

**GRAVESHAM SPECIALIST TEACHING AND
LEARNING SERVICE
SUPPORT
FOR
MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS
&
EARLY YEARS SETTINGS
INCLUDING TRAINING
2023-2024**

SPECIALIST TEACHING AND LEARNING SERVICE

The Specialist Teaching and Learning Service advise and support early years settings and schools to build the capacity and confidence to deliver high quality provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

We provide a wide range of support including training sessions and workshops for professionals, parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs.

Our offer is also advertised on the Ifield School Website.

Mrs Mandy Braisted, Assistant Head and Director of Inclusion, Ifield School

Mr Jason Owen, Specialist Teacher, Social, Emotional & Mental Health

Ms Ruth Cubitt, Specialist Teacher in Cognition & Learning

Mrs Helen Cottage, Specialist Teacher for Communication & Interaction

Mrs Claire Noordally, Specialist Teacher for Communication & Interaction

Mrs Julie Hawkins, Specialist Teacher for Inclusion

Mrs Janice Gibson, Specialist Teacher for SEND in Early Years

Ms Gabriella Hicks, Specialist Teacher for SEND in Early Years

Mrs Catherine Hall, Smile Administrator

Mrs Emma Clisby, Smile Administrator



Mrs Maddie Arnold-Jones Headteacher, The Cedar Federation, Ifield School

SMILE CENTRE TRAINING

The following training will be delivered at Ifield Smile. More information about each course, including the cost of the training is advertised in the brochure and on the Ifield School website [Ifield School - SMILE](#)

Booking forms are also available on the website.

Alternatively please telephone 01474 536924 to request a booking form or email Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Communication & Interaction – Autism

Autism and Girls - 6th March 2024 - 9.30am - 2.30pm

Demand Avoidance Profile - 21st May 2024 - 9.30am - 12.30pm

Lego Intervention - 5th June 2024 - 9.30am - 2.30pm

Communication & Interaction – Speech, Language & Communication Needs (SLCN)

Colourful Semantics – 23rd November 2023 – 1.30pm -3.30pm

SLCN in Mainstream Schools - 17th January 2024 - 9.30am – 2.30pm

Cognition & Learning

Core - Dyslexia (Persistent Literacy Difficulties) - 29th November 2023 - 9.30am-2.30pm

Social Emotional Mental Health

ADHD - 15th November 2023 – 10.00am - 3.30pm

Core - De-escalation Positive Behaviour Approaches - 13th May 2024 – 10.00am-12.30pm

AUTISM EDUCATION TRUST TRAINING

MAKING SENSE OF AUTISM

Schools

This training is fully funded and will be delivered to all staff at individual schools. Please register your interest at Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Early Years

This training is fully funded and can be delivered to all staff in individual settings or at Ifield Smile by prior arrangement.

Please register your interest at Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk



Autism Education Trust

Schools



Making Sense of Autism

Gain a better understanding and awareness of autism and the way it affects children in schools.

This module is part of the AET schools' development programme and links to the school's framework documents. These should be referred to and used to as a school evaluation tool.

www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/framework-documents

Who is this training for?

This is a raising awareness module for anyone working in your school. This includes teaching and support staff, office and ancillary staff, caterers, caretakers, transport staff and governors. The expectation is that most of these people will attend.

What will you learn?

- Enhance your understanding and awareness of autism and how autism can affect children in schools
- Know the importance of understanding the individual child and their profile of strengths and needs
- Identify potential barriers to learning for autistic children
- Begin to make reasonable adjustments in the way you support autistic children
- Reflect on the information you need to collect for creating a one-page profile



Developed by leading autism specialists



Up to date with the latest research



Enhances your CPD



Free resources and frameworks linked to Ofsted



Optional certification

FREE

Request a booking form from your STLS admin



Email us at smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Call us on 01474 536924





Autism
Education
Trust

Early Years



Making Sense of Autism

Gain a better understanding and awareness of autism and the way that it affects children in schools. This module is part of the AET Early Years' Development programme and links to the Early Years Standards and Competency Framework documents. These should be referred to and used to as a setting evaluation tool.

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/resources/early-years-standards-framework>

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/resources/early-years-competency-framework>

Who is this training for?

