



COVERED IN THIS MONTH'S EDITION:

CPD Recordings

PSHE Leads Network Meetings

Update from the PSHE Education Service

What's Out There

Water Safety - An Important Message

Update from National Partners

- Prevent Update
- Winston's Wish Update
- The Big Future Survey
- Exploitation
- Online Safety
- Teenage Relationship Abuse
- Sexual and Sexist Bullying
- Harmful Sexualised Behaviours
- New Terminology - PMOS
- Contraception Update
- Vaccination - Actions for Schools
- New PE and School Sports Partnerships
- Parents and Vaping
- Transition Research

Update from Local Partners

- Space 2026
- Stoke-on-Trent Festival of Practice
- Walk Safe App
- Introducing Local Drug Information Service
- New Local Suicide Prevention Resource
- Local Newsletters

Information for Parents and Carers

- Supporting Neurodivergent children
- Healthy Pregnancy, Healthy Baby Survey
- Supporting Your Child Through Summer

New to the Resource Library

Update on National Resources

- Libraries for Primaries - EO1 Open
- Understanding and Challenging behaviours associated with the manosphere
- New CEOP Video on Reporting to CEOP
- Join PSHE Association's Network Body
- Pilot free LGBTQ+ Training - 18th June
- Primary Accredited RSHE training from 1decision
- School Food Resources
- Update to NSPCC Talk Relationships Resources
- Update from Oak National Academy
- SEND CEOP Pilot Opportunity
- Funded Offer for Story Project PSHE Curriculum
- Free Trees for Schools and Community Groups

Awareness Days (July)

- Plastic Free July (1-31)
- Talk to Us - Samaritans (1-31)
- Alcohol Awareness Week (6-12)

Upcoming training

- New E-Learning
- New Podcasts
- New Documentaries and Dramas for CPD

Next Month & Link to Facebook Group

CPD RECORDINGS

Thank you to everyone who joined our CPD session on AI and Deepfakes. Feedback shows it was a valuable session for both primary and secondary colleagues.

The recording is now available on our [YouTube channel](#) and webpage, and can be shared with colleagues across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

Our next session is on 16th June and will focus on pornography education, including how to address sensitive topics confidently.

[Reserve your place here.](#)

THANK YOU

We wanted to say thank you to those education settings who supported the service by completing our survey around feeling and emotions and youth violence with your children and young people.

We are currently reviewing the data and will use this to develop suitable PSHE resources that complement the Where Will It End Campaign.

We will be looking for groups of children and young people to develop these resources if you are interested [please email ellie@staffscvys.org.uk](mailto:ellie@staffscvys.org.uk).

JOIN THE MAILING LIST

Receive the PSHE Digest directly to your inbox on the first termly Friday of each month by emailing

ellie@staffscvys.org.uk



PSHE Education
STOKE-ON-TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE

Conference

WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

9:30AM-3:30PM

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY SHOWGROUND

WESTON ROAD, STAFFORD ST18 0BD

[CLICK TO BOOK](#)

We're excited to announce that bookings are now open for our second local PSHE Education Conference (details above)

This year's event will offer an engaging space to explore best-practice PSHE, connect with colleagues in similar roles, hear from inspiring guest contributors, and network with a range of support services.

Our 2024 conference received fantastic feedback, and we're looking forward to building on that momentum. A full programme will be released in the new academic year, we encourage early booking to secure your place.

Early Bird Tickets (before September): £45

General Tickets (from September): £60

Your ticket includes the full-day conference, refreshments, and lunch.

FINAL COUNTDOWN TO UPDATED STATUTORY RSHE

As we enter the final half-term before the updated RSHE guidance becomes statutory the Pan-Staffordshire PSHE Education Service has developed a new guidance document to help PSHE Leads to be RSHE-Ready.

Our Becoming RSHE-Ready for September guidance document provides a clear and practical framework to support this transition and ensure high-quality, compliant RSHE from day one of the new academic year.

The document sets out a clear roadmap for schools, including auditing current provision, developing policies, engaging stakeholders, curriculum planning and providing staff training. It is underpinned by local and national guiding principles that emphasise inclusion, positivity, pupil voice, and transparency with parents and carers, alongside a comprehensive readiness checklist.

We welcome any feedback on this document.

NEW!



**Becoming
RSHE-Ready
for September**

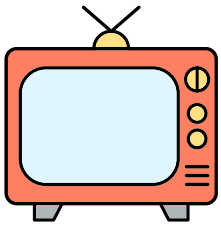
and PSHE Education in Staffordshire &
Stoke-on-Trent

2026

Ellie Chesterton & Natalie McGrath

WHAT'S OUT THERE...

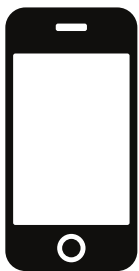
Whilst it is important to ensure PSHE is part of a planned curriculum, it can also be used to address needs in a local context and form part of conversations we have with children and young people about their experiences and what's happening in the world around them. We have collated some examples of topics that are being covered in TV, news and social media that children and young people may want to discuss.



- Love Island has returned providing opportunities for discussions about healthy relationships and associated behaviours.
- In EastEnders, Ian Beale is arrested for drink-driving after hitting someone with his car. A breath test shows 41 micrograms of alcohol, above the legal limit of 35. Ian claims he only had one drink, but the officer explains that there's no set number of drinks that guarantees someone is safe to drive.
- In Hollyoaks, Dee Dee is shown coping with her mother's death after the funeral. During recent episodes, she is offered ketamine and chooses to take it.
- Toy Story 5 will hit the cinema later this month, with themes of toys v tech and friendships being explored.
- The FIFA World Cup begins later this month, a [study by Lancaster University](#) found that when England lose a world cup game Domestic Abuse increases by 38% and if the team win it increases by 26%! Domestic Abuse is not caused by football, alcohol substance use or stress but they can be contributing factors. Support is available for any person affected by Domestic Abuse via [New Era.](#)



- The [murder of Henry Nowak](#) has drawn significant public and political attention. The reactions to the case have led to wider discussions about issues such as racism, diversity, police decision-making and knife crime. Different political groups and commentators have referenced the case when making their arguments or highlighting their concerns.
- Tom Holland has been [praised for his "powerful" words](#) after opening up about the impact dyslexia has on him.
- [PCSOs in Staffordshire Police](#) have voted for strike action after shift changes.



