



News & updates

1



DSPL5 & DSPL6 Conference: Belonging and Well-being

Booking now open!

Join us on Thursday 24th September, 9.00am-3.30pm for an inspiring day: keynote speakers Adrian Bethune and Dr Emma Kell, workshops, networking and stands.

See flyer for more info and book your place [here](#).



DSPL Satisfaction Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey from the LA to evidence the work that we do.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/587Z3M/>

Thank you for your support!



New Referral Forms

Autism & ADHD referral forms:

Please make sure you are using the correct links and forms for Autism and/or ADHD assessments. Any old forms (pre December 2024) will not be accepted after June.

The correct forms and links can be found on the local offer and The Grid:

[Getting a referral for a child or young person's autism and/ or ADHD assessment](#)

[The Grid - Autism and ADHD Referrals](#)

SALT Guidelines and referral forms:

On 13th July 2026, the CYPT Speech & Language Therapy Service will be launching updated referral guidelines and a new referral form.

Please access these via the [Speech and Language therapy webpage](#) from the 13th July 2026.

If you have any queries about this, you are able to contact your local Education Leads at hct.watfordsltdleads@nhs.net



2026-27 KEY DATES



DSPL5 & DSPL6 Conference

Belonging & Well-being

24th September, 9am - 3.30pm
The Fielder Centre, Hatfield Business
Park



HfL County SEND Briefings In person, 9.30am – 11.30am

Autumn 2026: 19th November 2026

Spring 2027: 10th March 2027

Summer 2027: 24th June 2027

*Cranborne Primary School Laurel Fields,
Potters Bar, EN6 2BA*



Local SENCO Meetings – In person, 9.30am – 11.00am

Tuesday 29 th Sept 2026	Cowley Hill Primary School	<i>Before the Borehamwood FIF Cluster at 11.00am</i>
Thursday 26 th Nov 2026	Cranborne Primary School	<i>Before the Potters Bar FIF Cluster at 11.00am</i>
Tuesday 19 th January 2027	Cowley Hill Primary School	<i>Before the Borehamwood FIF Cluster at 11.00am</i>
Thursday 4 th March 2027	Cranborne Primary School	<i>Before the Potters Bar FIF Cluster at 11.00am</i>



TA Academy Online, 1.30pm – 3pm (see flyer for booking links)

13th October: Demand Avoidance
18th November: Reintegration to the
classroom

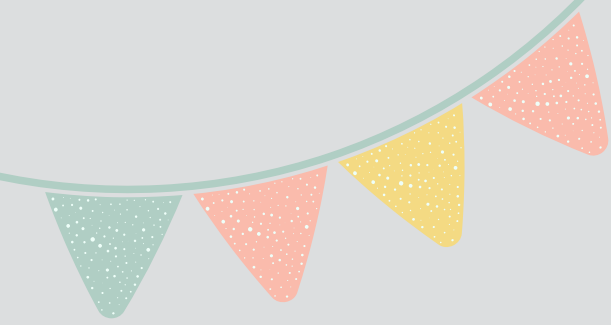
20th January: Executive Functioning
10th March: Engaging non-verbal
learners

21st April: Sensory Circuits
Date TBC: Fostering independence



Focused Intervention Funding: Cluster meetings and panel dates 2026-27

BOREHAMWOOD	Tuesday 29 th September 2026	Monday 5 th October 2026
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 1 st October 2026	
BOREHAMWOOD	Wednesday 25 th November 2026	Tuesday 1 st December 2026
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 26 th November 2026	
BOREHAMWOOD	Tuesday 19 th January 2027	Monday 1 st February 2027
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 21 st January 2027	
BOREHAMWOOD	Tuesday 2 nd March 2027	Monday 8 th March 2027
POTTERS BAR	Thursday 4 th March 2027	



We'd like to say
a very

big



**to everyone involved in the amazing work that we do
together, it's been an incredible year!**



to those moving on to
new roles and
opportunities!
We wish you success and
happiness!



We look forward to working with those who
are new in post or new to our area.
Please get in touch, we look forward to
meeting you!



DSPL6

Delivering Special
Provision Locally

Training & events in our area...



