TOGETHER for Children and Young People

Together we will make Cheshire East a great place to be young

Weekly Bulletin to Schools

02 November 2026

ChESS HUB .co.uk
Cheshire East School Services

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The weekly School Bulletin is produced by the School Governance & Liaison Service:
schoolbulletin@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Cheshire East Council

1. Strategic Information and Actions

1.1 Local Authority Briefing: Security Alerts in Schools

Content	Audience	Purpose
Please see link below for important information regarding Security Alerts in Schools. **Link:** https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/asset-library/school-bulletins/Documents-for-bulletins-2026/security-alert-oct-2026.pdf	All Schools	For Information

Contact: Kim Broomfield: Kim.Broomfield@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.2 Compliance with statutory Allergy Safety Requirements (Benedict's Law)

Content	Audience	Purpose
From September 2026, all schools are expected to implement the new statutory requirements set out in the DfE's Allergy Safety in Schools Statutory Guidance. This includes publishing an Allergy Safety Policy, providing allergy awareness training for all staff, maintaining Individual Healthcare Plans for pupils where appropriate, ensuring access to spare adrenaline auto-injectors and recording allergy-related incidents and near misses. Therefore, schools are reminded to ensure they review and update their current policies and procedures to ensure full compliance. Further information and templates are available via Allergy safety in schools - GOV.UK **Other Useful Links include:** • School Food Standards: Allergy Guide • Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school - GOV.UK • Individual_Healthcare_Plan_template_4_July_2026.docx • Natasha Allergy Research Foundation Resources; Natasha's Foundation **Actions for School Leaders** ✓ Review and publish Allergy Safety Policy Allergy safety policy – template; Allergy-Safety-Model-Policy-July-2026.pdf ✓ Confirm allergy lead arrangements ✓ Ensure whole-school staff training is completed ✓ Review Individual Healthcare Plans ✓ Check emergency adrenaline arrangements ✓ Brief governors/trustees on new statutory duties ✓ Review educational visit and catering procedures for allergy management. **School Food and Allergen Management**	School Leaders; Chair of Governors/ Trustees	For Information & Action

Updated government guidance reminds schools and catering providers that allergy arrangements must be maintained whenever menu changes occur. Schools must continue to meet duties relating to pupils with allergies and special dietary requirements. Key reminders: • Check product substitutions for allergens. • Ensure allergen information remains available. • Review catering contracts and procedures. • Maintain compliance with food information regulations. **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions** The new allergy legislation sits alongside schools' existing duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 regarding pupils with medical conditions. Schools should review current: • Medical Conditions Policies. • First Aid Procedures. • Individual Healthcare Plans. • Educational Visit Risk Assessments. • Medication Administration Procedures		

Contact: School Governance: schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 0300 1235036

1.3 Schools Funding Formula Consultation 2027/28: Closes Friday 06 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
Cheshire East Council and Schools' Forum are consulting mainstream schools on the schools funding formula for 2027/28 and encourage all schools to have their say by using the link or QR code below https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/Schools_Budget_Consultation_2027_2028/ Once again, the options are limited and the survey is asking for preferences over the minimum funding guarantee and block transfers. The models and a briefing note are placed on the Schools Forum website, a link to a survey has been sent by email and schools are asked to feedback their views. The second briefing session is being held on **Tuesday 3 November at 10.00am-12.00pm via teams**. As usual, the Schools Forum meeting on 3 December 2026 will recommend a funding formula to Cheshire East Cabinet for consideration.	Schools	For Information & Action

Contact: Kathy Oliver: kathy.oliver@cheshireeast.gov.uk

1.4 Have your say in our new Home to School Travel consultation

Content	Audience	Purpose
We're inviting parents, carers, young people and residents to share their views on proposed updates to home to school travel assistance arrangements, in our new consultation. The consultation will run from 16 October to 04 December, giving people the opportunity to help shape future policy and ensure that the experiences of local families are reflected in decision making. This forms part of a review of our compulsory School Age Travel Policy, which explains when travel support is available for eligible children and young people travelling between home and school. The consultation follows a decision by Cheshire East Council's Cabinet on 8 October to approve a refreshed policy and seek public views on a number of proposed changes before any final decisions are made. Have your say before the deadline on **04 December 2026**. **Link:** https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/HomeToSchoolPolicy26/ https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/asset-library/school-bulletins/Documents-for-bulletins-2026/school-transport-consultation-comms-graphic.jpeg	Parents/ students	For Information & Action