- A [group of MPs have said](#) that the government should not stop young people from viewing educational content on video-sharing platforms such as Tiktok or YouTube if it goes ahead with banning their use of social media.
- [Exam watchdogs have warned](#) of the rise in high-tech cheating. Data from Ofqual shows that the use of mobile phones and smart devices has been the most common form of exam malpractice in every summer exam series since 2018. Last year, it accounted for 44% of all student malpractice cases.
- People in the UK spend nearly 5 years on their phones unintentionally according to a [study by Virgin Media O2 and the University of Cambridge](#).

WATER SAFETY – AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Many of you will have seen [recent media coverage](#) highlighting a number of tragic water-related deaths across the UK over a short period of time. These incidents serve as a stark and upsetting reminder of how quickly situations around water can become dangerous, particularly for children and young people. The Child Death Overview Panel has [circulated this newsletter](#) across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

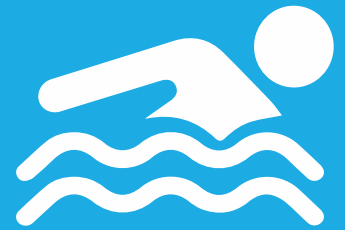
As PSHE leads, this presents an important opportunity to reflect on how we are equipping children and young people with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

WHY WATER SAFETY MATTERS IN PSHE

Water safety education is a key part of safeguarding and prevention education. Situations involving water can develop quickly and are often complex and unpredictable, particularly in outdoor or unfamiliar environments.

PSHE gives children and young people the opportunity to:

- Build awareness of different environments (rivers, canals, lakes, reservoirs)
- Develop confidence in recognising when something doesn't feel safe
- Recognise that it is always okay to pause, step back, and seek help
- Learn how to look out for themselves and others in a supportive way



KEY MESSAGES TO REINFORCE

Across all key stages, it is helpful to focus on clear, reassuring messages, such as:

- Water environments may be different from how they appear
- Taking a moment to notice surroundings and think before acting can help keep us safe
- Staying with others and looking out for each other is important
- There are safe ways to enjoy water, particularly where there is guidance and supervision like lifeguards

For older young people, developing skills around:

- Decision-making in group situations
- Recognising when something feels unsafe or uncomfortable
- Ways to respond that prioritise safety without judgement

Children and young people should be supported to recognise that:

- Help is always available and asking for help is important
- In an emergency they should call 999
- They are not expected to put themselves at risk to help someone else



A PREVENTATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE APPROACH

Approaching water safety through PSHE is not about placing responsibility or blame, it is about taking a strength's based approach that helps children and young people to:

- Build awareness and understanding over time
- Feel confident about making safer choices
- Know that support is always available

You may wish to consider your settings becoming a [Water Smart School](#), this free accreditation programme for primary, secondary and specialist, state and independent settings helps children and young people gain essential skills for life.

Given the recent incidents, this may be an appropriate time for PSHE Leads to:

- Review how water safety is reflected within your curriculum, how do children and young people develop skills alongside knowledge?
- Revisit key messages with children and young people in a sensitive way
- Share supportive information with families where appropriate

Our [Resource Library](#) contains suggested resources, under Water Safety, Managing Risks, Dealing with Emergencies and First Aid, across all age-groups and our [training page](#) provides links to our Water Safety & PSHE (currently being updated) a e-learning course from West Mercia Search and Rescue and a video from Youth Sports Trust and Swim England.

You may also wish to enhance your curriculum by using external providers like the [Canal and River Trust](#) and [RNLI](#). Please remember you are responsible for [quality assuring any external providers](#), including reviewing materials and making them available for parents and carers.

UPDATE FROM NATIONAL PARTNERS

PREVENT UPDATE

The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) has raised the UK National Threat Level from SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely, to SEVERE, meaning an attack is highly likely in the next six months.

The increase in threat comes following the stabbing in Golders Green in north London, but it is not solely a result of that attack. The terrorist threat level in the UK has been rising for some time, driven by an increase in broader Islamist and extreme right wing terrorist threat from individuals and small groups based in the UK.

Educate Against Hate has worked with Connect Futures to develop a suite of training packs designed to build confidence in managing sensitive and controversial topics safely, lawfully and consistently.

The training packs include:

- The Resilience Ambassador Programme: a peer-led model where trained staff act as internal champions
- Staff Training Workshops: a series of 60-90 minutes workshops covering teacher impartiality, handling controversial issues and managing structured debates
- Ready-to-use Classroom Activities: including discussion games, debate formats, and roleplay scenarios to help teachers embed safe practice
- Teacher Activities: 3 activities for teachers covering facilitating difficult conversations, democratic discussion practice and values sorting.
- E-Learning Modules: 5 modules to build teacher confidence managing controversial topics through research skills, conspiracy awareness, risk assessment and impartial, practical classroom strategies.

Please note that some of these resources cross into Citizenship Education rather than PSHE and so not all resources will be uploaded to www.pshestaffs.com

New resources from The Day have also been added to the Resource Library for Key Stage 3 and 4. Please see our [New to the Resource Library](#) more information.

WINSTON'S WISH UPDATE

Winston's Wish and Child Bereavement UK have come together to be there for even more grieving children, young people and families. They are now one unified charity: Child Bereavement UK.

Visit their newly updated website childbereavementuk.org to find specialist guidance and resources to help support grieving children and young people.

THE BIG FUTURE

The Children's Commissioner for England has launched her final survey, The Big Future to talk to a million children, to listen to them and find out what it's like to be a child today.

The survey is asking children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, the survey is aimed to find out what they think a good childhood should look like, now and in the future.

Please provide opportunities for children and young people to get involved.

EXPLOITATION

The National Crime Agency (NCA) says it is investigating about 200 cases involving violent online gangs, mostly teenage boys targeting young girls. The groups, known collectively as "com", use mainstream social media platforms to manipulate, blackmail and coerce young people into harming and abusing themselves.

The Children's Society's national Prevention Programme has released two significant new resources focused on improving education around child exploitation.

