

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 217
TUESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2024

National Colour Blind Awareness Day

September 6th is National Colour Blind Awareness Day. Colour blind people are unable to fully 'see' red, green or blue light. In the more extremely rare cases people are unable to see any colour at all.

Worldwide, there are estimated to be about 300 - 350 million people with colour blindness, almost the same number of people as the entire population of the USA! That also equals approximately 4.5% of the worldwide population.

To learn more about colour blindness visit:

<https://www.colourblindawareness.org/colour-blindness/>



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month 2024. An annual event created to raise funding, support and awareness of childhood cancers for sufferers of childhood cancer and the impact that has on their families.

This year's theme is a 'Month of Movement' and it aims to encourage people to move more for the month of September and raise funds as they go.

Some forms of cancer are mainly or exclusively only seen in children. Also children can be more resilient to cancer and cancer treatments than adults. Both facts are highlighted by this awareness month.

For more information visit the [Childhood Cancer and Leukaemia Group website](#)



Dingley's Promise Parent Representative Roles

DINGLEY'S PROMISE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE VOICE OF PARENTS AND CARERS ARE CENTRAL IN THE DESIGN AND DELIVERY OF THIS PROJECT. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE HAVE DESIGNED A SUPPORTIVE AND REWARDING ROLE WHICH INVOLVES:

- ACTING AS YOUR LOCAL AREA PARENT REPRESENTATIVE IN A LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP WHICH WILL MEET TWICE IN YEAR ONE, AND ANNUALLY IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS.
- COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PARENT / CARER REPRESENTATIVES ACROSS THE COUNTRY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A PARENT BOARD WHICH WILL MEET QUARTERLY.
- REPRESENTING THE VIEWS OF PARENTS AND CARERS ON OUR NATIONAL STEERING GROUP WHICH WILL MEET TWICE A YEAR.

INTERESTED?

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR LOCAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP HERE IN SWINDON, PLEASE CONTACT ALI SHAW FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: EYQITEAM@SWINDON.GOV.UK



Contact the SEND Service

- 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.
- 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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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 wellbeing and young people.

We also wanted to gather views and evaluate ELSA supervision for 2023-24, 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.

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 2023-24, this covered Pupil-Voice and Being Trauma Informed. Feedback from both sessions showed high levels of satisfaction and 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: ACES and Resilience (November) and DNA-V (March).

Line-Managers Information Session

This year, we introduced a line-managers information session for the first time. Feedback highlighted knowledge of the role and confidence in supporting ELSAs had both increased and the attendee's satisfaction of the session received an average score of 9.4 out of 10. We were pleased to find 64% of line-managers rated the ELSA's impact at their school as an 8 or above out of 10. We hope to continue to offer a similar session in the upcoming year.

ELSA Quality Mark

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we continue to hold 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.

This year's findings will appear on the Local Offer, to see previous results visit the following page:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20195/education/1395/emotional_literacy_support_assistant_elsa_reports

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 an email address especially for these enquiries; please get in touch via 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. Six years on, this year's evaluation has highlighted the continued value and positive impact that ELSA has had on the school experiences of young people. We are excited to continue this provision. We are pleased to share that there are still limited places available on the ELSA initial training course for the course starting in February 2025, as well as a few on our top-up training courses. These can be ordered through the Hub for Education and will be open until October half term. Hopefully you will have received our email that the dates for initial training have been moved and will be commencing on Wednesday 12th February. If changes need to be made to a delegate's name or details, this can be done via the Hub for Education.

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 2023-24, 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. This year, ELSAs highlighted they were very satisfied with the course, giving it an average rating of 9.4 out of 10. Last year, feedback included wanting more resources to be shared and we are pleased to see the use of Microsoft Teams for each cohort has facilitated this. However, feedback highlighted some challenges accessing documents through this medium. Following this feedback, plans to create a resource sharing platform for ELSAs are underway. This year, we saw an increased number of Secondary ELSAs on our training – which was a new and pleasing development. If this trend continues, this will be held in mind for future training.