

Solihull Maintained Schools

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref:

Please ask for: Lisa Morris

Our Ref: LM/kes

Date: September 2024

For the attention of the Headteachers and Early Years Foundation Stage Lead

The Early Years Team- school support for 2024-2025

We are looking forward to catching up with you as the new academic year begins. Thank you again for all that you have done for children and families over the last year.

For the 2024-25 academic year we can offer all maintained schools an early year's EYFS support visit in line with the School Improvement Strategy. Schools that do not require a EYFS visit should **opt out by Friday 20th September 2024**. You can do this by emailing eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk.

If you have a new EYFS lead, we would be grateful if you would share their name and contact details so that we have up-to-date contacts for your school. Our training and briefings are open to all schools.

As a Local Authority [LA] our **statutory duties** are outlined in '[Early education and childcare: Statutory guidance for local authorities](#)' These are summarised below.

The requirement

- for LAs and their partners to improve outcomes for all children under five and reduce inequalities.
- for LAs to secure sufficient [quality] childcare.
- to provide information, advice and training to childcare partners and information, advice, and assistance to parents.

We really value all your feedback and suggestions and have used this information to shape our setting improvement visits, our training, and priorities for the year ahead.

Setting improvement visits -the impact of the child's voice.

The setting improvement visit is an opportunity to reflect with your adviser on the EYFS and any support needs that you may have in school.

This year we intend to focus on the *impact of your approach to listening to children's voices* – the different ways you 'hear and see' the children and families in your setting. As part of this discussion about inclusive approaches we will reflect with you about how this is used to influence provision and practice.

Early years and childcare settings, who are registered with Ofsted, will also be contacted over the year to arrange a suitable date and time to carry out the visit and to agree an agenda with shared expectations. The [Solgrid webpages](#) outline settings we are prioritising and our setting improvement approach in more detail. Visits will be tailored to the registration requirements of each setting.

The **Setting Improvement Visit** will focus on how your curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and setting procedures are responsive to the voice of the child and the impact of this. We ask you to focus on *one* of the following areas: routines, the environment, or the role of the adult.

This will include:

- a leadership discussion
- a reflective walk around the school EYFS looking at practice and provision. This will also include any provision which is under the school's registration.
- a joint reflection/observation of Early Years practice and provision focusing on:
 - What do you know about each child?
 - How do you use that knowledge?

This should happen at an agreed time when we can see, hear and talk to children and adults in play – during routines such as snack, outside or inside. Please prepare team members across your early years provision and arrange follow up to them with feedback.

At the end of the visit, we will ask you evaluate the visit and identify what you will action as a result. Evaluation helps our planning for future support.

Area SENCo support for group settings.

Eligible group-based settings and schools will be contacted by their Area SENCo to arrange support. You can arrange your [annual conversation](#) at a time to suit your school. We hope to focus on support for the SENCo and SEND practice. We will continue to respond to requests for support for children as we have this year.

To discuss this further please contact a member of the team –



Early Years Enquiries: 0121 704 6150 or eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'L' and 'M'.

Lisa Morris
Early Years Team Manager