A Youth Voice Report "Tell us who we can be, not who we shouldn't be" shares young people's perspectives on how education about exploitation is currently delivered. The report highlights what young people find effective, what feels unhelpful, and how teaching on these sensitive topics can better reflect their lived experiences.

Secondly, a Best Practice Guidance for Police and Professionals, developed in partnership with the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC), supports police and wider law enforcement in delivering consistent, high-quality education to children on exploitation, county lines and related crime. It is also designed to be useful for professionals outside policing who deliver similar content.

ONLINE SAFETY

Artificial intelligence is becoming a bigger part of pupils' lives, and the Department for Education has now expanded its national guidance to reflect the safeguarding risks that come with it.

The updated materials highlight concerns such as cognitive offloading, where pupils rely on AI instead of developing their own thinking or seeking help from safe adults, which can lead to missed disclosures and reduced support. The guidance also warns about pupils forming emotional attachments to AI chatbots, which can replace real relationships and increase vulnerability.

Existing risks around deepfakes, grooming via AI tools, and AI-generated extremist content are reinforced, with a clear reminder that guidance on incidents involving nudes or semi-nudes applies equally to AI-generated sexualised images.

The NSPCC has published a news story on contacts to Childline about online sexual abuse. New data shows that between April 2025 and March 2026, Childline delivered 2,444 counselling sessions to children and young people about online child sexual abuse and exploitation, an annual increase of 36%. Young people spoke about fears that images of them would be shared, financial extortion and the impact this form of abuse could have on their futures. This comes as the NSPCC launches its new campaign 'Shift Ctrl' highlighting the impact of online harms.

The NSPCC also published a news story on risk-based age rating and keeping children safe online. A YouGov poll commissioned by the NSPCC found that 74% of 11-15 years old would support age ratings on social media apps, like those used for films and video games. Another NSPCC commissioned poll found that 92% of interviewed adults and young people supported an age-based classification system for social media apps and platforms.

The legal landscape is shifting too: the Crime and Policing Act 2026 now criminalises the creation and supply of AI nudification tools, though these offences are not yet enforceable and browser-based services remain outside the law. Research shows the scale of the issue, with hundreds of millions of nudification app downloads and a significant number of educators already encountering AI-generated nude or explicit images created by pupils. While legislation is improving, the safeguarding risks remain active and ongoing, meaning schools need strong policies, staff training and PSHE education that helps pupils understand consent, relationships and the realities of AI.

TEENAGE RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

New data from the Domestic Homicide Project confirms that suicides linked to domestic abuse have outstripped homicides for the third year running in England and Wales. Notably, domestic abuse incidents are growing fastest in the 16 to 19 age group, and this year's data includes the first recorded case of a teenager driven to take their own life following abuse by a partner.

The statutory definition of domestic abuse under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 applies to those aged 16 and over. Relationship abuse involving children under 16 falls outside that definition and is treated in law as child abuse rather than domestic abuse, which affects how such cases are recorded. This year marks the first time a death linked to teenage relationship abuse has been formally recorded in the dataset. The true scale among younger teenagers is unknown, and almost certainly larger than current data suggests.

Teenage relationship abuse sits firmly within the child-on-child abuse framework in KCSIE. A young person experiencing abuse from a partner is unlikely to name that. They are more likely to present as withdrawn, anxious, isolated from friends, or erratic in attendance. They may also speak warmly and protectively about a partner whose behaviour gives cause for concern, minimising incidents, explaining them away, or becoming defensive if a member of staff expresses worry. Loyalty, hope, and a lack of any reference point for what a healthy relationship looks like can all make it very difficult for a young person to recognise abuse for what it is.

If you have concerns about a young person's relationship please refer to New Era's Neutral Front Door

HARMFUL SEXUALISED BEHAVIOURS

New research in 30 secondary schools highlights how responses to harmful sexual behaviours (HSB) are often driven by compliance rather than relationships, with staff under pressure and young people sometimes feeling unheard. It calls for a shift towards relational, preventative approaches that centres student voice and wellbeing

PSHE Leads can embed the recommendations from the report by:

- Amplify student voice- involve pupils in shaping PSHE and safeguarding approaches
- Focus on prevention - teach consent, boundaries, peer influence and bystander skills
- Build a safe classroom culture - prioritise trust, discussion and respectful challenge
- Ensure PSHE is participatory that enables young people to explore, discuss and develop knowledge and skills
- Align with safeguarding - use insights from incidents to inform curriculum planning
- Support staff - offer CPD and space for reflection when teaching sensitive topics

PSHE can play a key role in moving from a reactive safeguarding to a trusted, preventative whole-school culture.

NEW TERMINOLOGY FOR PCOS

After more than a decade of global consultation, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a condition that affects more than 1 in 8 women has been renamed. The hormonal disorder, estimated to affect 170 million women worldwide, will now be known as polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS).

The updated RSHE guidance secondary content states that the curriculum content should cover: "About menstrual and gynaecological health, including: what is an average period; period problems such as premenstrual syndrome; heavy menstrual bleeding; endometriosis; and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). When to seek help from healthcare professionals"

We do not know if the DfE will update the statutory guidance to reflect this change in terminology, but education settings and professionals should ensure they use the updated name in relevant resources and sessions.

CONTRACEPTION UPDATE



The contraceptive implant (Nexplanon) is now licensed for up to 5 years in the UK.

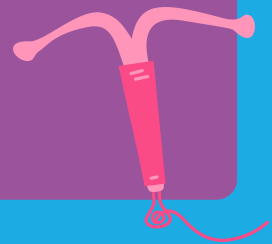
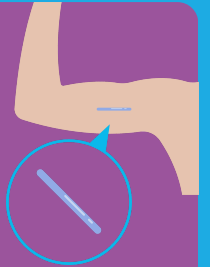
Previously approved for 3 years of use, updated evidence has shown the implant remains highly effective for longer, leading to an extension of its licence.

Some types of hormonal coil (IUS) are now licensed for 8 years for contraception purposes (Mirena, Benilexa and Levosert).

This applies to implants and IUSs that have already been fitted. Anyone using these methods and are happy with it, should note the new expiry date.