This is an awareness raising module for anyone working in your setting. This includes teaching and support staff, office and ancillary staff, caterers, caretakers, and governors. The expectation is that most of these people will attend.

What will you learn?

- Enhance your understanding and awareness of autism and how autism can affect children in Early Year's Settings
- Know the importance of understanding the individual child and their profile of strengths and needs
- Identify potential barriers to learning for autistic children
- Begin to make reasonable adjustments in the way you support autistic children
- Reflect on the information you need to collect for creating a one-page profile

Book your training now:

Email us at Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Call us on 01474 536924



AUTISM EDUCATION TRUST TRAINING

GOOD AUTISM PRACTICE IN EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOLS

This training is available for staff who have completed Making Sense of Autism or a similar training.

Please see dates below:

GOOD AUTISM PRACTICE IN EARLY YEARS			
DAY	DATE	TIME	TWILIGHT
WEDNESDAY	17 th January 2024	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Twilight
WEDNESDAY	13 th March 2024	9.00am – 12.00 noon	
TUESDAY	14 th May 2024	9.00am – 12.00 noon	
THURSDAY	27 th June 2024	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Twilight

GOOD AUTISM PRACTICE IN SCHOOLS			
DAY	DATE	TIME	TWILIGHT
Wednesday	7 th February 2024	9.00am – 12.00 noon	
Tuesday	5 th March 2024	9.00am – 12.00 noon	
Monday	22 nd April 2024	4.00pm – 6.00pm	Twilight
Monday	17 th June 2024	9.00am – 12.00 noon	

The sessions will be delivered at Ifield Smile.

The cost will be: £20 for Early Years Setting and £40 for schools.

Please register your interest at Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk



Autism
Education
Trust

Schools



Good Autism Practice

Gain practical knowledge, and discover hands-on Tools and techniques to support autistic children in your setting.

This module is part of the AET schools' development programme and links to the schools' framework documents. These should be referred to and used to as a school and self evaluation tool.

www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/framework-documents

Who is this training for?

This is a module for practitioners who work directly with autistic children in schools, and it provides guidance on processes and tools that can help practitioners to implement good autism practice.

What will you learn?

- Develop your knowledge and understanding of good autism practice
- Reflect on and improve your practice in working with autistic pupils
- Understand strategies and approaches you can draw upon for autistic pupils you work with
- Reflect on the kind of information you need to collect for creating a person-centred education plan
- Consider how to involve the autistic pupils and their family in setting learning goals



Developed by leading autism specialists



Up to date with the latest research



Enhances your CPD



Free resources and frameworks linked to Ofsted



Optional certification



Request a booking form from your STLS admin

Email us at smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Call us on 01474 536924





Autism
Education
Trust

Early Years



Good Autism Practice

Gain practical knowledge and discover hands-on tools and techniques to support autistic children in your setting. This module is part of the AET Early Years Development programme and links to the Early Years' Standards and Competency Framework documents. These should be referred to and used to as a school and self evaluation tool.

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/resources/early-years-standards-framework>
<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/resources/early-years-competency-framework>

Who is this training for?

This is a module for practitioners who work directly with autistic children in early years settings, and it provides guidance on processes and tools that can help practitioners to implement good autism practice.

What will you learn?

- Develop your knowledge and understanding of good autism practice
- Reflect on and improve your practice in working with autistic pupils
- Understand strategies and approaches you can draw upon for autistic pupils you work with
- Reflect on the kind of information you need to collect for creating a person-centred education plan
- Consider how to involve the autistic pupils and their family in setting learning goals

Book your training now:

Email us at Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Call us on 0174 536924



COLOURFUL SEMANTICS

Date: 23rd November 2023

Time: 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Workshop Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of Colourful Semantics as an approach to support learning.
- To be confident in implementing Colourful Semantics in 1:1 sessions, small groups and the classroom environment.
- To increase awareness of how colourful semantics can support all children, particularly those with speech, language and communication needs.

Workshop Content:

- An introduction to the Colourful Semantics framework.
- We will explore the use of Colourful Semantics to support comprehension and sentence construction in interventions.
- We will consider the wider use of Colourful Semantics to enhance children's expressive and narrative language in the classroom.

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for teachers and teaching assistants working in Reception to Year 6, and those working with older students with Speech, Language and Communication Needs such as DLD.

