

**From:** [CCC Education](#)  
**To:** [Cambs Schools News](#)  
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# Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter

## Welcome back to the new academic year - a message from the Director of Education

Dear colleagues,

Welcome back. I hope you had an enjoyable and restorative summer and that the new academic year has begun well.

It has been wonderful to see some excellent educational outcomes across Cambridgeshire. We have seen a particularly encouraging increase in the proportion of children achieving a good level of development at the end of Reception, a significant improvement in phonics outcomes at Year 1 and a higher percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in Reading, Writing and maths at Key Stage 2. This is alongside some of the strongest results in the country at the higher grades at Key Stage 4 and A level.

These achievements reflect the commitment, expertise and sheer hard work of colleagues across our schools and trusts. Thank you for everything you have done - and continue to do - for Cambridgeshire's children and young people.

You will also have heard that the decision regarding Local Government Reorganisation has been paused, which means that vesting day will move back by at least a year. This gives us greater space to focus on the here and now and to continue driving improvement in our priority areas, particularly SEND.

We remain acutely aware of the pressures created by delayed Education, Health and Care needs assessments. We hope shortly to be able to confirm additional investment to support this critical work, subject to securing full corporate and political approval. Another important priority is the implementation of our Best Start in Life strategy. We want to strengthen the support available to children and families during the earliest years, so the improvement in Reception outcomes is especially gratifying and provides a strong foundation on which to build.

A major focus for the year ahead will be the rollout of our Team Around the School approach. We will work with schools to develop a stronger locality model, bringing services closer to you and enabling children, families and schools to access the right support earlier. It will be exciting to get this work underway.

We are keen to pilot the approach in each locality and will be discussing the opportunities for schools to become involved through our forthcoming network meetings.

I look forward to catching up with many of you in person over the coming weeks. In the meantime, welcome back - and remember, it is only 15 weeks until Christmas!

With best wishes,

[Sarah](#)

Director of Education

## Managed moves

Many of you will be aware that the Department for Education published updated statutory guidance on suspensions, exclusions and pupil movement in July 2026, including changes relating to the use of managed moves. We recognise that school leaders locally and nationally have raised questions about the practical implications of some of these changes and the potential impact on established approaches to supporting children and young people through managed move arrangements. As a result, the local authority is currently reviewing its exclusions and managed move guidance to ensure it reflects the updated statutory requirements while continuing to support inclusive practice and positive outcomes for children and young people. Lizz Tattle is leading this review on behalf of the local authority and would welcome any input you may have. She can be contacted at [Lizz.Tattle@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lizz.Tattle@cambridgeshire.gov.uk). Alongside this local work, we will continue to engage in regional and national discussions to share learning and contribute to the development of effective practice in this area.

## Welcome to the first Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter of the new academic year



We hope that you all had an enjoyable summer break.

Welcome to this first newsletter issue of the year. We hope you'll find it useful.

We would love to help you to share your schools' good news stories with each other. If you would like to write a short article for the newsletter, please find all the information you'll need to submit suggested text at the link below.

Best wishes

[Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter Team](#)

## Letters of assurance and guidance on professional visitors to schools

Please find below, a generic letter of assurance which covers all **CCC staff** who may visit your school or setting in the course of their professional duties:

[2026 Generic safeguarding letter to schools and settings](#)

We do not provide individually named letters of assurance for such staff, who should not be left unsupervised on your school site. However, this letter confirms that any such member of staff visiting your school in a professional capacity will have undergone all the appropriate pre-employment and vetting checks which are required for the role. Any staff who may be required to work unsupervised will provide you with an individual letter of assurance to confirm the appropriate level of DBS has been undertaken to enable them to work unsupervised if required.

However, this does not apply to **Children's Social Care and Targeted Support staff** who may visit your school in the course of their professional duties, all of whom are covered by a generic letter of assurance which is attached here: [2026 CSC Generic safeguarding letter to schools](#)

You can find our guidance on professional visitors to schools here: [2026 CCC Guidance on professional visitors to schools](#)

If you have any queries about these letters or guidance, please contact [Phil Nash](#).

## Southport Inquiry Recommendation 57: Strengthening the Voice of Education in Safeguarding Decisions

Following the publication of the Phase 1 report of the Southport Inquiry, the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness has written to local authority leaders to reinforce the importance of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements giving appropriate weight to information and professional judgement provided by schools and education settings when assessing risks posed by children.

The letter reminds local authorities and safeguarding partners to actively seek and consider insights from schools, colleges and specialist education settings, recognising their unique understanding of children's behaviour and interactions. It also emphasises the need for strong collaboration across social care, health, policing and education partners. The communication does not introduce new duties but reinforces existing expectations for effective multi-agency working and safeguarding practice.