Resources used in PSHE should be updated to reflect these change in licensing.

If anyone who has an implant or IUS is unsure what these changes mean for them they should check with their GP or sexual health clinic.



VACCINATIONS - ACTIONS FOR SCHOOLS

The DfE has asked education settings to identify vaccination leads and prepare for autumn seasonal flu vaccination sessions in their sector email sent on 18th May.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has updated its guidance on supporting immunisation programmes for children and young people.

Please remember that the updated statutory RSHE guidance for both primary and secondary content highlights that "The introduction of topics related to vaccination and immunisation should be aligned with when vaccinations are offered to pupils"

You will find resources to help with this learning in our Resource Library - Medicine Management including vaccinations.

NEW PE AND SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIP NETWORKS

The government has announced a major £1billion investment in PE and school sport over the next 3 years, including a new PE and School Sport Partnerships Network to support all schools. The aim is to improve access to high-quality physical activity and inequalities so that every child, regardless of background or location can be more active.

PSHE has strong links with physical activity, wellbeing and PE. With fewer than half of young people meeting daily activity guidelines, and higher inactivity among girls, disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, education settings have an important role in promoting healthy lifestyles. This funding offers an opportunity to strengthen PSHE by embedding messages about physical and mental health, confidence, and inclusion through a whole-school approach.

PARENTS AND VAPING

New research highlighted by TES shows that nearly 1 in 5 primary schools senior leaders and 1 in 10 secondary school senior leaders, have had to ask a parent to stop vaping on school premises this year. Over 90% of schools already have rules banning vaping on site, suggesting that enforcement, particularly with visitors and parents, remains a challenge. The issue is more pronounced in disadvantaged communities, reflecting wider health inequalities and the normalisation of vaping in some areas.

For PSHE leads, this reinforces the need for clear, consistent education around vaping. While school policies typically prohibit vaping, the visibility of adults using e-cigarettes on site can undermine messages delivered in PSHE about health, risk and social influence. Proposed government legislation to make school grounds vape-free could strengthen schools' ability to uphold expectations, but education remains key. The PSHE curriculum should continue to address vaping explicitly, exploring health impacts, peer influence, and decision-making, while also supporting whole-school approaches that engage parents and reinforce consistent, role-modelled behaviours.

Reed Wellbeing can support people, in Stoke-on-Trent, aged 12+ to stop smoking or vaping.

TRANSITION RESEARCH

The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health has published an article on how primary to secondary school transition can affect adolescent wellbeing, anxiety, belonging, and motivation, and explore ways schools can support students through change.

The Resource Library hosts nationally sourced resources to support with transition. Registration required.

SEXUAL AND SEXIST BULLYING

The Anti-Bullying Alliance had created and curated tools to help professionals develop an effective anti-bullying practice in sexual and sexist bullying. The guidance on sexual and sexist bullying, along with online training, was updated in 2022 with input from the NSPCC and Kidscape.

UPDATE FROM LOCAL PARTNERS

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR SPACE 2026

Space 2026 is preparing for launch, with planning now underway for this year's summer programme, bringing together public, voluntary and private sector organisations to deliver a wide range of enjoyable and positive activities for young people.

These activities are designed to build skills, improve health and wellbeing, and create new opportunities, while also helping to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour during the school summer holidays.

In 2025, more than 9,000 young people aged 8 to 17 took part in over 2,400 activities funded by the Staffordshire Commissioner as part of the Space programme. There were over 23,000 attendances at events, equating to 46,988 hours of engagement.

Space 2026 will run from 27th July to 28th August, offering a wide variety of activities, including swimming and gym passes, multi-sports sessions, outreach and youth activities, as well as arts and crafts.

Since its relaunch in 2015, Space has gone from strength to strength, contributing to an 81.9% reduction in youth anti-social behaviour during the summer period. Reports of youth-related ASB have fallen from 1,310 in 2016 to 237 in 2025.

Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime, Ben Adams, said: "Space clearly makes a difference - providing memorable experiences for many while diverting some away from potential involvement in low-level crime and anti-social behaviour.

The activities also offer an opportunity for Staffordshire Police and partners to engage with young people who may be going through a difficult time, helping to nurture, support and develop them."

To find out more, subscribe to Space updates at www.staffordshirespace.uk to receive notifications, including details of activities, booking information, and when activities will be available - expected in early July.

STOKE-ON-TRENT FESTIVAL OF PRACTICE

Stoke-on-Trent City Council have launched this year's Festival of Practice, now in its fifth consecutive year!

Based on staff feedback, the Festival will again run in a fortnightly format, taking place from 9th-18th June.

Jointly organised by Adult Social Care and Children Social Care, this learning event is open to all professionals in Stoke-on-Trent who work with adults, children, and families. It's a great opportunity to support your continuous professional development, share learning, and connect with others in the sector.

They also welcome colleagues from key partner agencies, including education, health, emergency services, as well as the independent, voluntary and third sectors, who are interested in attending sessions to learn from local sector experts and network with peers across agencies.

For more information or to view the programme [click here](#).

WALK SAFE APP

Stoke-on-Trent City Council has secured a two-year licence for the Walk Safe app, paving the way for 36 venues across Stoke to be designated as official safe spaces, launched last month.

The app is available to anyone aged 13 and over, helping young people and adults access support quickly and confidently.

You can read more information about Walk Safe in this [Staffordshire Safety Map pack](#) and there is also a [poster](#) available to promote the app.

INTRODUCING LDIS

The Local Drug Information System (LDIS) helps protect frontline workers and communities by identifying dangerous drugs in circulation. It focuses on substances that are new, unusually strong, contaminated, or causing unexpected harm. Frontline staff are vital because they often spot unusual symptoms, unexpected reactions, or increases in overdoses.

If you become aware of a drug-related risk - such as a near-fatal overdose, severe side effects, or a substance that looks or acts differently - you should report it to the LDIS.

In Stoke-on-Trent, this is run jointly with Staffordshire County Council to monitor issues across the whole area.

Reports are logged by Public Health and reviewed by a multidisciplinary Panel. If the concern is validated and considered a risk, the Panel may issue an alert. Alerts are shared with treatment providers, health teams, emergency services, community organisations, and sometimes the public. They outline the risk, substances involved, warning signs, and actions staff should take.

