

Solihull Academy, Maintained and Independent schools

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Your Ref:

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For the attention of the Headteacher and Early Years Foundation Stage lead

*The Early Years Team- school support for 2025-2026.
Compare and share network meetings.*

It has been a very busy time for early years over the last couple of months. DfE published the [Giving every child the best start in life - GOV.UK](#) paper in July. This sets out the Government intention to meet the ambition of 75% of 5-year-olds in England to have a good level of development (GLD) by 2028. We have a Solihull GLD target of at least 79.5% by 2028 (a 9% increase on 2023/4 GLD). In 2024/5, 777 children were not awarded GLD in Solihull. The Local Government Outcomes Framework (currently draft) includes the proportion of children achieving GLD at the end of reception as an outcome measure for LAs.

For the 2025-26 academic year we plan to offer all schools an early year's EYFS focussed **small group network meeting**. Schools will be grouped according to their GLD figure. We are arranging these over the Autumn term. This will aid discussions with other schools with broadly similar outcomes.

The aim of the network meetings is to compare and share. We will start by looking at and comparing a range of EYFSP outcomes. We can then discuss actions schools have taken to improve outcomes for some children. For example, to hear your stories about how boy's writing has improved or about the impact of a new maths scheme on numerical patterns. We may also hear about how a focus on attendance in school has helped more SEN support children to reach GLD, for example. What was the approach to improvement in these areas? We would like to continue to reduce the number of children not yet meeting a GLD. We hope to use these reflection opportunities to learn from each other.

'1 Headline measures by characteristics' in Solihull between 2021/22 and 2023/24			Move and reorder table headers
	Number of children	Number of children with a good level of development	
2021/22	2,690	1,800	
2022/23	2,675	1,846	
2023/24	2,639	1,861	

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. You can do this by emailing eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk with the subject heading *new EYFS lead*.

To **prepare** for these meetings [further information about dates, venues, time [twilight] and booking methodology to follow].....

1. Reflect upon your GLD. What do you know about the children who did not get GLD? This may be an ELG, a theme [such as attendance or punctuality] or characteristic [FSM/ Sex/ Term of birth/ SEND/ ethnicity].
2. Where have you seen an improvement from previous year(s)? What can you share with others ... what is your aspect to spotlight and shine a light on? This may be because of a moderation focus, a change in pedagogy to reflect the needs of autumn born children, closer working with parents...etc
3. What would you like to talk to other schools about ...areas you would like to improve further?
4. Did a focus on any of the non-GLD aspects impact on GLD too?
5. Schools who are able to access Solihull Council education extranet can access data and performance information [EYFSP: GLD] for school, LA and national comparison. Please bring data information [and your analysis] to the meeting so that you can reference it at the network meeting. Again, are there any threads to discuss further with others with similar GLD figures?
6. Share as much of your data as you feel is useful but comparing will help to find out more... 'We are giving schools access to better data and analysis on the assessment of children's development and learning at the end of the reception year. This includes giving schools better data and analysis so they have a clearer understanding of where they need to improve in comparison to others.' [Giving every child the best start in life](#) page 47

Early Years Team advisers will facilitate discussion during these meetings. Starting with EYFSP: GLD. Consider what this means for provision [curriculum and pedagogy] for children who are 2 year-olds and 3- and 4-year-olds to support strong foundations to meet the ELGs at age 5. As this is an emerging discussion rather than a presentation or training, the session will be unique to each group of network attendees. To make the most of the 90-minute meeting, early years leads will need to plan what they would be prepared to share and want to compare. Two places are available at their meeting for each school.

We would like to draw your attention to *the writing framework* (July 2025) and this guidance on page 27 which will be helpful for EYFSP at the end of the year....

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-writing-framework>

Making judgements against the early learning goal for Writing

When making a judgement about 'writing simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others', children do not need to be able to compose the phrases and sentences themselves (dictated sentences can be assessed) and they do not need to write extended pieces.....

We really value all your feedback and have used this information to shape our setting improvement visits, our training, and priorities for the year ahead. Whilst we don't plan for formal evaluation of the meeting, we do ask you to share your views.

Area SENCo support for group settings.

Area SENCos will continue to support settings to improve SEND practice through SENCo support visits, training and access to resources. We will respond to requests for support for individual children as we have in previous years.

To discuss the offer further, please contact a member of the team or through Early Years Enquiries: 0121 704 6150 or eyenquiries@solihull.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely



Lisa Morris
Early Years Team Manager