

I.P.S.E.A are pleased to be joining Special Needs Jungle for a webinar exploring the proposed SEND reforms in the Schools White Paper and what they would mean for children, young people and families on Monday 23rd March 7-9pm.

Kate Cox from IPSEA's legal team will be on the panel to discuss the implications and help answer your questions.

Register here: <https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/register-now-schools-white-paper-send-legal-roundtable>

SEND Voices RBWM White Paper & SEND Reform coffee morning



Barriers to school: can't go not won't go

Wednesday 25 March
10am to 12pm Online

This workshop will cover:

- What emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA) is
- Recognising potential early signs in our children
- Exploring strategies to support our children
- Encouraging questions and sharing experiences

[Book the barriers to school workshop here](#)



Teens and Tweens

Online
Thursday 23 April
7.30pm to 9.30pm Online

Understanding and responding to the changes and challenges of parenting and caring for teenagers on the autism spectrum.
Hosted by The Autism Group

[Book the teens and tweens session here](#)



Empowering Calm

Wednesday May 13
10 am to 12 pm Online

Hosted by The Autism Group:

Understanding and responding to distressed behaviour in autistic young people with the aims being; To understand physical responses to anxiety, distress and overwhelm.
To explore what this might look like and think about who is challenging who!
To learn some strategies to try to help

Book here:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/empowering-calm-tickets-1541216543169?aff=oddtcreator>



SEND Voices RBWM

SEND Voices RBWM is the parent carer forum for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. They are an independent group of parents and carers who have a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities, up to the age of 25, living or accessing services across RBWM. Membership is free and open to all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND who are residents or educated in the borough. To become a member or for more info, get in touch by email info@svrbwm.org.uk or [visit their newly launched website.](#)



ADHD Course

A 3-week course

Online:

Wednesday 15th, 22nd, & 29th April 2026 7-9pm

Hosted by Parenting Special Children:

Topics Covered

What is ADHD? Challenges & concerns. Strengths and opportunities.

Learn to understand children's anxiety and how this relates to ADHD.

Gain an understanding of attention deficit behaviours & how to manage these.

Booking link :

<https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/adhd-course-berkshire-east-april-2026/>

Managing Anxiety

Online:

Wednesday 10th June 2026
10-12noon

What to do when worries take over. Looking at what causes anxiety & some tried & tested strategies to tackle it.

Booking link :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/managing-anxiety-tickets-1541098209229?aff=oddtcreator>

If this is not what you are looking for, please look at our website for more information, please note most workshops/courses are either fully booked, waiting for a new date or have limited spaces available.

<https://www.gems4health.com/workshops/>

We do have a variety of demand support which is accessible directly from our website and available 24/7.

<https://www.gems4health.com/about-adhd/>

- <https://www.gems4health.com/about-autism/>

- <https://www.gems4health.com/learn-more/>

- <https://www.gems4health.com/gems->



IAS RBWM | Riverside Family Hub West Dean, Maidenhead | Maidenhead, SL6 7JB GB

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