For
professionals



TA Academy Training Offer 26/27

All training sessions will be online
1.30pm - 3pm

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Tuesday 13th October - Demand Avoidance

BOOK NOW >>

Wednesday 18th November - Reintegration to the
classroom

BOOK NOW >>

SPRING TERM 2027

Wednesday 20th January - Executive Functioning Skills

BOOK NOW >>

Wednesday 10th March - Engaging non-verbal learners

BOOK NOW >>

SUMMER TERM 2027

Wednesday 21st April - Sensory Circuits

BOOK NOW >>

Summer 2 TBC - Fostering Independence

BOOK NOW >>

DSPL5

DSPL6

Delivering Special
Provision Locally

2026 CONFERENCE: BELONGING AND WELL-BEING

THURSDAY
24 SEPTEMBER

9.00 - 3.30
AM PM



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



ADRIAN BETHUNE

*Primary teacher, well-being nerd,
award-winning author and founder
of Teachappy.*

*Adrian's work is grounded in the
belief that happier teachers teach
better and happier children learn
better.*



DR EMMA KELL

*Director of Those That Can Ltd,
qualified performance coach,
author and speaker.*

*Emma has 26 years of experience as
a teacher and leader in UK secondary
schools and currently teaches in
Hertfordshire.*



PLUS...

Conference workshops:
including staff well-being,
Early Years and Inclusion Hub
best practice.

Networking and stands
Refreshments and lunch

[Click here to book
your place!](#)



The Fielder Centre
Hatfield Business Park
AL10 9TP



AGORA
LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Journeys Academy



Scheduled to open in Autumn 2026, Journeys Academy is a brand-new purpose-built specialist setting which will offer 60 places for primary-aged children with complex communication and autism needs. Delivered in partnership with The Agora Learning Partnership and Hertfordshire County Council, Journeys Academy will provide a high-quality learning environment tailored to meet individual needs

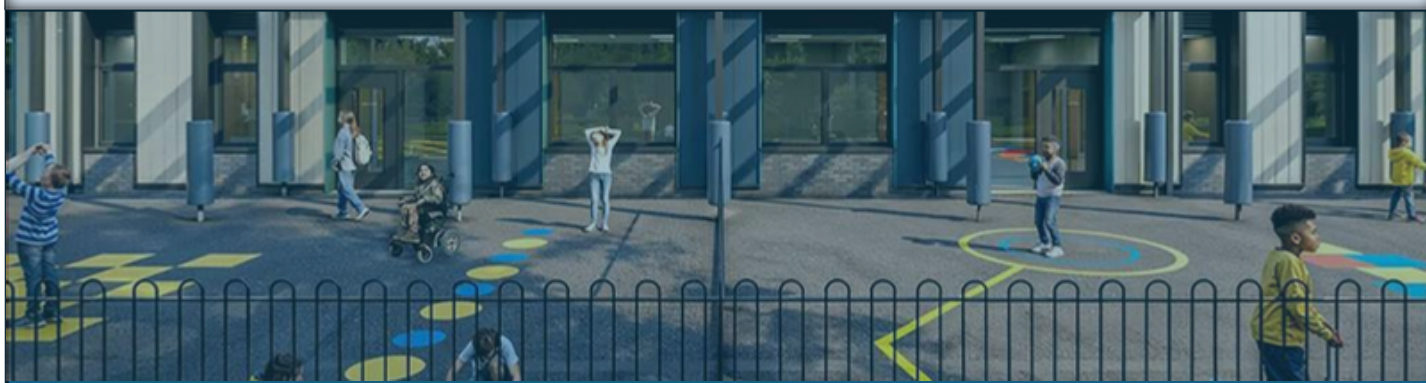
The school building features 10 modern classrooms alongside a range of specialist facilities (including individual calm rooms, spaces for practical activities, a dedicated sensory room, and a soft play area) The layout has been thoughtfully designed to promote independence and collaboration, with learning spaces flowing into outdoor areas.

The Journeys Academy Curriculum will allow pupils to access the National Curriculum with significant personalised adaptations whilst also creating time to prioritise social and emotional development, interest led learning and life-skill development.

Our admissions criteria is as follows:

- Children with an EHCP who demonstrate the cognitive ability to work at or above Age Related Expectations (ARE)
- Children who experience barriers to their learning and a feeling of difference, resulting in an inability to access learning in a mainstream setting
- Children who may show behaviours that are challenging as a result of their needs, ranging from disengagement to anxiety meltdowns. Experience shows us that with the right changes in environment, children and young people are often able to settle and re-engage in learning
- Children who usually find the mainstream environment highly overwhelming, which may be linked to sensory processing difficulties

Places at Journeys Academy will be allocated through Hertfordshire County Council SEND panel process.