The key message is that schools and education providers play a critical role in identifying concerns and assessing risk, and their perspectives should be appropriately considered in safeguarding decision-making processes.

## Starting Reception



**Guidance and resources for practitioners and families, to support children with the skills to practice when starting Reception.**

New skills take time to learn. Practising at home will help children move into school more easily and confidently.

Why not explore our free parent-facing [Starting Reception webpage](#), with a range of resources and guidance, that focus on supporting families with the skills children need to practice, for starting reception, divided into 4 key areas, supporting skills for:

1. Growing Independence
2. Building Relationships and Communicating
3. Physical Development
4. Healthy Routines

Explore our [Supporting home learning](#) webpages, to learn about initiatives, support, training and resources.

Sign up to training here: [Booking and reservations for Early Years Childcare and School Readiness Service](#) (Select the 'Home Learning Environment' tab) or reach out to [Philippa](#) to learn more.

## Starting Reception Survey for Reception class teachers

Got 6 minutes? Passionate about supporting children to have the Best Start in Life?

Please encourage your reception class teachers to complete the linked survey, by Monday 28 September:

[Starting Reception Survey, for Reception Class Teachers 2026-27 – Fill in form](#)

The survey will capture teachers' opinions of children's preparation for starting reception, ensuring our support is responsive to sector need. Your responses will be triangulated with feeder settings' responses, and the outcomes and details of the linked free support and training will be shared during the upcoming Local Early Education Partnerships (LEEPs).

Thank you for contributing, your feedback is greatly valued.

## Guidance on volunteers and regulated activity

You may be aware of a change in KCSIE 2026 relating to checks required for volunteers in schools. Please find below the Cambridgeshire guidance for maintained schools on this issue. Academies should of course follow any guidance provided by their own HR teams on this matter.

[CCC Guidance on volunteers and regulated activity \(September 2026\)](#)

## DfE - Free Breakfast Clubs Programme

The Government's free breakfast club programme continues to be rolled out into the new academic year and presents an opportunity to support children's wellbeing, attendance and readiness to learn. By providing access to a healthy breakfast and a positive start to the school day, breakfast clubs can play an important role in helping pupils arrive settled, engaged and prepared for learning.

Further information can be found on the Department for Education website:

- [Free breakfast club roll out: everything you need to know – The Education Hub](#)
- [Free breakfast clubs: guidance for schools and trusts for phase 1 of the national rollout from April 2026 - GOV.UK](#)
- Login Portal: [Home - Free breakfast clubs programme](#)

We recognise that schools might be considering what participation might mean for their individual context, including staffing, accommodation, funding arrangements and wider strategic priorities. As with any new initiative, there may be questions about implementation and sustainability.

If you would like to discuss the Free Breakfast Clubs Programme further, please contact: [earlyyears.service@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:earlyyears.service@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Primary Schools Gymnastics - Covering the basics

As a response to requests from schools, we are delivering free gymnastics workshops for primary school teachers. This should be an essential course for ECTs and inexperienced primary school teachers & HLTAs who teach PE.

Aim - To build the confidence and skills needed to lead safe, engaging gymnastics lessons.

Venue options (the same workshop is being repeated around the county. Teachers pick the one most convenient)

05/10/26 - **Thorndown PS**, St. Ives (9.30 – 11.30)

08/10/26 – **Cromwell CC**, Chatteris (9.30 – 11.30)

12/10/26 – **Duxford PS**, Duxford (9.30 – 11.30)

Details and booking information here: [Physical Education Courses and Conferences](#)

[Ian Roberts](#)

## Free CPR/First Aid training sessions for all Years 5 and 6 pupils in Cambridgeshire

As a legacy from the Knife Angels visit to Cambridgeshire, East Anglian Air Ambulance is offering every primary school in Cambridgeshire a free CPR, defibrillator (AED) and basic first aid session for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. The full press release can be read here:

[Knife Angel Lasting Legacy \(press release\)](#)

Read more about the East Anglian Air Ambulance and book onto a CPR Training course at:

[EAAA Learn CPR](#)

## National Literacy Trust Libraries for Primaries programme 2026-2027



The National Literacy Trust's Libraries for Primaries programme helps schools, giving them training, resources, books and furniture to help to develop the reading for pleasure culture in school. Please use the expression of interest form on the page below if you are interested in registering your school to participate in the programme:

[Libraries for Primaries - sign up now](#)

## Secondary schools invited to participate in ELSA study for Type 1 diabetes research



**East of England Community Health and Care NHS Trust has requested that we share the following invitation to schools**

The ELSA study is screening children and young people (age 2-17) across the UK to identify those at risk of developing Type 1 diabetes. East of England Community Health and Care NHS Trust are currently inviting secondary schools to host screening clinics during the

academic year 26/27.

