

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 269 MONDAY 11 MAY 2026

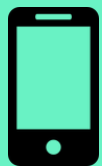
Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week takes place from 11th to 17th of May. It is an annual campaign to encourage conversations about mental well being, reduce stigma and promote support for everyone. This week aims to remind people that mental health is just as important as physical health and that support is available for those who may be struggling.

BBC Children In Need have compiled resources which can be used in classrooms to support activities and discussions around mental health. To view these click [here](#).

To find out more about Mental Health Awareness Week or get involved click [here](#).

Contact the SEND Service



Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641
Lines are open Monday to Thursday
9am-5pm and 9am-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 -

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20208/what_is_the_local_offer/1462/meet_the_send_service

Events:



SEND Family Fun Evening,
Swindon SEND Families Voice
are running a SEND Family Fun
Evening for 6-10 year olds.

To book a place email:
swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

Location: Jungle Kingdom Soft
Play, Swindon, SN25 5AY

Date: Tuesday 26th May 6 -
8pm

SEND Family Fun Evening,
Swindon SEND Families Voice
are running a SEND Family Fun
Evening for 11-16 year olds.

To book a place email:
swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

Location: Trampoline Park,
The Link Centre, Swindon, SN5
7DL

Date: Friday 29th May 5 - 6pm



Breakfast catch-up

For parents and carers of
children with SEND

Tuesday 12th May 2026
from 9.30am onwards at
Toby Carvery, Abbey
Meads, Swindon, SN25
4YX



Check out our useful bite-sized
videos on the **Local Offer YouTube
channel.**

<https://www.youtube.com/@swindonlocaloffer5364>
Subscribe for free and give your feedback.

SEND and AP Change Programme Evaluation

We recently contacted you about a follow-up survey being completed as part of the SEND and AP Change Programme evaluation. The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned BMG to carry out an independent follow-up survey to understand the experiences and views of education settings in local areas participating in the SEND and AP Change Programme. The evaluation is being carried out by three organisations: ICF, BMG and Fortia Insight. Some settings may have taken part in a similar survey last year. This follow-up survey is an opportunity to share your updated experiences over the past 12 months, including any changes in inclusive practice, access to support, and partnership working.

The closing date for this survey is 22nd May 2026, and we would be very grateful if you, or the member of staff with responsibility for SEND and/or AP provision (for example, the SENCO), could take part before it closes. You can access it using this link: <https://surveys.bmgresearch.com/wix/p787050355804.aspx>

If you are not the most appropriate person to respond, please do pass this invitation on to the relevant colleague in your school or setting (for example, the SENCO or equivalent lead).

Swindon's Assistive Technology Lending Library

Swindon's Assistive Technology Lending Library is an exciting pilot project designed to provide children and young people with SEND access to a range of technologies that support and enhance learning. The next trial will run from the 18th of May until the 8th/16th of July, giving schools throughout Swindon the opportunity to explore assistive technology through a 'try before you buy approach'.

Schools can borrow a range of equipment including: laptops, iPads, reader pens, visualisers, headphones and specialist equipment such as Dragon dictation and Read & Write. The technology focuses on improving reading and writing skills.

Evidence from the Assistive Technology Test and Learn evaluation (IFF Research, Department for Education, September 2024) indicates that the use of assistive technology in schools has positive benefits for pupils with SEND.

To read more about the Assistive Technology Lending Library click [here](#).

If you would like your school to partake in the library email SENDInclusion@swindon.gov.uk

Parent Workshops

The Swindon Educational Psychology Service are running a series of free online parent workshops. The workshops are aimed at parents and carers of children and young people and focus on themes that are frequently raised by families, including sleep, anxiety, online safety, school attendance, exam stress and transitions. They are designed to be supportive, practical and accessible.

Helping your child to attend school regularly

Friday 15th May, 10am–12pm

This session explores why regular school attendance is important and the common causes of emotional-based school avoidance. The session will also cover practical strategies to support your child.

Helping your child through school transitions

Friday 22nd May, 10am–12pm

The session explores school transitions, their emotional impact on children, and how anxiety can affect this. Parents will learn useful practical strategies to help their child coping positively with this transition.

To request a place call 01793 466482 or email acl@swindon.gov.uk