All staff are encouraged to report concerning incidents. LDIS strengthens local intelligence, supports faster responses, and helps prevent overdoses.

To report to LDIS just email:

DrugAlcoholIncidences@stoke.gov.uk

NEW LOCAL SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCE FOR EDUCATION SETTINGS

A new resource has been developed to support suicide prevention in education settings in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. This includes guidance on addressing suicide through the PSHE curriculum.

It aims to provide a clear, accessible and user-friendly format to ensure that education settings understand:

- What the offer is
- Who is providing it
- How they can access it

It sits alongside the Guidance and resources for education settings (schools and colleges) responding to a sudden unexpected death being treated as a suspected suicide - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

LOCAL NEWSLETTERS

- [Catch22 Research and Development Round-up for May 2026.](#)
- [Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Violence Reduction Alliance Resource Round-Up June](#)
- [MPFT's Children and Young People's Mental Health Participation](#)

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

This new section for the 2025-2026 academic year provides information that education settings may wish to share with their parents and carers via their usual communication methods, e.g. newsletter, ClassDoJo, class blogs etc... The aim is to improve transparency and engagement with parents and carers.

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN

The Open University has created a resource hub for parents, carers and anyone working with neurodivergent children. The hub contains a huge amount of information including practical tips from experts, real stories and flexible courses to help support children to thrive at home and school.

The toolkit includes:

- Tips to navigate sensory needs, create structure at home and self-care
- Simple overviews of the rights of parents and carers, and how to work effectively with education, health services and local authorities
- Tips for educators on creating sensory-friendly places, taking learning beyond the classroom and celebrating every pupil

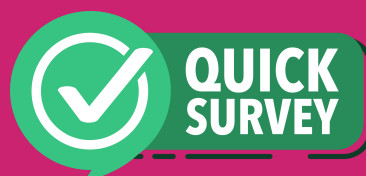
HEALTHY PREGNANCY, HEALTHY BABY SURVEY

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System wants to hear from people who are pregnant or care for a baby under 1 year old. This includes mums, dads, grandparents, and other family members.

They want to know about your experience of pregnancy, birth, and looking after a baby. Every family is different. Your views can help make services better for other parents and babies.

The survey asks about the help and information you got, what went well, and what could be better. There are no right or wrong answers. They just want to hear what it was like for you. The survey takes 5 to 10 minutes to finish.

The survey closes on Monday 15 June at 5pm.



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH SUMMER

Hello Summer!

The last term of summer can create big emotions for both children, young people and parents and carers. Whether your child has just finished SATs, is in the middle of GCSEs or A-Levels, or has other end of year tests, it's a good time to check in on how they're feeling and what support they need.

Here is some practical advice to support children through key moments in the school year.

DEALING WITH EXAMS AND RESULTS

- [BBC Bitesize website](#) has tips from Dr Anna Colton for parents and carers during exam season.
- [BBC Bitesize website](#) has 6 tips on how to manage results day 2026.
- The [NHS website](#) has some helpful advice for parents and carers to help your child beat exam stress
- [Young Minds](#) has created a guide to help parents and carers support their child during exam season.

MOVING TO A NEW SCHOOL

- Anna Freud has [produced a short guide](#) that provides tips about how parents and carers can best support children through the transition to secondary school.
- [BBC Bitesize](#) has videos to support parents/carers and children with starting secondary school.
- Internet Matters has produced a [parent's guide to Moving to Secondary School: Online Safety Tips to Support Children..](#) This guides helps parents and carers to support their child as they gain more independence and to build good digital habits.
- Young Minds has [10 ways for parents and carers](#) to support their child with change.

SUMMER SAFETY

The summer holidays are a welcome break from the busy school term and a chance for children and young people to unwind, recharge and, hopefully, enjoy some sunshine.

- [NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria](#) has worked with Change Talks to provide 10 practical, parent-approved tips to help parents and carers navigate the summer holidays and keep their child active, happy and healthy, no matter what plans look like.
- The NHS has [advice for parents and carers](#) on sunscreen and sun safety
- The Royal Life Saving Society UK has [resources for parents and carers](#) to help them take charge of the family's water safety education.
- For children and young people aged 5-16 will receive benefit related free school meals, they can access the [Holiday Activities and Food Programme \(HAF\)](#). Children and young people can enjoy a range of exciting activities, make new friends, staying active and receiving a healthy meal during the holidays, in a safe and supportive environment
- Children and young people, aged 8-17, can also access the SPACE Programme. [Sign up](#) to receive event and activity news directly.

RESOURCES

Resources included in this section are either new updates, additions to the [Resource Library](#) or linked to key dates of awareness or observation that have relevance to PSHE. Find the full year calendar for [25-26 here](#). Please note that the linked document and image below take you to a live document, which we will continue to update throughout the year.

Using engagement analytics of the Resource Library on our website, we have identified the top topics that users are visiting to look for resources. This data will help us identify further resources, support and guidance on priority topics.

FOR APRIL:

DIET AND NUTRITION

ALCOHOL

ASPIRATIONS AND GOALS

BALANCED LIFESTYLES

JOBS

MENTAL HEALTH

SMOKING AND VAPING

FOR MAY:

ONLINE SAFETY

COMMUNITIES (INC. ASB)

KNIFE CRIME

MENTAL HEALTH

PUBERTY



We value ongoing feedback to help us shape the service and ensure that we respond to support needs. You are welcome to share any feedback, suggestions and thoughts by emailing ellie@staffscvys.org.uk.

NEW

NEW TO THE RESOURCE LIBRARY - WWW.PSHESTAFFS.COM

As part of supporting local education settings, we have been quality assuring and adding more new resources to the Resource Library on the website - [register](#) or [log in](#). This month we have added resources from:



UPDATE ON NATIONAL RESOURCES

LIBRARIES FOR PRIMARIES EXPRESSION OF INTEREST OPEN

Reading plays a vital role in children's wellbeing, confidence, and understanding of the wider world, key themes within PSHE. We're encouraging eligible, local state-funded primary schools to take advantage of Libraries for Primaries, a simple and effective way to enrich your reading provision.