Presented by:

Ruth Cubitt and Helen Cottage
Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

Cost: £40.00

Self-service refreshments are provided.

CORE - DYSLEXIA AWARENESS

Date: NEW DATE TO BE ARRANGED IN THE NEW YEAR

Workshop Objectives:

- To understand some of the barriers to participation and learning experienced by pupils with dyslexia or dyslexic type difficulties
- To identify pupils with dyslexic type difficulties
- To know some of the approaches that can support dyslexic pupils to enable inclusion within a classroom setting as part of quality first teaching.

Workshop Content:

We shall be considering the definitions of dyslexia and what this means in terms of learning behaviours. Delegates will apply this knowledge in order to help them to better identify specific areas of need. We shall be considering how to adapt teaching methods to support students with these difficulties.

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for teachers and teaching assistants working with primary and secondary aged pupils in mainstream schools.

Presented by:

Ruth Cubitt and Julie Hawkins
Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

£60.00 per delegate

Self-service refreshments are provided.

SPEECH, LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION NEEDS IN THE MAINSTREAM CLASSROOM

Date: 17th January 2024

Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Workshop Objectives:

This one-day workshop will focus on speech, language and communication difficulties and how they affect performance across the curriculum and beyond. Attendees will learn about strategies for supporting students with a range of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) – the most common SEN need type.

Workshop Content:

Participants will learn how to identify and support students with speech, language and communication difficulties in school:

- Gain an understanding of the range (and jargon) of SLCN as identified by health professionals or through school's own observation and tracking systems
- Explore a range of strategies and resources to facilitate the development of language and communication skills in children and young people
- Become familiar with good SLCN practice as detailed in Kent's Mainstream Core Standards document
- Explore practical strategies and ideas to support learning, social and emotional needs and ongoing language development.

Target Audience:

This workshop is suitable for teachers and support staff working with primary aged pupils in mainstream schools, and students in Key Stage 3 with ongoing SLC difficulties.

Presented by:

Helen Cottage, Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

£60.00 per delegate

Self-service refreshments are provided

MAKATON WORKSHOP

Level 1 Training

Date: 22nd January, 18th March or 15th July 2024

Time: 9am -3.30pm

Arrival from 8.45am

Workshop Objectives:

The Level 1 Workshop provides a practical introduction to the Makaton Language Programme.

Workshop Content:

1. Know about the history, design and structure of Makaton and the Makaton Core Vocabulary
2. Be able to use signs and symbols from Stages 1, 2 and half of the Additional Vocabulary in their daily environment, and use techniques for placement, directionality and movement.
3. Know how the signs used with the Makaton Vocabulary are derived.
4. Have a knowledge of the different approaches to develop the communication skills of a wide range of Makaton users.
5. Be informed about the other Makaton Training Courses and Workshops.

You will receive a Participant's Manual. This manual is designed to be used as a workbook and supports participants when you are putting your learning into practice after the Workshop, which includes the Makaton symbols and signs that you learn in the workshop.

You will receive a certificate of attendance. Please remember to keep your Level 1 training certificate in case you want to attend further Makaton training.

Target Audience:

Level 1 is for those interested in learning about the first steps of Makaton and those who wish to continue onto Level 2.

Presented by:

Kirsty Jewell – Director of Therapy, Lead Speech and Language Therapist, Ifield School

£85.00

Self-service refreshments provided

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR EARLY COMMUNICATORS

Date: Monday 29th January 2024

Time: 09.30am – 1.00pm

This will focus on the needs of children who are pre-verbal or have minimal functional language.

Course will cover:

- Who are early communicators?
- The Fundamentals of Communication
- Different forms of communication
- Intensive Interaction
- The use of visual supports
- Curiosity Programme and Attention Autism
- Communication Boards

This will be a practical workshop with lots of opportunities to share good practice, feel more confident using communication strategies and share ideas for resources.

This training is fully funded for Gravesham Primary Schools & EY Settings

Presented by:

Kirsty Jewell, Director of Therapy, Lead Speech and Language Therapist, Ifield School



ADHD

“He’s/She’s only got ADHD!”

