

SEND

Weekly Newsletter

9 October 2019



Issue 50

Joy for Avalon at National SEND Awards

Congratulations to Avalon School in Street - they've just bagged the 'Excellence in Special Schools' Award at the National Special Educational Needs and Disability Awards 2019.

Members of the team attended an awards ceremony last week in Southampton.

Judges said: "We were impressed by the raising of funds, unintentionally at first, through clubs and projects.

Very impressive approach, well done."

It's a small school with 51 pupils across KS 3, 4, and 5. Ofsted (January 2018) has called it "a warm and welcoming school where pupils enjoy their school experience", and rates it 'Good'.

Avalon Special School is focused on ensuring young people are prepared for adulthood. Staff do this through the development of academic, personal and social, communication and independence skills.

The National SEND Awards celebrate inclusion for under 25s in work and school and are sponsored by The Root of It which provides inclusion training and advice for employers and educators. There are nine categories - to find out more [visit here](#).



World Mental Health Day

What is mental health, what are mental health problems and what is good mental health?

This Wednesday, 10 October, organisations come together to raise awareness of mental health.

It's World Mental Health Day, which falls in World Mental Illness Awareness Week, and it's a chance for all those working on mental health issues to talk about their work and to highlight the issues and where to get help.

The initiative is supported by the World Health Organisation and this year's focus is on suicide prevention. There is lots of information and resources about all aspects of mental health and how to find help and advice if you visit the [Mental Health Foundation](#).



Right Support, Right Place, Right Time

Early help and SEND support is **everyone's responsibility**; We want Children, Families, Communities and Partner Agencies to work together so that families can help themselves and be supported as soon as a need arises. Somerset County Council and partners have produced the SEND Effective Support Working Guidelines for practitioners who are working with children and young people with SEND and their Families. This document sets out our collective responsibilities and provides practical guidance with a step by step guide to the range of support that can be accessed at Early Help and

SEND Support. These working guidelines also outline the next steps for the small percentage of children and young people whose needs cannot be met at SEND Support.

For a copy of The Effective Support for Children and Young People with SEND and their Families in Somerset visit the [Local Offer](#).

We want to hear your views on the document and over the coming months we will be holding a series of stakeholder events - more on that soon. In the meantime, if you want to feedback please email: SENDeffectivesupportfeedback@somerset.gov.uk

Changing places

Short Breaks and the Parent Carer Forum are busy mapping the Changing Places in Somerset and the surrounding area. It's part of a bigger project led by Adults Services which is taking a look at where new facilities can be installed.

This will make it easier for the people that need these facilities to have more choice and control about going out in their community, knowing that they will be able to use the toileting facilities they need.

What are Changing Places?

They are large accessible toilet facilities which **can** include a height adjustable changing bed suitable for children and adults, hoist with ceiling tracking and a wheelchair accessible toilet. Watch this space for more on this work in future articles. Check out The National Changing Places website [here](#). (NB: not all facilities in Somerset are listed here – bear with us). If you want to get involved in this project email: ljwhite@somerset.gov.uk or help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk

Are you Dyslexia and Dyspraxia aware?

It's a big Awareness week for two common disorders affecting many children and young people.

Dyslexia Awareness Week, **7-13 October** will focus on businesses and schools empowering young people with dyslexia.

One in 10 people is dyslexic and the aim is to highlight the many strengths those with dyslexia can bring to an

organisation.

There's more [information here](#). **Dyspraxia Awareness Week (6-12 October).**

Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), also known as dyspraxia, is a common disorder affecting fine and/or gross motor coordination in children and adults and may affect an individuals participation and functioning in every day life [More information here.](#)

