



Bath & North East  
Somerset Council



*Joint Authority Support for Children, Families and Schools*

# Sensory Support Service Newsletter

[www.sensorysupportservice.org.uk](http://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.

**June 2026**

## Welcome to the Sensory Support Service Newsletter

We hope you all had a lovely May half-term break.

We know some of the children and young people we support are currently sitting exams, and we wish them all the very best.

This term, we will continue supporting children and young people who are moving between educational settings, as well as planning ahead for the next academic year. If you have any questions or need support, please do get in touch.

We are also awaiting further updates on the proposed SEND reforms. While there may be changes ahead, we will continue to support your child and work with educational settings to promote inclusion for all learners.

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](mailto:sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk)

### 1. Acorns Support Group

Acorns Early Years group is a specialist pre-school group that supports children 0 to 5 with hearing loss and their families, and is offered to those living in, Bristol, South Gloucester, North Somerset, Bath and North-East Somerset.

**Timings:** Wednesday mornings during term time from 10.30am to Midday.

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

The main Acorns group at Elmfield house includes:

- a children's creche for young children and babies with a hearing loss and their siblings, run by Specialist Teaching assistants and Sign Language Communication Advisers, who organise a range of activities and play experiences



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- a parents discussion group with visiting speakers including Speech and Language therapists, audiologists, Teachers of the Deaf and local charities as well as more relaxed coffee mornings
- a buddy system, to welcome you to Acorns

We also run some smaller groups (Little Acorns) once a month in Bath, Easton and Weston-Super-Mare. We hope to be able to reach more families in their local areas. These sessions are stay and play sessions and are open to all our families.

We work closely with the Family Centre for Deaf Children (FCDC) in all our Acorns activities and dates for Little Acorns can also be found on their events page.

### [Events for June 2026 – The Family Centre \(Deaf Children\)](#)

The FCDC also work with the service in providing support and funding for small groups of older children who are deaf or have hearing loss. This enables them to attend activities where they can meet and engage with new peers. Recently the Sensory Support Service and FCDC have provided two small group bowling sessions for Key stage 3 and 4 and lunch and games at Chance and counters for our Key Stage 2 children.

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 see our website:

[www.sensorysupportservice.org.uk](http://www.sensorysupportservice.org.uk)

#### **Bath Acorns**

- Address: First Steps, Woodhouse Road, Twerton, Bath, BA2 1SY
- Time: 10:15am to 11:45am
- Dates: **Thursday 18 June and Thursday 9 July**

For more information email [julian.shepard@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:julian.shepard@bristol.gov.uk)

#### **Easton Acorns**

- Address: Bannerman Road Community Academy, All Hallows Road, BS5 0HR
- Time: 10.30am to Midday
- Date: **Monday 22 June 2026**

For more information email [lucy.blatchford@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.blatchford@bristol.gov.uk)



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## Weston-Super-Mare Acorns

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

For more information email [lydia.johnston@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:lydia.johnston@bristol.gov.uk)

## Hartcliffe Acorns

- Address: Hartcliffe Children's Centre, Hareclive Road, Bristol, BS13 0JW
- Time: 10.30am to Midday
- Date: **Monday 15 June 2026**

For more information email [lydia.johnston@bristol.gov.uk](mailto: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: New dates will be confirmed in the new school year.**

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

**Book your FREE place:** [sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sensorysupportservice@bristol.gov.uk)

Have a chat with your Hearing Support Teacher to find out if this would be helpful for you.

## 3. [HoSSForum] Research Opportunity: Deaf Infant Cognitive Development Study

**Keele University researchers** are recruiting families with babies who have hearing loss for a study exploring **early brain and cognitive development in deaf infants**. Using **EEG**, the project examines how infants process visual information before cochlear implantation (if applicable). The research aims to highlight strengths and adaptations in deaf infants and provide valuable insights for parents, clinicians, and teachers. Families may be able to take part locally or at home.



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You can look at the Facebook page here [Keele interdisciplinary Developmental Science | Facebook](#) for a feel of the research set up.

Any further questions – please ask Ellie-Mae at [psychology.kids@keele.ac.uk](mailto:psychology.kids@keele.ac.uk)

#### **4. 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 their Facebook page [Bristol Deaf Children's Society | Facebook](#)

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](mailto: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](#)



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## **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