Contact: Mel Blake: mel.blake@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 07736 302387

1.5 Help us grow Intergenerational Opportunities across Cheshire East

Content	Audience	Purpose
Is your school involved in activities that bring different generations together? The Cheshire East Public Health Team is looking to learn more about the intergenerational projects already taking place in schools across the borough. Whether you have established links with a local care home, host shared events with older residents, or in volve older volunteers in school life, we'd love to hear about your experiences. We are asking schools to complete a short survey to help us understand the range of intergenerational activity currently taking place and identify opportunities for further support. **The information collected will help us:** • Map existing intergenerational projects across Cheshire East. • Showcase and celebrate good practice. • Understand any challenges schools face when developing or sustaining projects. • Connect schools with local care homes and community partners through the Cheshire East Multi-Generational Project. • Offer tailored support through local Care Communities to help schools establish or expand intergenerational activities. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and can be completed by any member of staff involved in community engagement, wellbeing, enrichment activities, or school leadership. Complete the survey by the **end of November 2026**: **Link:** https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/HC4LDAfXY7	All Schools, Academies and MATs	For Information & Action

Contact: Hayley Antipas: hayley.antipas@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 07826 513410

1.6 Governors' Conference 2026: Resources & Feedback

Content	Audience	Purpose
Our annual governors' conference, held on Friday 16 October at Cranage Hall, saw over 55 governors/trustees, from as many schools, receive updates and insights from the LA Education team and our Family Hub Leads, alongside speakers on AI and safeguarding, trauma-informed practice and practical approaches for supporting mental health in schools. Our keynote speaker, Dr Peter Buzzi challenged governors to consider how the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education may impact on child development, relationships and the professional judgement needed to keep children safe. His presentation also highlighted how some children and young people's use of AI Chatbots raises significant safeguarding concerns and risks. Should any governors/trustees, unable to attend the event, wish to access the conference presentations, these are now available via the CE Governor Services Resources page within GovernorHub or by emailing the School Governance & Liaison Team. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive and we would like to thank all those that joined us for making this event a success. Feedback included: • *'Brilliant, valued every speaker'* • *'Interesting, challenging, and valuable mix of topics'* • *'Excellent, thought provoking and gave a greater awareness of AI issues'* • *'Thought provoking and helpful insights into Trauma-informed practice and how school might approach'* • *'Good to have update of current roles and hear about the progress the LA is making'* • *'Improved understanding, good pointers on how to monitor in schools'* • *'Inspirational and perfect to have included a governor in the presentation'*	School Leaders; Chair of Governors/ Trustees	For Information

Contact: School Governance: schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 0300 1235036

2. Training and Wider Development Opportunities

2.1 Schools HR - Headteacher Workshop: 11 November 2026

Content	Audience	Purpose
We are pleased to confirm that we will be running a Headteacher workshop for our buy-back schools and academies. • **Date:** Wednesday 11 November 2026 • **Time:** 9:30am - 12:30pm - refreshments will be served from 8:45am • **Venue:** Canalside Conference Centre (Middlewich Community Church), Brooks Lane, Middlewich, CW10 0JG • **Cost:** £35.00 We will be joined at the workshop by Steve Hargreaves, Founder and Director of The Compassionate Leadership Company who will facilitate a session as part of the morning. Places are available to book through ChESS.	Headteachers	For Information

Contact: Nuala Hadden: deanhadden@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 07885 189279