Around 3 in every 1,000 children and young people are at high risk of developing Type 1 diabetes. The only way to identify those at risk is through screening.

For those identified as higher risk, we can offer support, education, and monitoring for children and their families.

The study team would be pleased to discuss the practical requirements and support available to participating schools. Find out more below:

[ELSA study information sheet](#)

For more information please visit [www.elsadiabetes.nhs.uk](http://www.elsadiabetes.nhs.uk) and to register your school's interest please contact the East of England Community Health and Care NHS Trust at:

[eec.gen-cambs-researchhub@nhs.net](mailto:eec.gen-cambs-researchhub@nhs.net)

## Invitation to take part in CHILI - School Environmental Monitoring Study



Your school is invited to take part in a scientific study of air quality in schools, led by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), entitled Child and Adolescent Health Impact of Learning Indoor environments (CHILI) under net zero - School Environmental Monitoring Study. The study will involve intensive monitoring of air, temperature and noise in five classrooms for two weeks, one in summer and one in winter. For more information about the study, please see the following Headteacher information sheet and poster:

[CHILI Information sheet for schools](#)

[CHILI school environment study recruitment poster](#)

## Funding opportunity for schools: Royal Society Partnership Grants



Applications for the 2026 round of The Royal Society's [Partnership Grants](#) scheme close on 30 November 2026. The Partnership Grants scheme funds schools and colleges up to £3,000 to work in partnership with STEM professionals from academia or industry to run an investigative STEM project. The grants are open to all levels of education supporting students aged between 5-18.

With the deadline for the 2026 round approaching, now is an excellent time to start planning a project and identifying a STEM partner. We encourage schools and colleges to submit an application and make the most of this funding opportunity.

Find out more through the [Partnership Grants website](#) and/or watch this [10-minute overview video](#).

## Keeping children safe in education: a free webinar for schools on trans+ inclusive practice



The Kite Trust is providing a webinar for school staff to learn more about the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) guidance and its impact on trans, non-binary and gender questioning pupils. This session will share information on changes that schools are expected to make in line with the KCSIE guidance, and ideas on best practice to ensure your school can continue to be inclusive of trans+ pupils.

To sign up to this webinar on Thursday 1st October 4-5.30pm, click the link: [Keeping children safe in education Eventbrite booking link](#)

## Deputy headteacher and assistant headteacher induction (also for headteachers and senior leaders)

Do you have a Deputy/ Assistant Headteacher new or recently new to post? This well-established and highly regarded Induction Course is running again in 26/27. All the details of sessions are included in the [SIS course booklet](#) and can be booked here: [SIS online bookings](#)

But it is the words of some of last year's cohort which may best describe what will be learnt, what the impact is and the value of this professional development:

- Juliet's course is a professional gift! She provides professional knowledge and practical suggestions to keep the plates spinning, all wrapped up with a layer workplace being strategies and topped off with a big bow of humour!
- This course provides a rare, safe space to explore the real challenges of senior leadership with honesty, practical strategies, and expert guidance. If you're new to DHT/AHT roles, it will deepen your confidence, sharpen your leadership thinking, and connect you with a supportive network of colleagues who truly 'get' the job.
- I fully recommend the 'Deputy/Assistant Headteacher induction course' as it helps anyone new to these roles to improve their knowledge and develop their skills. Juliet is an incredibly experienced professional, who creates a supportive environment that allows all participants to share their experiences.

If you do have any queries before session 1 on 25.09.2026, do contact the course leader directly at [Juliet Adlouné](#)

## Young Carers Senior Leadership Briefing



For headteachers, principals, deputy and assistant headteachers, designated safeguarding leads, SENCOs/inclusion leads, pastoral and attendance leads, governors, trustees and other senior leaders in Cambridgeshire schools and colleges.

Tuesday 22 September 2026, 4pm – 4.30pm; Thursday 24 September 2026, 12.30pm – 1pm; Wednesday 30 September 2026, 4pm – 4.30pm; or Tuesday 6 October 2026, 9am – 9.30a. Online via Microsoft Teams. Fully funded by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. Book a place below:

[Young Carers Senior Leadership Briefing registration link](#)

# Collaborative Climate Action - free CPD event for Cambridgeshire education settings

For Cambridgeshire school leaders, sustainability leads, teachers, governors, site/estates colleagues, business managers and trust/federation staff. **Monday 14 December 2026** 9.00-4.00. Stephen Perse Foundation Sixth Form, Bateman St, Cambridge CB2 1NA. Free.