Early Years Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Drop-In Sessions.

DSPL 6 & 9–Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere

Virtual DROP-IN SESSIONS for Early Years settings in **AUTUMN '26** with Dominique Johnson, an Early Years Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Specialist to offer guidance and advice for a range of topics including:

- Emotional Wellbeing
- Behaviour
- Attachment and Relationships
- Transitions and Routines
- Social and Emotional Development
- Self-Regulation

To access this service, please click on the preferred date to book a 30-minute MS Teams time slot. Once in the booking system, please access the calendar and click on your chosen date which will then give you available time slots.

Available times

✓ You are available

2025 September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Today

Wednesday, September 17

09:35	✓
10:05	✓
10:35	✓
11:05	✓
11:35	✓
12:05	✓

Next >

[Book time with Dominique Johnson: EWB drop in Monday 14th September 2026](#)

[Book time with Dominique Johnson: EWB drop in Thursday 1st October 2026](#)

[Book time with Dominique Johnson: EWB drop in Tuesday 13th October 2026](#)

[Book time with Dominique Johnson: EWB drop in Thursday 12th November 2026](#)

[Book time with Dominique Johnson: EWB drop in Tuesday 24th November 2026](#)

[Book time with Dominique Johnson: EWB drop in Monday 7th December 2026](#)

Please complete a single service request form if you want to discuss individual children as parental consent is required. (Select EY SEND and state on the form that it's the EY EWB drop-in session that you require).

[Hertfordshire Service Request Form - Children and young people](#)

If you are requesting general Emotional wellbeing and Behaviour advice for your cohort, then a single Service request is not required.

Any questions, please email me directly at
Dominique.Johnson@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Hertfordshire Autism Training



Free Training for Early Career Teachers Only!

This training is whole day and in person at Hertfordshire Development Centre in Stevenage, please register for a space using the link below.

Level 2: Autism in Schools

The aims of the training are:

- To dispel myths and to challenge stereotypes.
- To develop a deeper understanding of Autism.
- To better understand the day-to-day experience of autistic children & young people
- To be equipped with tools to support.

Thursday 12th November 2026

9am –3:30pm

To register for a place please use the link below:

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-for-ect-level-2-autism-in-schools-ects-only-12th-november-2026>

**Suitable for those teaching in primary or secondary; in mainstream,
Educational Support Centres or special schools**

Hertfordshire Autism Training

We are offering a day of 'catch up' Level 2 HAT training
Tuesday 10th November
9am – 3:30pm



For new staff in your School only!

This will be appropriate for any new members of staff in schools who have previously had whole school HAT training, to ensure all staff, have the knowledge and skills to support autistic children and young people.

This training is whole day and in person at Hertfordshire Development Centre in Stevenage, please register for a space using the link below.

Level 2: Autism in Schools

The aims of the training are:

- To dispel myths and to challenge stereotypes.
- To develop a deeper understanding of Autism.
- To better understand the day-to-day experience of autistic children.
- To be equipped with tools to support.

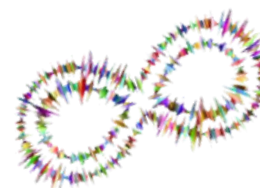
Suitable for those working in primary or secondary in mainstream, Educational Support Centres or Special School who are **new to working in a school which has previously had whole school delivery of Level 2 HAT Autism in Schools Training.**

To register for a place please use the link below:

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-level-2-catch-up-training-10th-november-2026>

AutismTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Level 3: Autism 'Lite Bites'



Tuesday 29th September 2026

- Each session lasts 30 minutes.
- Register by using the links or QR codes provided in this flyer

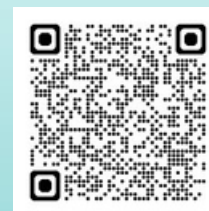
Sensory Circuits

The aims of the training are:

- To recognise what sensory circuits are.
- To understand when to use sensory circuits.

Tuesday 29th September 09:15am - 09:45am

Please register here: <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-sensory-circuits-29th-september-2026-0915am>



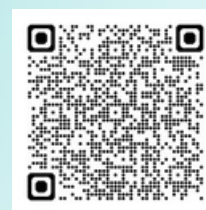
Structured Teaching Approaches

The aims of the training are:

- To recognise why structured teaching is important for autistic children & young people/those with social communication differences.
- To understand how to implement structured teaching in everyday learning.