Turning the unpredictable into a predictable need type

Date: 31st January 2024

Time: 10.00am – 3.00pm

Workshop Objectives:

A one-day training session where participants will gain an overview of general behaviour strategies to take a ‘toolbox’ back to their classrooms / schools.

Though the focus of the session is on supporting children and young people who have a diagnosis or traits of ADHD, strategies offered will of course be of use to many other students; and offer general behavioural strategies for immediate use back in the classroom.

Workshop Content:

Participants will:

- Reflect on their own classroom practice in relation to proactive classroom management
- Extend their ability to effectively use recognition, affirmation and praise as part of a linked classroom system
- Gain an overview of ADHD and consider positive strategies to manage inattention, impulsivity and hyperactivity
- Extend their ability to effectively use verbal and non-verbal strategies to de-escalate, divert and distract; and influence

Target Audience:

This event is particularly suitable for teachers, teaching assistants and SENCOs/ Inclusion Managers in mainstream primary schools but staff working in secondary and special schools may also find the content relevant and helpful.

Presented by: Jason Owen

Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

£60.00 Self-service refreshments provided

Please note that the session replicates some of the de-escalation course 13th May 2024

SUPPORT TO HELP WITH SENSORY PROCESSING DIFFICULTIES IN THE CLASSROOM

Wednesday 31st January 2024 (Part 1) 4.00 – 5.30pm

Wednesday 7th February 2024 (Part 2) 4.00 – 5.30pm

Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of sensory processing.
- To understand what sensory differences are and who has them.
- To explore the different senses and the processing differences some individuals experience.
- To gain knowledge of a wide range of strategies.

Target Audience:

This course is suitable for SENDCos, teachers and support staff working with pupils who have sensory processing differences across early years and primary school.

Presented by: Kirsty Richards, Occupational Therapist

Cost: £25 per delegate

Self-service refreshments are provided

Certificates will only be provided to delegates who attend both part 1 and part 2 of the course.

EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISED

Please book a place using the online booking form which is available on the Ifield School website under the STLS page or click on

[Ifield School - Professional Courses](#)

For support with booking please contact Catherine Hall or Emma Clisby – smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

AUTISM & GIRLS

Date: 6th March 2024

Time: 9.30am – 2.30pm

Objectives:

- This course will explore how autistic girls and women can present differently to autistic boys.
- It will help staff improve their understanding on how to recognise issues relevant to autistic females that may need additional support.
- It will help staff become confident in using strategies that support girls to thrive in school environments.

Content:

Recent research tells us that there are marked differences in the ways that autism presents in females. The course will explore why autism has been under represented in female populations and how this is changing.

It will also draw on the lived experience of autistic females whose experiences can challenge what we currently think and help us to shape more inclusive spaces in schools.

Target Audience:

Any school staff particularly SENCos, Inclusion leads and Pastoral Base leads.

It will be helpful for attendees to have a sound understanding of autism prior to attending this course

Presented by:

**Claire Noordally, Specialist Teacher Communication & Interaction
Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service**

£60.00 per person

Self service refreshments are provided

CORE - DE-ESCALATION & POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR APPROACHES

Date: 13th May 2024

Time: 10.00am – 12:30pm

Workshop Objectives:

This session will enable participants to reflect on how their behaviour can influence the behaviour of others with the intention of reducing escalations of conflicts. The session will also look at the current law in relation to restraint.

Workshop Content:

Participants will:

- Reflect on their own classroom practice in relation to proactive classroom management
- Gain an overview of strategies to influence behaviour
- Extend their ability to effectively use verbal and non-verbal strategies to de-escalate, divert and distract
- Extend their range of other positive strategies for immediate use in the classroom
- Examine how language can affect behaviour
- Develop awareness of using a staged approach

Target Audience: The session is aimed at teachers, senior leaders and sencos / inclusion managers – but all staff involved in teaching and learning including teaching assistants and learning mentors / HLTA's may benefit; focus is on mainstream primary and secondary.

Please note that the session replicates some of the ADHD course 15th November 2023

Presented by:

Jason Owen, Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

£40.00 per delegate.

Self-service refreshments are provided.

DEMAND AVOIDANT PROFILES

Date: 21st May 2024

Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Objectives:

- This course will explain why some children with an autism profile refuse and resist everyday activities.
- It aims to help staff improve their understanding of this group of autistic learners.
- It aims to support staff in gaining confidence in the use of strategies and resources to support pupils with a demand avoidant profile.