2.2 Introduction to School Finance for Governors: 19 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
Places are available on our **Introduction to School Finance** training on **Thursday 19 November 2026,** 9:30am - 11:30am via MS Teams. The DfE expects everyone on the governing/trust board to have a basic understanding of their school's financial cycle, the legal requirements on accountability, financial management, control, monitoring and reporting, as referenced in the Maintained Schools: Governance Guide and new guidance within the Academy Trust Handbook 2026 Suitable for both new and more experienced governors/trustees, this course provides a practical introduction to school finance and the board's role in ensuring effective financial oversight, accountability and value for money. Delegates will gain an understanding of how schools and academies are funded, how budgets are set and monitored, and how governing boards can contribute to long-term financial sustainability. To book your place, please go to the 'Training' tab in GovernorHub or email the School Governance & Liaison Team. *This course is free to schools and academies who have purchased the CPD Training and Support for Governors package via ChESS Hub. For non-purchasing schools and academies, the charge is £75 per delegate.*	Governors	CPD for Governors/ Trustees

Contact: School Governance: schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 0300 1235036

2.3 Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) training

Content	Audience	Purpose
It is recommended that all newly appointed EVC's complete appropriate training and those in post refresh their training at least every 3 years. Nationally certified by the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel (OEAP), this course covers the management checks, procedures and statutory requirements relating to all educational visits and Learning outside the Classroom activities - ensuring that schools meet the recommendations and requirements set out by the DfES, HSE, Local Authority and School employers. The training ensures that schools meet their statutory requirements, shares best practice, and covers: • Health and Safety of Educational Visits • Management check and procedures recommended by DfE and HSE • Understanding of legal requirements • Roles and responsibilities • Risk benefit assessment and management • National guidance and local authority policy and guidance **Educational Visits Coordinator training:** • Tuesday 23 February 2027, 9:30am – 3:30pm • Tuesday 27 April 2027, 9:30am – 3:30pm All the above courses are held at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School and include food/refreshments. **Educational Visits Coordinator Update training:** • Monday 30 November 2026, 3:30pm – 5:30pm online. • Monday 01 March 2027, 3:30pm – 5:30pm online. • Monday 07 June 2027, 3:30pm – 5:30pm online. For further information and/or to book on the above sessions, please visit ChESS.	All school and academy Headteachers / Principals, other senior leaders, Educational Visit Coordinators	For Information & Action

Contact: School Governance: schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 0300 1235036

2.4 EVOVLE Risk Benefit Assessment Training: 01 February 2027

Content	Audience	Purpose
This new course on completing Risk Benefit Assessments for Educational Visits on EVOLVE will take place on **Monday 01 February 2027**, 3:30pm – 5:30 pm, via MS Teams. Delivering safe, successful and rewarding educational visits starts with effective planning and proportionate risk management. This practical course is designed to provide Visit Leaders, Assistant Leaders and Educational Visits Coordinators (EVCs) with the knowledge, skills and confidence to plan educational visits safely while maximising learning opportunities for pupils. Through a combination of practical guidance and best practice advice, delegates will gain a thorough understanding of the risk management process and learn how to apply the **STAGED approach** to create effective, proportionate risk assessments. During the course, participants will explore: • *Understanding the risk management process for educational visits* • *Applying the **STAGED approach** to determine what should be included in a risk assessment* • *Developing proportionate and effective risk management plans* • *Understanding legal and statutory requirements* • *Accessing national guidance and best practice through **OEAP** and **AOLEV*** • *Understanding the relationship between a school's risk assessment and a provider's risk assessment* • *Conducting due diligence and provider suitability checks* • *Planning visits that are both safe and educationally meaningful* For further information and/or to book on the above sessions, please visit ChESS.	All school and academy Headteachers / Principals, other senior leaders, Educational Visit Coordinators	For Information

Contact: School Governance: schoolgovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 0300 1235036

2.5 Autism Workshops for North Primary Schools: 17 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
This training will take place on **17 November 2026**, 1:00pm – 4:00pm at Macclesfield Town Hall. It is suitable for staff who work with neurodivergent pupils. SENCO, class teachers and learning support assistants It will cover Total Communication, SCERTS/Progression Framework and Masking. Places are limited, so please book early. **Link:** https://chesshub.co.uk/Event/313145	SENCO, class teachers and learning support assistants	For Information