Tuesday 29th September 10am to 10:30am

Please register here: <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-structured-teaching-approaches-29th-september-202610am>



- ✓ Available to those employed in Hertfordshire mainstream or special schools, or any Hertfordshire Early Years setting.
- ✓ Suitable for practitioners working with children of any age, where these interventions are developmentally appropriate

Level 3: Autism 'Lite Bites'



Thursday 1st October 2026

- Each session lasts 30 minutes.
- Register by using the links or QR codes provided in this flyer

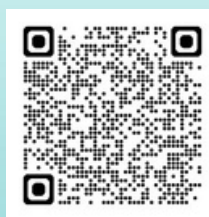
Masking

The aims of the training are:

- To develop an understanding of what masking is and how it may present in relation to neurodivergence
- To understand the impact of masking on day-to-day and long term well being

Thursday 1st October 2026 09:15am to 09:45am

Please register here: <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-masking-1st-october-2026>



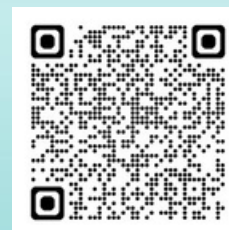
Comic Strip Conversations

The aims of the training are:

- What are Comic Strip Conversations?
- Who would benefit from using Comic Strip Conversations?
- To have a range of ideas and resources to support using Comic Strip Conversations

Thursday 1st October 2026 10am to 10:30am

Please register here: <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-comic-strip-conversations-1st-october-2026>



- ✓ Available to those employed in Hertfordshire mainstream or special schools, or any Hertfordshire Early Years setting.
- ✓ Suitable for practitioners working with children of any age, where these interventions are developmentally appropriate

Level 3: Autism 'Lite Bites'

Tuesday 13th October 2026

- Each session lasts 30 minutes.
- Register by using the links or QR codes provided in this flyer



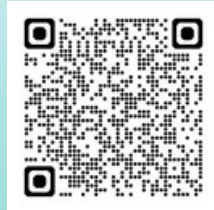
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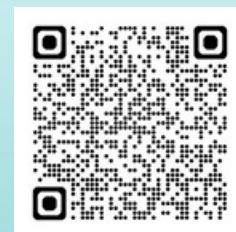
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- To have a range of ideas and resources to support using Comic Strip Conversations

Tuesday 13th October 2026 10am to 10:30am

Please register here: <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-comic-strip-conversations-13th-october-2026>



- ✓ Available to those employed in Hertfordshire mainstream or special schools, or any Hertfordshire Early Years setting.
- ✓ Suitable for practitioners working with children of any age, where these interventions are developmentally appropriate

Level 3: Autism 'Lite Bites'

Wednesday 4th November 2026

- Each session lasts 30 minutes.
- Register by using the links or QR codes provided in this flyer



Intensive Interaction

The aims of the training are:

- What is intensive interaction?
- Who would you use intensive interaction for?
- Why is intensive interaction important?
- What does intensive interaction look like in practice and when would you use it?

Wednesday 4th November 2026 09:15am - 09 :45am

Please register here: <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-intensive-interaction-4th-november-2026-0915am>



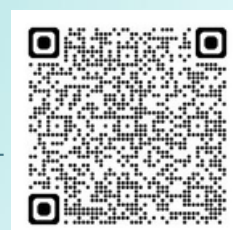
Anticipation Games & People Games

The aims of the training are:

- What are anticipation games? What are 'People games'?
- Why do we play anticipation and people games?
- Examples of anticipation and people games

Wednesday 4th November 10am to 10:30a m

Please register here: <https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/hat-lite-bite-anticipation-games-people-games-4th-november-2026-10am>



✓

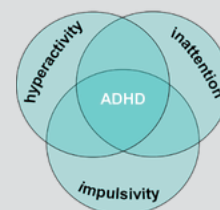
- ✓ Available to those employed in Hertfordshire mainstream or special schools, or any Hertfordshire Early Years setting.
- ✓ Suitable for practitioners working with children of any age, where these interventions are developmentally appropriate

Click [here](#) to find details and booking links for more HAT Workshops in Autumn 2026, including:

- Level 1, 2 and 3 courses
- Autism and Pupil Voice
- Autism and Girls
- Autism, ADHD and emotions
- Autism and Brick Skills
- Social Stories
- Autism and EBNA
- Autism, Puberty and Sexual Vulnerability



Hertfordshire ADHD Training



Level 2 ADHD training

Delivered free to all staff at your Hertfordshire maintained school/setting as whole school INSET or x2 two-hour twilights

Aims of the training:

- To develop your **understanding of ADHD** and its impact on learners.
- To give you **practical ideas and strategies** to support learners with ADHD to achieve their full potential.
- To build a **pro-active and positive** culture of understanding ADHD.