Libraries for Primaries is a fully funded programme and free to join. Through Libraries for Primaries, schools can access expert guidance, curated book lists, and practical support to help create engaging, inclusive library spaces that support children's personal development. A well-stocked, inspiring library encourages empathy, resilience, and curiosity—core foundations of PSHE learning.

Schools who are interested in participating in a Libraries for Primaries programme in the 2026-2027 academic year can now complete an expression of interest form. The programme is open for state primary schools to apply, who don't have a school library and haven't been on the Libraries for Primaries programme previously.

NEW RESOURCE: UNDERSTANDING AND CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MANOSPHERE

A recent report from Barnardo's found that 65% of young people have seen harmful gender expectations online. Content linked to the "manosphere" is growing, often promoting unhealthy views on masculinity, relationships, and consent, and sometimes encouraging disrespect towards women.

This content spreads quickly as social media algorithms boost posts that trigger strong reactions. Research by Movember, shows how these online spaces are shaping young men's views.

In response, Barnardo's has launched the "Call It What It Is" campaign, and SWGfL has created resources to help schools address these issues.

PSHE can help by:

- Encouraging critical thinking about online content
- Promoting respect, equality, and healthy relationships
- Discouraging engagement with harmful posts (which boosts visibility)
- Supporting safer online behaviours, including reporting and blocking

By helping young people question what they see online, we can empower them to develop positive digital habits and build respectful, healthy attitudes towards women and relationships.

NEW CEOP VIDEO

Do the young people in your setting understand what happens if they report a concern of online child sexual abuse or exploitation to CEOP? Helping them feel confident about the reporting process can be a key step in encouraging them to seek support.

To support settings, CEOP has created a short "[Reporting to CEOP](#)" video that aims to educate young people to know :

- What the CEOP Safety Centre is and how to navigate the reporting form
- The different situations in which a young person might choose to report
- What happens after a report is made, including how concerns are assessed and responded to,

The resource can be shared in PSHE lessons or as part of wider pastoral discussions, supporting young people to better understand how and when to reach out for help online. Using the video as a starting point, you can use this as an opportunity to:

- Reinforce your organisation's safeguarding and reporting procedures
- Encourage discussions around recognising concerns and seeking support
- Help young people identify safe adults they can talk to, both in and outside of your setting.

REGISTER TO PILOT FREE LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE RSHE TRAINING

Diversity Role Models are piloting new training to support staff in taking an LGBTQ+ inclusive approach to RSHE that aligns to the new guidance.

You can register for up to 2 members of staff from your setting to attend the online session on 18th June 3.30-5.30pm.

Participants are then asked to give feedback via a short survey post-training and/or calls.



REGISTER NOW

JOIN THE PSHE ASSOCIATION'S SCHOOL INSIGHTS AND ACTION NETWORK

The PSHE Association is the national body for PSHE education, they take the lead of ensuring the subject keeps pace with the increasingly complex challenges and opportunities faced by children and young people from AI deepfakes to online misogyny.

Their growing research capacity enables them to understand these challenges, see how they are evolving, and come up with practical educational solutions while influencing national policy.

They are looking for education settings to be involved in their Schools Insights and Action Network (SIAN) which launches in September.

In exchange for taking part in research, schools will receive:

- School-level insights
- Free training opportunities and other occasional incentives or benefits
- Access to exclusive research webinars (free)

[Express your interest in joining the network here.](#)

ACCREDITED RSHE TRAINING FROM 1DECISION

1decision is pleased to announce that their updated [whole-school RSHE training](#) has now officially achieved full CPD accreditation for primary schools.

With the latest RSHE guidance placing increasing emphasis on staff confidence, subject knowledge and effective delivery, there is now a clear expectation for education settings to ensure that all staff responsible for delivering RSHE are appropriately trained and supported.

There is a cost to accessing this training. 1Decision are offering a special offer to those schools who purchase the training, FREE primary resources for 12 months which could save schools up to £800.

SCHOOL FOOD

PSHE is most effective when delivered as part of a whole-school approach, and school food is a great way to demonstrate and encourage healthy food choices.

Chefs in School has produced a helpful School Food Toolkit to help education settings improve food and food education.

They have also produced a Guide for Governors to help them in their responsibility of ensuring schools are meeting the Food Standards.

OAK NATIONAL ACADEMY

Oak National Academy has written a couple of blogs to explain that their RSHE (PSHE) resources have been updated to reflect the new statutory guidance for schools and their approach.

- A complete and trusted RSHE (PSHE) curriculum design to help schools meet statutory expectations with clarity and confidence
- Updated RSHE guidance - get ready for September

Links to their curriculum for education settings to carry out their own due diligence can be found in the blogs.

STORY PROJECT - FUNDED OFFER

The Story Project is an award-winning social enterprise dedicated to using the magic of stories to bring PSHE, oracy and literacy to life.

Using a research-backed story-led approach the Story Project enables PSHE to be taught in a way that fosters empathy, supports wellbeing, champions balanced discussion, and develops key literacy skills.

They have recently secured funding to support primary education settings and have a number of fully-funded spaces for local settings to use their materials next academic year, This includes a fully resourced PSHE curriculum, diverse children books and ongoing support. Find out more here.

NSPCC TALK RELATIONSHIPS

NSPCC Learning has published new Talk Relationships resources to help secondary schools engage parents and carers with RSE being taught, supporting them to talk to their children about healthy relationships.

The resources include: a schools toolkit; an editable presentation; a guide; and five factsheets on specific RSE topics and how parents and carers can address them.

NSPCC Learning has also published updated resources for a Whole-School Approach Framework, in line with the new RSHE guidance for England.

SEND CEOP PILOT OPPORTUNITY

If you teach 4-12s, you can register interest in piloting new Inclusion Toolboxes that support inclusive, differentiated CEOP lessons. They're designed for learners with mild-moderate SEND or those needing extra support, and include optional resources like visual timetables, storybooks, vocabulary sheets, and parent guidance to enhance existing sessions.

Participants are asked to pilot at least one lesson using a chosen resource (Jessie & Friends, Play Like Share, or Connect) with a suitable group before 17 July 2026 and complete an online feedback survey. To express an interest email ceopeducation@education.nca.gov.uk with details of which resource you can pilot, with the associated inclusion toolbox and that you can provide feedback by 17th July.