Content:

Demand Avoidance is a term now frequently used in the autism field. It has become a phrase that the media have latched onto and promoted yet it is still infrequent for a diagnosis to be issued. This course will explore the term demand avoidance and explain how different professional bodies may use it. Further it will explore what is going on for the child who avoids demands and propose some ways that can be helpful in helping children to say yes to what previously they said no to.

Target Audience:

Any school staff particularly SENCOs, Inclusion leads and Pastoral Base leads.

Presented by:

**Claire Noordally, Specialist Teacher Communication & Interaction
Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service**

£40.00 per delegate

Self-service refreshments are provided

LEGO® GROUP INTERVENTIONS

Social skills interventions following a Lego therapy model

Date: 5th June 2024

PART 1: 9:30am – 2.30pm

This training provides:

- An outline of the history and theory behind Lego Therapy
- An understanding of how Lego Therapy can be adapted for use as a small group intervention in schools
- Practical experience of using Lego as a resource to teach and practise a variety of social interaction and communication skills
- An understanding of which students will be most likely to benefit from Lego group interventions
- An opportunity for exploring the wider use of Lego with early communicators and as a resource for embedding basic concepts for learning
- Suggested resources for measuring the impact of Lego group interventions

By the end of the session, participants should have all the required information to enable them to run Lego Group Interventions in their own schools.

Target Audience

Teachers, SENCOs, Teaching Assistants and HLTAs in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3; especially those working with students who have language and communication difficulties and autism.

Presented by:

Helen Cottage
Gravesham Specialist Teaching & Learning Service

£60 per delegate

Self-service refreshments are provided

SHORT COURSES

Specialist Teachers can offer training at schools and Early Years settings which can include:

- Precision Teaching
- Comic Strip Conversations
- Social Stories
- Emotional Regulation
- Teaching Vocabulary
- Using visual support to improve engagement and understanding.
- A range of classroom and whole school behaviour management support to suit your school
- Colourful Semantics

Additional specific training can also be considered with notice. Please contact Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk

Cost

Up to 20 delegates	Maintained schools and academies	Early Years Settings
Hourly rate	£120	£60
Twilight rate - 90 min	£170	£85
Half day rate	£280	£140
Daily rate	£480	£240
For groups of more than 20 reasonable additional charges will be made per additional person.		

PARENT TRAINING

We also run Parent Workshops!

(Please see our parent brochure for more information)

We are Beams

Explore and Improve Social
Communication Skills

Basics for Behaviour

Starting the
Autism
Journey

Autism in the Early
Years

Anxiety and Autism

Understanding
Dyslexia

Autistic Girls –
Exploring Difference

Sleep Solutions

LIFT DATES 2023 - 2024

School

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4	TERM 5	TERM 6
GROUP 1	13.09.2023 Ifield Smile	08.11.2023 Ifield Smile	10.01.2024 Ifield Smile	21.02.2024 Ifield Smile	24.04.2024 Ifield Smile	12.06.2024 Ifield Smile
GROUP 2	20.09.2023	15.11.2023	17.01.2024	28.02.2024	01.05.2024	19.06.2024
GROUP 3	27.09.2023	22.11.2023	24.01.2024	06.03.2024	08.05.2024	26.06.2024
GROUP 4	04.10.2023	29.11.2023	31.01.2024	13.03.2024	15.05.2024	03.07.2024
GROUP 5	11.10.2023	06.12.2023	07.02.2024	20.03.2024	22.05.2024	10.07.2024
GROUP 6	12.10.2023	07.12.2023	08.02.2024	21.03.2024	23.05.2024	11.07.2024
SECONDARY (SURGERY)		30.11.2023 Ifield Smile		28.03.2024 Ifield Smile		04.07.2024 Ifield Smile

Please note:

The School LIFT meetings in term 1 will be face to face. Please look at the agenda for confirmation of the venue.

All other meetings apart from Secondary surgeries will be held virtually and invitations sent prior to the meeting.