To enquire please email ADHDTTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk with your name, setting and delivery preference.

ADHD training for Early Careers Teachers

Whole day free training for ECTs (in primary or secondary mainstream, special schools or Educational Support Centres)

Aims of the training:

- To develop your **understanding of ADHD** and its impact on learners.
- To give you **practical ideas and strategies** to support learners with ADHD to achieve their full potential.
- To build a **pro-active and positive** culture of understanding ADHD.

Friday 20th November 2026

9:30am – 3:30pm

Hertfordshire Development Centre, Stevenage

Please email ADHDTTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk with your name and setting. Your booking will be confirmed by email.

ADHD & Girls (online 9:30 – 11:30 am)

This free online training is a follow-on from the full day/two twilight ADHD training (although it is not essential to have completed this to access the course).

Tuesday 13th October 2026

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/adhd-and-girls-workshop-13th-october-2026>

Thursday 26th November 2026

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/adhd-and-girls-workshop-26th-november-2026>

To book, please use the links

Aims of the training:

- To further develop your **understanding of ADHD** and its typical impact and presentation in females
- To give you **practical ideas and strategies** to support learners with ADHD to achieve their full potential
- To build a **pro-active and positive** culture of understanding ADHD

Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

"SLCN and learning – essential training for teachers by teachers"



Free Training For Secondary School Staff



This training is 2 hours long and will be delivered online via MS Teams.
Please book spaces by using the link.

SLCN and Behaviour



Thursday, 22nd October 2026
13:15 – 15:15 via MS Teams

To book please visit -

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/slc-and-behaviour-secondary-22nd-october-2026>

This training will:

- Unpick the crossover between SLCN and behaviour, and SLCN and social and emotional difficulties.
- Explore how unmet language and learning needs can present as emotional / behavioural difficulties.
- Help teachers and teaching assistants see beyond the presenting need to support the underlying unmet needs of the child or young person.

To book a space please use link provided

SLCNTraining@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Hertfordshire Speech, Language and Communication Needs Training

“SLCN and learning – essential training for teachers by teachers”



Free Training For Primary and Secondary School Staff



This training is 2 hours long and will be delivered online via MS Teams.
Please book using the links provided.

SLCN in the Primary Classroom

Thursday 1st October 2026
13:15 – 15:15 via MS Teams

To book please visit :

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/slc-in-the-primary-1st-october-2026>

SLCN in the Secondary Classroom

Wednesday 23rd September 2026
13:15 – 15:15 via MS Teams

To book please visit :

<https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/send-academy/slc-in-the-secondary-classroom-23rd-september-2026>

This training will:

- Unpick the role that language plays in learning
- Enable staff to identify barriers for CYPs around language and learning.
- Demonstrate evidence-based ways teachers can support learners with SLCN
- Develop teachers' practice and competencies so they can enable learners to access language in the classroom

Please note these training sessions are not suitable for Early Years settings.



Feel-good this summer

Advice and help from First Steps ED
for Herts children and young people ages 5-18
with eating/body image difficulties

Support for every step of your journey

First Steps ED is an Eating Disorder Support & Recovery Charity that offers early help, therapy, and lived experience support for children, young people, and adults across the U.K.

GET HELP



CYPMHS
HertsHub

Hertfordshire Children and Young People's
Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) system

HH
LDN

www.hertshub.co.uk



Feel-good this summer

Advice and help from First Steps ED
for Herts children and young people ages 5-18
with eating/body image difficulties



CYPMHS
HertsHub

Hertfordshire Children and Young People's
Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) system

HH
LDN

www.hertshub.co.uk





Welcome to HertsHub! www.hertshub.co.uk

Hertfordshire children and young people's
mental health and emotional wellbeing hub

Helping young people, parents, carers
and professionals find the help they
need at the right time:

- Advice
- Self-help
- Information
- Signposting to services



CYPMHS
HertsHub



Hertfordshire Children and Young People's
Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) system



[Click here](#) for key updates and messages
from CYPMHS

Digital/virtual support for school transitions

withYouth
YOUNG PEOPLE'S Digital Wellbeing Services



For
ages
7-12



For
ages
15-18



For Year 6

CYPMHS
HertsHub

Hertfordshire Children and Young People's
Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) system



www.hertshub.co.uk



Young Carers ACTIVITY DAY



Join us for Hertfordshire County Council's first Young Carers Wellbeing Day!