FREE TREES

June is the ideal time to begin planning the next school year, and education settings and non-for-profit community groups can start by applying for a free tree pack from the Woodland Trust. Their free trees scheme provides a simple, meaningful way to connect learning with climate action, meet sustainability goals and enhance enrichment plans.

Applications are now open for delivery in November 2026

UPCOMING KEY AWARENESS DATES - JULY

PLASTIC FREE JULY (1-31)

Plastic Free July is an annual worldwide campaign that challenges individuals, schools, and communities to reduce their use of single-use plastics. It highlights the scale of plastic pollution, encourages behaviour change, and empowers people - especially children and young people, to take meaningful action.

Key facts:

- 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the oceans each year.
- Every piece of plastic ever made still exists somewhere.
- Animals often mistake plastic for food, causing harm or death.

These facts help pupils understand why reducing plastic matters and how their choices contribute to global solutions.

TALK TO US - SAMARITANS (1-31)

Samaritans respond to more than 400 calls for help every hour and provide confidential listening support 24/7.

July is Samaritans' "Talk to Us" Month, a national campaign reminding everyone of the importance of talking openly about feelings and seeking support when life feels tough. In PSHE, it's a perfect moment to help children and young people build emotional awareness, practise active listening, and learn where to find trusted help.

Using Samaritans' education resources, which can be found in our [Resource Library](#) (Mental Health), schools can explore how to support friends, reduce stigma around mental health, and encourage pupils to speak up early when they're struggling - reinforcing the message that reaching out is a sign of strength.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK (6-12)

Alcohol Awareness Week encourages schools and communities to reflect on how alcohol impacts health, choices, and everyday life. For young people, it's a valuable moment to explore what shapes their decisions, how to stay safe as they grow up, and why understanding risks early really matters.

The new statutory RSHE guidance from the DfE highlights "Positivity" as one of its 7 Guiding Principles - a strengths-based approach that fits especially well with substance education.

A research report from [DrinkAware "Alcohol-free and low-alcohol drinks in the UK: Trends, barriers, and opportunities"](#) highlights the following positive findings that we can embed in Alcohol awareness messaging:

- 49% of young adults choose no & low-alcohol to moderate nearly doubling since 2018 (28%)
- Use of alcohol-free drinks by risky drinkers has more than tripled since 2018, from 7% to 23%
- 44% of all adults choose no & low-alcohol to moderate their drinking - up from 31% in 2018

Resources to support Alcohol Awareness education can be found in the [Resource Library](#) on the Alcohol page.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Whilst we always try and source resources and training at no cost, we recognise that some organisations do have a small budget to support their PSHE delivery. Here are some upcoming training opportunities available both for free and a cost, locally and nationally. Click on links for bookings and further information.

Reminder

It is important to us that we signpost to any training opportunities that may enhance your CPD offer in your settings.

In addition to the PSHE Education Service webinars and our PSHE Leads Network Meetings, detailed on Page 1, which can be booked, for free through Eventbrite, we signpost to wider training opportunities.

We signpost to training from reputable sources, nationally and locally, however, are not responsible for the content. If you have any feedback to share regarding training which you attend, please feel welcome to share with us - ellie@staffscvys.org.uk.

TRAINING

TOPIC	DATE/TIME	ORGANISATION	COST	OVERVIEW
DOMESTIC ABUSE	VARIOUS	NEW ERA	FREE	FREE DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS AND TRAINING SESSIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONED SUPPORT PROVIDER FOR STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT.
GAMBLING	VARIOUS	YGAM	FREE	THIS 90 MINUTE INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP IS PART 1 OF 2 OF OUR FULLY FUNDED CITY & GUILDS ASSURED TRAINING AND IS OPEN TO TEACHERS, YOUTH WORKERS AND FORWARD-FACING PROFESSIONALS WHO WORK DIRECTLY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND ARE ABLE TO DELIVER SESSIONS TO THEM ABOUT GAMING AND GAMBLING HARM.
SEXUAL ABUSE	VARIOUS	CEOP	£150	A ONE DAY ONLINE COURSE FOR PROFESSIONALS TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE. ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO IDENTIFY KEY STRATEGIES TO ENSURE ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS INCLUDED AS PART OF A WHOLE-ORGANISATION APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
ONLINE SAFETY	VARIOUS	CEOP	£150	PROFESSIONALS MUST ATTEND UNDERSTANDING ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE TRAINING (ABOVE) FIRST. THIS TRAINING ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO BECOME LEADS FOR TRAINING AND INFORMATION RELATING TO ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

