



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.

March 2026

Welcome to the Sensory Support Service Newsletter.

Contents

Children and Young People Evaluation Questionnaire 2025/26.....	1
1. Acorns Support Group.....	2
2. Glue Ear talk for parents and carers	3
3. National Deaf Children’s Society (NDCS) Together for SEND 2026 Event	3
4. National Deaf Children’s Society (NDCS) and Family Fund.....	4
5. Bristol Deaf Children’s Society: Park Meet ups for Families	4
Tell us if you don’t want to receive information	4
Want more information on special educational needs and disability for the under 25s?	5
General Data Protection Regulations as of 25/05/2018	5

Children and Young People Evaluation Questionnaire 2025/26

Our annual **Evaluation Questionnaire** will be open from **Monday 16 March to Thursday 2 April**. You will be sent an email about this, with the relevant questionnaire links, in due course.

This is an opportunity for you to feedback about the support your child or young person has received this academic year from either a Teacher of the Deaf, Qualified Teacher for the Visually Impaired or Teacher for the Multi-Sensory Impaired.

We would really value your support in completing this year’s survey.



Joint Authority Support for Children, Families and Schools

As well as asking for **parents and carers** to feedback by completing a questionnaire, we would also like to ask your **children and young people aged 8 years and above**, for their views about the support they receive.

[Fill in the survey.](#)

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 email our **Service Helpline** on sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk

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 Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset 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 to 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.

We're delighted that our Little Acorns groups are now running further afield in Bath, Weston-super-Mare, and Easton in Bristol. These stay-and-play sessions bring together families with young children who have a hearing loss, offering a welcoming space to connect, play, and share experiences.

If you're nearby, you're warmly invited to come along to your local group — we'd love to see you there! For more information, please visit the [Acorns group page](#) on our website.

Bath Acorns

- Address: First Steps, Woodhouse Road, Twerton, Bath, BA2 1SY
- Time: 10:15am to 11:45am



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Joint Authority Support for Children, Families and Schools

- Dates: **Thursday 26 March, Thursday 30 April, Thursday 21 May, Thursday 18 June and Thursday 9 July.**

For more information email julian.shepard@bristol.gov.uk

Easton Acorns

- Address: Bannerman Road Community Academy, All Hallows Road, BS5 0HR
- Time: 1pm to 2:30pm
- Date: **Monday 30 March 2026**

For more information email lucy.blatchford@bristol.gov.uk

Weston-Super-Mare Acorns

- Address: Mendip Green Primary School, Greenwood Road, Worle, Weston-Super-Mare BS22 6EX
- Time: 10:15am to 11:45am
- Dates: **Tuesday 5 May 2026, Tuesday 2 June 2026 & Tuesday 7 July 2026**

For more information email lydia.johnston@bristol.gov.uk

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 17 March 2026 10.30am to midday

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

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

3. National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Together for SEND 2026 Event

Join NDCS for a friendly session for families and professionals supporting deaf children. Learn about hearing loss, available support and local services. There will



Joint Authority Support for Children, Families and Schools

also be time for questions and answers and shared parent experiences. This is for families and professionals supporting deaf children.

When: Monday 16 March

Time: 9.30am to 4pm

Where: We The Curious, Bristol, BS1 5DB

[Book your tickets.](#)

4. National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) and Family Fund

The **NDCS** and **Family Fund** have partnered to launch a brand-new UK-wide funding programme for families raising deaf children aged **0 to 11**, or those still in primary school.

This programme offers support with accessing **assistive technology, specialist equipment**, and **British Sign Language (BSL) learning** — all designed to help children communicate, learn, and take part fully in everyday life.

Please go to the [main NDCS information page](#) for more details.

You can access the [application form](#) here.

5. Bristol Deaf Children's Society: Park Meet ups for Families

Bristol Deaf Children's Society is a parent-led group which aims to provide a support network for parents of children with all types and levels of hearing loss and deafness. They are currently organising some local park meet ups for families.

Details of these can be found by joining the [Bristol Deaf Children's Society Facebook page](#).

Tell us if you don't want to receive information

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



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



Joint Authority Support for Children, Families and Schools

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

Find a link to the SEND Local Offer website 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 [Bristol City Council's privacy webpage](#).

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