Come along to meet other young carers, take part in activities that support your health and happiness, and most importantly – have fun!

Sessions will include:

- Boxercise
- Art and creativity
- Wellbeing sessions
- Nutrition and healthy eating

WHEN:

Friday 31st July, 10 am–3pm

WHERE:

Shephall Centre, Stevenage



For young carers in Hertfordshire, age 8 – 17

- Games and getting to know each other
- Have a break from your caring role
- Have your voice heard about what's important to you

How to book:

email:

participationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk



INFORMATION AND ADVICE ABOUT EMOTIONALLY BASED SCHOOL NON-ATTENDANCE (EBSNA) FOR FAMILIES

EBSNA can affect children and young people of any school age. It can happen as a result of a wide range of different factors – home, wider family, community, school, friendships – often a combination of some or all of these.

WHY COULD MY CHILD BE ANXIOUS?

Anxieties can stem from a number of things such as:

- An unmet special educational need such as autism, ADHD, dyslexia or dyspraxia
- Friendship issues, not 'fitting in', or bullying
- Finding schoolwork confusing and overwhelming
- Separation anxiety
- Trauma
- Bereavement
- Low self-esteem
- The environment itself - especially for those who are autistic and/or neurodivergent



A child might become anxious about school at any stage. It can occur when children start school or transition into secondary school, or it might be related to puberty or hormonal changes. Read more on the [Local Offer website](#).



WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS

- ? Can you spot patterns in your child's absence from school, e.g. certain days/activities?
- ? Does your child regularly say they don't want to go to school, or reluctant/delaying going to school?
- ? Does your child struggle with changes to environment, routine or stimulus?
- ? Are there physical symptoms on school days e.g. tummy aches, feeling sick, headaches?

(NB please always check with a GP to rule out any medical cause or illness).



WHAT TO DO

- 👍 Ask for a meeting with your child's school involving someone who knows your child e.g. class teacher, pastoral lead, SENCo. Be prepared by taking along any notes about the things your child finds difficult.
- 👍 Work together with school to build a child centred plan that understands the underlying problems which are making your child feel anxious about going to school. This could include adjustments to help your child access their education. There are tools which can help such as [Hertfordshire's EBSNA Framework](#).
- 👍 Include your child's voice in any plan as they are more likely to be able to stick to it. Check in after a while and review it with your school to see what is working well and what is not.
- 👍 Do advocate for your child's needs but also understand the limitations as to what your school might be able to do.
- 👍 If the agreed strategies are not working, speak again with your school to identify other services and professionals that might be able to support your child. The [Herts Hub](#) has a wealth of mental health signposting and ideas for early help.



REMEMBER...

- 👁 With the right plan in place, being in school supports your child's academic progress, social development and mental wellbeing.
- 👁 Small steps are often big wins.
- 👁also ensure that you find ways to support your own wellbeing in the process.

STRATEGIES TO TRY AT HOME

- ✓ Develop a plan for the evenings, which can include calming activities before bedtime e.g. gentle music, bath, story or reading.
- ✓ Also plan for the morning, and where possible get things ready for the next day the night before (school bag, lunch box etc).
- ✓ Make a diary which includes your child's worries and also identifies positives and what works well.
- ✓ Respond with empathy whilst encouraging small, manageable steps.
- ✓ Visual timetables at home and school might also help.



Are you looking for local activities and SEND services for a child or young person with SEND?

The SEND community activities directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups. Some activities will also include discounts for families registered with a Herts Card (SEND).

We will be adding additional activities on a regular basis.
Find fun, inclusive activities your child will love – all in one place!

[Explore the SEND community directory](#)

*If there are any activities you know of or wish to see promoted through this directory, please email us on:
SENDcommissioning@hertfordshire.gov.uk*



Are you a family with children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Need and/or Disabilities looking for local activities?

The SEND directory promotes a wide range of local activities and support groups, some activities will also include discounts for families registered for our Herts Card (SEND).

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SENDdirectory