## Training and events

**Training provider: CCC**

### SIS - New to Year 6 – Joint English & maths tab

For teachers who are new or returning to Year 6 – Tuesday 22 September 2026 1.30pm until 4.30pm Stanton House, Huntingdon. £88 per school for LA schools and £98 per school for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

### SIS – Unpicking the End of KS2 teacher assessment framework for writing – English tab

For Year 6 teachers and English subject leaders. Session 1 of 4 – Focus on purpose for writing. Tuesday 29 September 2026 3.45pm until 5.15pm online. £65 per school for LA schools and £75 per school for Cambridgeshire academies, out of county schools or independent schools.

### SIS - Leading Improvements in Phonics – Core training offer tab

For phonics and early reading leaders and English subject leaders. – Thursday 1 October 2026 1.30pm until 4.00pm (TA all day, link teacher am) Sunley House, Papworth. No charge for up to two people from schools that have purchased Element 2 of the Primary Offer £78 per person for Cambridgeshire LA maintained schools £88 per person for out of county, Cambridgeshire academy and independent schools

### Finding your Feet - Support for new or inexperienced Physical Education subject leaders in primary schools

Audience: Any new or inexperienced PE subject leader in the primary phase  
29/09/2026, 1.30pm-3.30pm Online.

**£60** Cambridgeshire LA schools **£54** Cambridgeshire Academies and non-Cambs Schools

### Inspiring leadership in PE programme

Audience: This package is ideal for Primary, and Special School teachers who lead Physical Education

07/10/26, 02/12/26, 27/01/27, 24/02/27, 41/03/27 & 05/05/27. All online - 1.30pm-3.30pm. Online.

£54 for Cambs maintained schools, £60 for Cambs Academies and all non-Cambs schools (£270 (LA) or £300 Non-LA) if booked 'en bloc'.

### The Cambridgeshire Physical Education Hub (Network)

This termly network is ideal for Primary, Special and Secondary School teachers who teach Physical Education.

21/10/26, 09/02/27, 27/05/27 - 1.30pm - 3.30pm (online)

Free to all schools and settings in Cambridgeshire

### New to leading Religious Education

24 September 2026 – online via teams – 3.30-5pm

£45 per person per session for Cambridgeshire LA maintained schools

£55 per person per session for out of county, Cambridgeshire academy and independent schools

### **Religious Education for ECTs and non-specialists**

1 October 2026 - online via teams – 3.30-5pm

£45 per person per session for Cambridgeshire LA maintained schools

£55 per person per session for out of county, Cambridgeshire academy and independent schools

### **Religious Education and SEND**

14 October 2026 - online via teams – 3.30-5pm

£45 per person per session for Cambridgeshire LA maintained schools

£55 per person per session for out of county, Cambridgeshire academy and independent schools

### **ITC Level 2 Award in Food Hygiene in the Outdoors**

For primary school teachers, secondary school teachers, EVCs and others involved in outdoor activities.

**Tuesday 6 October** at Grafham Water Centre

Accredited certification upon successful completion

**Training provider: Flight Free UK**

### **An introduction to Flight Free Schools and the practicalities of flight-free trips**

For sustainability leads at secondary schools, and any staff with an interest in sustainability.

Wednesday 30 September, 3.45 – 4.55pm. Online, free

**Select tickets – Flight Free Schools: what, where, why and how – Zoom**

**Training provider: Cambridgeshire School Business Forum**

### **Cambridgeshire School Business Forum – Thrive 2026**

For School Business Managers, Finance Managers, Office Managers and school business professionals.

**Wednesday 14 October 2026**, 8.45 to 4.30. Owners Suite, Huntingdon Racecourse, Brampton, Huntingdon PE28 4NL.

A full day of CPD, practical school business learning, networking and inspiration, ending with a keynote from Chris Lubbe, former bodyguard to Nelson Mandela. Free for Forum members; £50 for non-members.

Sign up here: **Thrive 2026 | Closing Keynote with Chris Lubbe | Wednesday 14 October 2026 – Fill in form**

## **Quick links**

**[SEND Information Hub \(Local Offer\)](#)**

**[SEND OAP toolkits - Learn Together](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire Learn Together](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire County Council](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Teaching School Hub](#)**

**[Early Years, Childcare, and School Readiness Service](#)**

**[Knowledge Hub](#)**

**[Cambridgeshire Schools Newsletter – Learn Together](#)**

**[Grafham Water Centre](#)**

**[Burwell House](#)**

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