Early Years – please note all EY LIFT meetings are now on a Thursday

GROUP	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4	TERM 5	TERM 6
Group 1	Thursday 14.09.2023 (am)	Thursday 16.11.2023 (pm)	Thursday 18.01.2024 (am)	Thursday 29.02.2024 (pm)	Thursday 02.05.2024 (am)	Thursday 20.06.2024 (pm)
Group 2	Thursday 05.10.2023 (pm)	Thursday 30.11.2023 (am)	Thursday 01.02.2024 (pm)	Thursday 14.03.2024 (am)	Thursday 23.05.2024 (pm)	Thursday 11.07.2023 (am)

Please note:

The Early Years LIFT meetings are held at Ifield SMILE.

TRANSITION EVENTS – 2024

The Specialist Teaching and Learning Service facilitate transition events each year.

These events are to for children with SEND who are transitioning to either primary or secondary schools.

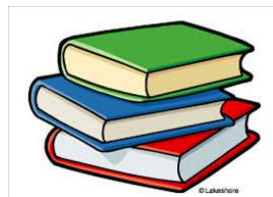
It is an opportunity for SENCOs (or other member of school staff) to come to the Ifield Smile Centre and speak to relevant schools.

We hold two events, one for Primary to Secondary and one for Pre-School to Primary, the dates are listed below.

You will be asked to complete a Capture Sheet before the event which needs to be signed by parents or carers. This will enable a discussion to take place.

PRIMARY TO SECONDARY

9th MAY 2024 - 9am to 4pm



PRE-SCHOOL TO PRIMARY

20th MAY 2024 – 9am – 12.30pm



Gravesham Team Around The School (TAtS)

*The Gravesham Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS), the Kent Educational Psychology Service (KEPs) and SEND Inclusion Advisor (SIA) offer a Team Around The School to promote Inclusive Practice, alongside the **school leadership team**.*

The support will be for a finite period, generally over two terms.

The first meeting will be held with the school's leadership team, including the SENCO, to review practice and challenges using a Forcefield Analysis model.

Subsequent actions can then include.

- *Training delivered by KEPS or STLS around an identified area of development.*
- *A school-based LIFT meeting or surgery facilitated by the STLS which may lead to bespoke training.*
- *Subsequent Meetings using the Forcefield Analysis held with teachers and then TAs and a pupil questionnaire.*
- *An Action Plan developed using all information received, with support from the SIA.*

Team Around The Schools has been well received by schools but the leadership teams have recognised that the school needs to have the capacity to invest time into participating into the process to see impact and develop inclusive practice further.

SURGERIES

The Specialist Teachers are available to support school staff, including teachers and teaching assistants, with specific areas of concern and generic classroom strategies. Surgeries can be used by SENCOs who would like advice about an unnamed pupil instead of making a LIFT referral. Surgeries may also be offered as an outcome of a LIFT meeting.

Virtual or Face to Face SEND Surgery:

- All discussions regarding individual pupils must be anonymous.
- Solution focused approach.

To arrange a virtual or face to face appointment please make direct contact with the relevant Specialist Teacher.

Dimension	Specialist Teacher
SEMH	Jason Owen jowen@ifield.kent.sch.uk
Cognition & Learning	Ruth Cubitt/Helen Cottage rcubitt@ifield.kent.sch.uk hcottage@ifield.kent.sch.uk
Communication & Interaction	Claire Noordally/Helen Cottage cnoordally@ifield.kent.sch.uk hcottage@ifield.kent.sch.uk
Higher level of needs	Julie Hawkins jhawkins@ifield.kent.sch.uk

SENCo SUPPORT

Each school has been allocated a Link Specialist Teacher. This gives school SENCos an opportunity to ask questions about processes and systems that are not directly linked to a pupil. Please contact the named specialist teacher directly.

The following times have been arranged to provide an opportunity for new SENCOs to meet each other in Ifield SMILE to ask questions about the SENCo role, paperwork and processes. Experienced SENCos who would like to offer support to new colleagues will be warmly welcomed.

Wednesday 20th September 2023 4pm-5pm

Wednesday 15th November 2023 4pm-5pm

Thursday 11th January 2024 4pm-5pm

Please let Catherine Hall – chall@ifield.kent.sch.uk know if you can attend.

