



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Joint Authority Support for Children, Families and Schools

Sensory Support Service Newsletter

www.sensorysupportservice.org.uk

Supporting children and young people with hearing loss, vision or multisensory impairment to have the best opportunities to learn, develop and grow.

September 2025

Welcome to the new Academic year!

We hope everyone had a good summer and that all children and young people are doing well. Particularly for those on transition into a new setting, we hope this new phase in their education journey is going well. We have all been working hard to ensure everything is in place. You can discuss any issues or concerns with your support teacher for Vision Impairment, (QTVI) Teacher of Deaf, (ToD) or teacher for Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI). You can also contact us via our **Service helpline:** sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk or by phone on 0117 9038441/2

We wish everyone a happy school year!

1. Acorns Support Group

We know that many parents find it useful to meet other families with children who have had a diagnosis of hearing loss. Acorns is a support group for families in Bristol, South Glos, BANES and North Somerset.

We have a creche run by our lovely staff team and a group of wonderful volunteers. If children are happy to be left in the creche, we have a parent room where parents can grab a hot drink and take part in our programme of information and support.

When: Wednesdays during term time

Time: 10.30am - Midday

Where: Elmfield House, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS10 6AY

Who: Babies and pre-school children with a hearing loss, their siblings, and parents and carers.



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2. Glue Ear talk for parents and carers

We are running a few sessions supported by Glue Ear Together, about finding out what glue ear is and why it is so common, understand signs and symptoms and learn about different interventions available. These sessions take place at Elmfield House.

Date: Tuesday 14 October 2025 10.30am to Midday

Where: Elmfield House, Greystoke Avenue, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, BS10 6AY

Book your FREE place: sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk

3. Bristol Beacon: Pulse Kids project

Bristol Beacon is running a music and movement group for children aged 7 to 11 years old, with additional needs.

Three musicians will lead the space where group members will play music and movement games, explore instruments, sounds and rhythms, create and record own songs and feel supported in the space.

When: Wednesdays 4.15pm to 5.15pm in term time, starting on **24 September 2025**.

Where: Beacon Music Centre, 35 Stanton Road, BS10 5SJ

Why: To improve wellbeing, learn skills, make friends and have fun!

Plenty of parking onsite. Parents welcome to stay onsite or leave depending on needs of child. Free snack included

Please use this [sign up link](#): to register your child before attending a session.

4. NDCS: Helping families prepare for the new school year

A new school year often brings changes for deaf children and young people. From starting nursery or moving up a year group, to preparing for exams or stepping into further education or work.

NDCS have put together a range of practical tips, tools and resources designed to help parents and carers support their child's learning journey.

Find out more at [Education and learning](#)



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5. Makaton Level 1 Workshop

The Speech and Language Therapy Training Team are running a practical introduction to the Makaton Language Programme. Sessions will include:

- Discussing commonly asked questions
- Hints and tips for effective signing and symbol use
- How to start using Makaton in everyday situations

You will also learn the signs and symbols from Stages 1 and 2, and some of the Additional stage, of the Core Vocabulary.

This course is available for parents and carers of pre-school and school-aged children or professionals working in early years settings or schools who need to use Makaton to support the communication skills of others.

Current workshop dates:

The Level 1 course is split over two morning sessions and participants must book on to and attend BOTH sessions:

- Session 1: 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday 6th October 2025
- Session 2: 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday 13th October 2025

Location: Drove House, Drove Road, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 3NT

Cost: (includes participants manual)

- Parents: £25 (per parent)
- Professionals: £70 (per professional or staff member)

Places are booked and paid for via Eventbrite on [Makaton Level 1 - 6th and 13th October 2025 Tickets, Mon, Oct 6, 2025 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

For enquiries, please email Sirona.SLTTrainingTeam@nhs.net

Please do not attend the session unless you have booked a place through Eventbrite.

Please note you will be unable to claim a refund if you cancel your booking with less than 14 days' notice.



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If you do not want to receive information, please let us know by emailing our generic email and telling us the name of your child

sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk

Want more information on special educational needs and disability for the under 25s?

Find a link to the Local Offer for your area by following the link below

- [Bristol](#)
- [South Gloucestershire](#)
- [Bath and North East Somerset](#)
- [North Somerset](#)

General Data Protection Regulations as of 25/05/2018

The Local Authority (LA) uses data to carry out specific functions for which it is responsible, such as the assessment of special educational needs and/ or disabilities, home to school transport requirements, admissions, children/ young people's welfare, children looked after, exclusions and early years support. Anonymised information is used to derive statistics, to inform decisions on (for example) the funding of education settings, to assess educational performance and track Service provision.

The Sensory Support Service keeps information about your child so that we can provide services and to keep a record of these services. This information may include information that supports your child's development, monitor progress, specialist assessments and advice/support given to settings to enable them to meet your child's needs. This information will also include contact details, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnicity, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

We will only request and share data with people already involved you're your child, people relevant to statutory duties and individual circumstances.

For information regarding data sharing, including retention periods, please visit is www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/about-our-website/privacy

If you wish to access the personal data held about you or a young person you are responsible for, please contact Bristol City Council in writing:

Data Protection Officer

Bristol City Council

PO Box 3176

Bristol

BS3 9FS