Contact: Clare O'Connor: Theautismteam@cheshireeast.gov.uk ☎ 01270 685960

2.6 Upcoming Health & Safety and First Aid training courses

<table>
<tr><th>Content</th><th>Audience</th><th>Purpose</th></tr>
<tr><td>PLEASE BOOK via ChESS HUB
<table>
<tr><th>Course details</th><th>Venue & date
2026</th></tr>
<tr><td>Paediatric First Aid (blended-learning)
(6 hours e-learning and 6 hours face-to-face training)
£104 per delegate
THIS COURSE IS FOR TREATING INFANTS & CHILDREN (ages 0 to 16)</td><td>NEW DATES TO BE ARRANGED</td></tr>
<tr><td>IOSH Managing Safely (3 day) course
09:00 to 17:00 each day
£225 per delegate</td><td>Municipal Buildings, Crewe
Thurs 12, Fri 13 & Fri 20 November</td></tr>
<tr><td>IOSH Managing Safely Refresher (1 day) course
09:00 to 16:30
£165 per delegate</td><td>Macclesfield Town all
Monday 16 November</td></tr>
<tr><td>First Aid at Work (blended-learning)
(6 hours e-learning and 12 hours face-to-face training)
£137 per delegate
THIS COURSE IS FOR TREATING ADULTS (age 16+)</td><td>Macclesfield Town Hall
Monday 30 November and
Tuesday 1 December</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Course times – 09:30 to 16:30 unless otherwise stated</td></tr>
</table></td><td>Headteachers, Site Maintenance Officers, Caretakers and First Aiders</td><td>To gain an accredited qualification in Health and Safety / First Aid</td></tr>
</table>

Contact: Diane Owen, Corporate Health & Safety Team: Dianek.owen@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2.7 Developing Oracy Across the Classroom & the Curriculum

Content	Audience	Purpose
High-quality oracy teaching boosts pupil attainment, confidence, and essential life skills. Our Oracy programme offers a series of research-driven, practical sessions designed to help schools embed high-impact spoken language strategies across the classroom, curriculum, and wider school community. Participants will explore current research on language acquisition, establish a shared whole-school vision, and gain practical pedagogical tools for everyday teaching. The course also covers progressive curriculum planning, disciplinary talk, and methods to ensure oracy development remains equitable and accessible for all learners. **Course Leader** Delivered by Charles Hewitt, Headteacher at Fender Primary School and founder of Oracy North West. Charles brings extensive experience in leading whole-school oracy development, including achieving accreditation as a Voice 21 Centre of Excellence. **This is a three-day course. Attendance at all three days is mandatory.** • Day 1: **Thursday 12 November 2026**, 9:00am – 4:00pm at Lacey Green English Hub, Lacey Green Primary Academy, Barlow Road **Link:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc702BXbZIxu0zxqVA6qazKzp-PSfQekmUCDf_j-tQaPQ3Xag/viewform	School Leaders	For Information

Contact: Kerri Hall: khall@laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk ☎ 01625 783335

2.8 Supporting Early Language Development Programme (SELD)

Content	Audience	Purpose
A school improvement course focused on ensuring the very best outcomes in early language development. **Programme Aims** • Understand a working model of language to observe children's language development through the primary years and beyond. • Understand the stages of typical language development, concentrating on expected milestones for ages 4 to 11. • Develop practical classroom skills and techniques for Quality First Teaching in Reception and KS1 to create skilled, confident practitioners. • Investigate tools to identify children with speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) and explore strategies to support them in class. **Who Should Attend** The course is primarily aimed at Early Years leadership, including Headteachers, Early Years Leads, and SENDCOs. Attending staff will be responsible for cascading training within their school. This is a three-day course covering six modules. Attendance at all three days is mandatory. • Day 1: **Tuesday 24th November 2026**, 9:00am – 4:00pm at Lacey Green English Hub **Link:** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSFDqr7Yq7o_8HXO99CraSTfdKx1zefkxzAQm6QrMKfyyRGw/viewform	Early Years leadership, including Headteachers, Early Years Leads, and SENDCOs	For Information