A range of networking groups will be set up to provide an opportunity for school and setting staff to support each other when working with groups of children and young people with similar need types, such as those working below key stage standards.
(Further details to follow)

SENCos can also arrange visits to Ifield School and the specialist intervention nursery to see the strategies and resources used to support pupils in a specialist intervention. Please contact mbraisted@ifield.kent.sch.uk to arrange a mutually convenient time.

ATTENTION ALL SENCOs!

Gravesham SENDCo Forums

The aim of the forums is to provide an opportunity for SENCOs to come together to discuss relevant matters and share practical advice. It is a means of networking and providing support for each other and to receive guidance and training/presentations in significant local issues.

The SENDCo Forum has a commitment to SEND and inclusion, and to offering a solution-focussed, collaborative and mutually supportive resource.

Countywide SENCo Forums

These are run and delivered by The Education People (TEP). There are separate forums for primary and secondary. They describe them as a termly opportunity for professionals to receive updates from the Local Authority and other key professionals on ongoing projects, key information and sharing good practise. Please see their website for more information. Dates and times for the next academic year will be published soon.

[Kent CPD Online | Home Page \(theeducationpeople.org\)](https://www.theeducationpeople.org)

School SENCO FORUM DATES 2023 – 2024

Term 1 – 19th October 2023 – 1pm – 4pm

Term 3 – 25th January 2024 - 1pm – 4pm

Term 5 – 16th May 2024 - 1pm – 4pm

Early Years SENCO FORUM DATES – 2023 – 2024

Wednesday 8th November 2023 - 1pm – 4pm

Wednesday 20th March 2024 - 1pm – 4pm

Wednesday 19th June 2024 - 1pm – 4pm

AREA TRAINING

Gravesham, Dartford, and Sevenoaks districts make up the North Area.

Training offered by Sevenoaks and Dartford districts is often available to Gravesham schools and settings.

Please see the Ifield School website for the training offered in 2023 – 2024.

www.iffieldschool.com

SENSORY SPECIALIST TEACHING AND LEARNING SERVICE

Training for Visual Impairment (VI), Hearing Impairment (HI) and Physical Development (PD) is available on the Kelsi website.

Physical Disability	Care Plans and Risk Assessments for Children and Young People with Physical Disabilities	Virtual 3 per year
	Fine motor difficulties and alternative methods of recording curriculum work	Virtual 2 per year
	Developmental Coordination Difficulties	Virtual 2 per year
Sensory Impairment	Access to the HI, VI & MSI Online Training mentored by Specialist Teachers for Sensory Impairment	Countywide offer

North Kent Services for children with disabilities and their families

[Local Offer - Search Results | Local Kent Directory](#)

- [SEND information hub updates - Kent County Council](#) : This is an online tool to help families explore what are the right options for them if they think their child may have SEND.
- [Home | IASK](#) : IASK supports families of children and young people with SEND. They help empower children/young people and their parents to make informed choices about their children's, education.
 - [SEND Information Hub \(Kent County Council's Local Offer\) | IASK](#)
- [Home - Kent PACT \(kentpactnew2022.co.uk\)](#) : This is for parents and Carers of children and young people with SEND wishing to have their choices heard.
 - [Equality and Inclusion - KELSI](#)

IASK—Information, Advice and Support Kent

We give free, impartial and confidential information, advice and support about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for children, young people up to age 25, parents and carers.

[Home | IASK](#)

[03000 41 3000](#)

iask@kent.gov.uk

Kent Parents and Carers Together

Kent PACT is a parent carer forum set up for parents of children and young adults with disabilities and additional needs.

They offer a way for you to have your say and influence us, local health services and other organisations in improving local services. Some of the parents on the forum are also key members of the joint KCC/NHS SEND Improvement Board.

[Kent Parents and Carers Together \(PACT\) - Kent County Council](#)

Children's Centres

Each centre offers different services, including:

- Childcare
- Early education
- Training or finding a new job
- Antenatal classes
- Baby clinics
- Support with breastfeeding
- Support with parenting and speech and language
- Drop-in sessions for parents and children.
- Services for children with special needs and disabilities
- Opportunities for families to get involved with volunteering and designing services.

Please check with your local children's centre to find out what they offer.

Children's centres - Kent County Council



The Cedar Federation

Ifield School and Smile Centre,
Cedar Avenue,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 5JT

Telephone 01474 536924

Email: Smile@ifield.kent.sch.uk