SAY
SEND AND YOU
SENDIAS

SEND Coffee Mornings

for nurseries, schools and colleges with
SAY SEND And You SENDIAS service

What is the SEND and You (SAY) SENDIAS Service?

SEND and You provides the Special Educational Needs & Disability Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS) Service in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. All local authorities **must** have a SENDIAS service.

We:

- provide **free**, **confidential** and **impartial** advice to **children, young people** and their **families** about SEND.
- ensure that their views and experiences inform policy and practice.
- raise awareness of SEND issues, processes and procedures.
- promote and maintain good partnership working between children and young people, their parents and carers, professionals, the local authority and health services.

Professionals can use SENDIASS to increase knowledge of SEND law, guidance, local policy, issues and participation. We offer training and information.

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www.sendandyou.org.uk
Registered in England and Wales as SEND and You
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 3905996

What is a SEND coffee morning with SAY SENDIAS Service?

An opportunity for parents/carers and/or CYP with SEND who attend your setting to come together and:

- Find out how their SENDIAS Service and education setting can work together to help support children and young people with additional needs and their families with a view to achieving the best possible educational and other outcomes.
- Find out more about SEND law, processes and procedures including local policies and sources of help.
- Connect with other families and share experiences and & provide mutual support in a welcoming, environment.

How will it work?

A member of the SAY team and setting staff (normally the Sendco & family liaison officer or pastoral staff) will facilitate the coffee morning. It can take place in a hall, empty classroom or meeting room – wherever there is space. It will normally last for about an hour.

We can provide refreshments. We will give an introduction to our service followed by an opportunity for general discussion, questions and answers. Follow up appointments to take place after the event can be made with a SAY Advisor for anyone who would like more detailed information, advice or support with paperwork.

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Can the coffee morning focus on a particular topic?

Yes. You can discuss and arrange this with us. Examples of topics include:

- the graduated approach and SEN support in education
- EHCP needs assessments and plans
- Annual review
- Consent and mental capacity – decision making.
- Transitions

> "I found the meeting so helpful! I really appreciated how helpful and friendly you were."
> - Parent Feedback

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What are the benefits of holding a coffee morning for the nursery, school or college and for families?

We have found that both families and education settings benefit from this opportunity.

- SENDCOs and families can get to know each other better in an informal environment
- families feel less isolated and better connected.
- families learn more about the law and processes for SEN support in education, gaining confidence in their own expertise and ability to participate in planning and decision making.
- Families are able to access support wherever they are in their send journey & be reassured that this help can continue, throughout transitions until the CYP with send reaches the age of 25.
- SENDCOs time is freed up as families gain a clearer understanding of how support is provided and become empowered to work alongside the setting.

> "I didn't feel at all judged or ignored"
> - Parent Feedback

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Feedback from coffee mornings from SENDCOs and families

"You were very knowledgeable answering other parents' questions"
- Carer Feedback

"Sometimes things are so overwhelming that actually talking face to face about things is easier to digest than searching online"
- Parent Feedback

"Thanks so much for following up with the family, I know that your support will be really beneficial to them"
– SENCO Feedback

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How do I request a coffee morning?

Please get in touch by emailing: support@sendandyou.org.uk

If you would like to have a telephone conversation about a coffee morning, please tell us your phone number and let us know when it is best to try and contact you.

> "Thanks so much for today... it would be good to see how it goes and organise another"
> - SENCO Feedback

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