TOPIC	DATE/TIME	ORGANISATION	COST	OVERVIEW
FINANCIAL LITERACY	VARIOUS	YOUNG ENTERPRISE	FREE	FREE CPD ACCREDITED SESSIONS FOR PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND SEND., FIND OUT ABOUT THE SUPPORT AVAILABLE AND GET THE CONFIDENCE TO DELIVER HIGH QUALITY FINANCIAL EDUCATION.
GENDER / CONSENT	VARIOUS 3.45-5.15PM	EVERYONE'S INVITED	FREE	AN EMPOWERING AND INTERACTIVE SESSION DESIGNED TO EQUIP EDUCATORS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE TO RECOGNISE, RESPOND TO, AND DISMANTLE RAPE CULTURE WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES.
SEXIST BULLYING	9 TH JUNE 2-4PM	ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE	FREE	THIS SESSION LOOKS AT WHAT THE EVIDENCE SHOWS ABOUT HOW SEXIST BULLYING DEVELOPS, ITS IMPACT, AND HOW WE CAN PREVENT IT. WE'RE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE DR NIAMH O'BRIEN FROM ANGLIA RUSKIN UNIVERSITY AND JOHN KHAN FROM PRIORITY 1-54 SPEAKING AT THIS EVENT.
PSHE	10 TH JUNE (BIRMINGHAM) 18 TH JUNE (MANCHESTER) 1.30-5PM	PSHE ASSOCIATION	£99 FOR MEMBERS	THIS FACE-TO-FACE PSHE SEMINAR PROVIDES A KEYNOTE FROM THE PSHE ASSOCIATION AND 2 PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS. IT ENABLES PARTICIPANTS TO EXPLORE LOCAL DATA INSIGHTS AND CONNECT WITH OTHER PSHE PROFESSIONALS
CRITICAL THINKING	11 TH - JUNE 3.30-5.00PM	SEX EDUCATION FORUM	£50 FOR MEMBERS	90-MINUTE DEEP-DIVE WORKSHOP INTO THE WAY EDUCATORS BRING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS INTO THE CLASSROOM, FACILITATED BY RSE EXPERT DR VICKY STUBBS.
ONLINE SAFETY	11 TH JUNE 4-4.30PM	LIFE LESSONS	FREE	WITH THE UPDATED RSHE GUIDANCE PLACING GREATER EMPHASIS ON EDUCATING ABOUT HARMFUL CONTENT AND ITS IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE, THIS 30 MINUTE WEBINAR WILL SUPPORT SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN UNDERSTANDING WHAT HAS CHANGED AND WHAT IT MEANS IN PRACTICE.
APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS	17 TH JUNE 4-4.30PM	LIFE LESSONS	FREE	THIS 30-MINUTE WEBINAR HELPS TEACHERS CONFIDENTLY ADDRESS HARMFUL SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS, RESPOND TO IMAGE-BASED ABUSE, UNDERSTAND STRANGULATION RISKS, AND EMBED PREVENTATIVE RSHE EDUCATION.
THE LAW	8 TH JULY 10-11.30AM	FEARLESS	FREE	COVER AN INTRO TO FEARLESS, EXPLORE GIVING INFORMATION ABOUT CRIME 100% ANONYMOUSLY, SNITCHING AND THE BYSTANDER APPROACH.

TRAINING (E-LEARNING, WEBINARS)

NEW 
UPDATE

Please check out the training page on our website - <https://pshestaffs.com/training/>.

- Level-up Safely by Christchurch Call Foundation is a 5 module e-learning course that aims to improve knowledge, understanding and strategies to build confidence in helping young people navigate online gaming spaces more safely. (Gaming)
- Educate Against Hate and Connect Futures have produced 5 e-learning modules to build teacher confidence managing controversial topics through research skills, conspiracy awareness, risk assessment and impartial, practical classroom strategies. (Resilience (Prevent))
- Free Water Safety online course that takes 20-30 minutes to complete from West Mercia Search and Rescue (Water Safety)
- CPD session from Youth Sport Trust and Swim England on the the importance of school swimming and water safety training (Water Safety)

PODCASTS

You can find podcasts to support CPD on our website - <https://pshestaffs.com/podcasts/>. This can also be found in the drop-down menu for Education Providers under the training sub-menu.

This month, we have added:

- The Food Foundation Executive Director and Minister for Early Education discuss how changes to school food will benefit young people's health outcomes and transform the enjoyment of nutritious food. (Diet and Nutrition)
- Sky News: A decade after authorities first identified the emergence of "county lines" dealing, parents and former "child runners" have spoken to this Sky News podcast about the devastating impact on their lives. (Exploitation)
- Sky News: Podcast about Sky documentary: Prey: Inside today's grooming gangs, which challenges some of the stereotypes around CSE victims. It focuses on two girls, both groomed (in one case by another girl) and exploited by multiple perpetrators. (Exploitation)
- Get a Grip! Parenting Podcast is joined by Dr Sophie King-Hill to explore the complex realities facing boys and young men today, including identity, performative masculinity, mental health and online influences. They explore some practical resources for teachers and parents, she talks about how social pressures can shape behaviour and why creating safe, non-judgemental spaces for conversation is so vital. (Gender)

DOCUMENTARIES AND DRAMAS

We have collated documentaries and dramas that will support the CPD of professionals. We do not encourage or endorse these to be shown to children and young people within PSHE sessions. They are located at <https://pshestaffs.com/documentaries-and-dramas/>. This option can also be found in the drop-down menu for Education Providers, located under the Training sub-menu.

- The Orphan is a short 30 minute film that explores how childhood trauma and bereavement left a teenage boy vulnerable to exploitation in a new neighbourhood. It depicts the grooming process and the ways Elijah is drawn into a world of violence and exploitation. (Exploitation)
- Prey: Inside Today's Grooming Gangs explores how grooming gangs operate in the UK today, features survivors and those still trapped in exploitation. (Exploitation)
- Panorama: Knife Crime: What Happened to our Boys traces the lives of 2 teenage boys who were murdered in South London, and follows the mothers who are left behind and now want answers. (Youth Violence/Knife Crime)

NEXT MONTH (JULY)...

Resources & Materials for key awareness dates in September:

- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (1-30)
- Snack-Tember (1-30)
- Zero Waste Week (7-11)
- #AskAboutAsthma (7-11)
- World Suicide Prevention Day (10)
- World First Aid Day (12)
- World Sepsis Day (13)
- Sexual Health Week (14-20)
- Genes for Jeans Week (14-20)
- Orchid Male Cancer Awareness Week (14-20)
- Travel Wise Week (16-22)
- National Fitness Day (18)

- UK Savings Week (21-27)
- Organ Donation Week (21-27)
- Recycle Week (21-27)
- International Day of Peace (21)
- World Contraception Day (26)



We have updated the PSHE Awareness Calendar for 26-27. This is now available on our website. If you would like a printable version, including a termly version please email ellie@staffscvys.org.uk

Join our [Facebook Group](#) and join fellow PSHE Leads to share best practice, resources and be kept updated in between Digests



WANT TO SHARE A RESOURCE, IDEA OR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SERVICE? LET ME KNOW AND I CAN INCLUDE IN UPCOMING EDITIONS

"I have had fabulous feedback about your training session so a huge thank you- I'm gutted I missed it!"

Head of School, Independent AP, Stoke-on-Trent

If you would like to share any feedback or request specific support, advice or guidance please contact us directly:

ellie@staffscvys.org.uk

Next edition publication date: 3rd July 2026

Please note we don't send an edition of the PSHE Newsletter in August



PSHE Education
STOKE-ON-TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE

part of



funded by