Contact: Kerri Hall: khall@laceygreen.cheshire.sch.uk ☎ 01625 783335

2.9 Online Harms and Radicalisation: Recognise; Understand; Respond

Content	Audience	Purpose
About this Workshop A free, two-hour online workshop for staff who work with children and young people. The session builds practical understanding of how young people engage with online communities, how radicalisation can develop online across any or no ideology, and how practitioners can recognise concerns and respond through appropriate safeguarding routes. **EVENT DETAILS** **Dates:** • Monday 9 November 2026, • Wednesday 2 December 2026 • Wednesday 13 January 2027 **Times on each date:** • 9:00am–11:00am • 1:00pm–3:00pm • 4:00pm–6:00pm **Format:** Online via Microsoft Teams **Cost:** Free to attend **Places:** 200 per session **Book your place:** https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-harms-and-radicalisation-recognise-understand-respond-pr31-tickets-2003474945494?aff=oddtdtcreator	Staff who work with children and young people	For Information

Contact: Sandra Ennis: sandra@connectfutures.org

3. Traded Service Information

There are no items in this section.

4. General Information

4.1 Youth Mental Health Aware Course (for parents): 07 November

Content	Audience	Purpose
This FREE introductory, three-hour session raises awareness of young people's mental health. It aims to build parent/carers' confidence to help them in supporting their children. • Saturday **07 November 2026**, 10:00am-1:00pm, In-Person at Just Drop-In, Macclesfield For more information or to book a place, contact: parenting@justdropin.co.uk **Link:** https://www.justdropin.co.uk/contact-us/info-for-parents/	For parents/ carers of young people aged 8-18 years old, living in the North of Cheshire East	For Information

Contact: Jenny Spencer: jenny.spencer@justdropin.co.uk ☎ 01625 665079

4.2 Parent Zone – Free training and teaching resources

Content	Audience	Purpose
Planning an INSET day or staff meeting this term? Parent Zone can deliver free Experience AI training in your school throughout November and December, helping staff build confidence teaching young people how AI works and how to use it responsibly. • **Updated Be Internet Legends curriculum and free live assemblies for primary schools** Parent Zone and Google have updated every Be Internet Legends resource for pupils aged 7 to 11. The free lessons now include AI literacy activities and reflect how children play, chat and socialise online today. They fit into PSHE, RSHE and computing. Primary schools can also join two free live assemblies, both 9:30am–10:00am: Be Internet Legends Day on **Friday 13 November**, marking five years and 10 million children reached, and the Be Internet Legends Christmas Party on **Monday 30 November**. Get resources here: • **Free AI and online safety training with Google, plus Be Internet Citizens lessons** Free virtual training with Google: the safety tools that help families manage children's online lives (LEO), **Wednesday 18 November**, 3:45pm–4:30pm, and practical ways to use AI in your own teaching (LEA), **Tuesday 24 November**, 4:00pm–4:45pm. Book training: parentzone.org.uk/LearnExplore • **Media literacy for secondary schools** For Anti-Bullying Week (16–20 November), free Be Internet Citizens lessons help secondary students think before they share and understand how online pile-ons happen. Be Internet Citizens: parentzone.org.uk/beinternetcitizens	Schools	For Information

Contact: Giles Martin: giles@parentzone.org.uk

4.3 Sing the Christmas Story - spaces available for schools!

Content	Audience	Purpose
The Love Music Trust invites schools to join its annual festive celebration, Sing the Christmas Story, bringing the nativity story to life through song, music and movement. Participating schools will learn seasonal songs linked by narration before joining together for a massed performance at a local church or Chester Cathedral. The project includes a Zoom rehearsal on Monday 16 November, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm, to introduce and learn the songs. Schools will then continue rehearsing independently, supported by a comprehensive online resource pack containing lyric sheets, performance tracks and backing tracks. Spaces remain available at the following celebrations: • **02 December 2026**, 10:30am: St Mary's RC Church, Crewe • **03 December 2026**, 10:30am: St Michael's and All Angels Church, Macclesfield • **08 December 2026**, 1:45pm: Chester Cathedral • **09 December2026**, 2:00pm: St Andrew's Church, Bebington The closing date to sign up to this project is **Friday 06 November** via the following link: https://www.lovemusictrust.com/schools/projects/sing-the-christmas-story	Primary Schools and Academies (KS1 &2)	For Information

Contact: John Barber: Jbarber@lovemusictrust.com ☎ 01270 766214