

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE 280 MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2026

Vocational Support Grant

Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation grants support 14- to 24-year-olds studying vocational subjects at school, college, sixth form or through apprenticeship.

Who is eligible to apply? You can apply for up to £1,000 if you are aged 14 to 24 when applications are considered and will study vocational subjects at school, college, sixth form or doing an apprenticeship.

What can the grant be used for?

Grant supports under-5s starting or preparing for vocational courses in business, engineering, IT, health and social care, hairdressing, beauty, cookery, plumbing, construction, electrician or an apprenticeship.

To find out more and to see the click here:

<https://www.wscf.org.uk/grants-and-support/individuals/vocational-support-grant/>

Contact the SEND Service



Call the SEND Service on 01793 464641
Lines are open Monday to Thursday
9am-5pm and 9am-4.30pm on Friday.



Alternatively, you can email
SENDSERVICE@swindon.gov.uk



For more information, please visit the
Meet the SEND Service page on the
Local Offer -

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20208/what_is_the_local_offer/1462/meet_the_send_service

Events:



SEND Social Club

For young people ages 13-25 years with SEND.

£5 for 1 young person & 1 carer and £2.50 after that for any additional carer/ young person

When: Thursday 29th October 6:30-8:30pm

Where: Punjabi Community Centre, Swindon, SN2 7BB

Please note parents/ carers are responsible for their young people and are expected to stay for the session.

Swindon School places and Admissions

Looking for a school place for your child?

Swindon Borough Council has information to help parents and carers with school applications, deadlines, catchment areas and appeals.

For children starting secondary school in September 2027, applications are open now. with a deadline of 31 October 2026.

For primary school places, applications close on 15 January 2027.

Find out more and apply through Swindon Borough Council:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions



Check out our useful bite-sized videos on the **Local Offer YouTube channel**.

<https://www.youtube.com/@swindonlocaloffer5364>

Subscribe for free and give your feedback.

October is AAC Awareness Month!

What is AAC?

AAC = Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is the term used to describe methods of communication which can be used to add to (augment) or replace (act as an alternative to) speech

AAC includes unaided systems such as signing and gesture, as well as aided techniques ranging from picture charts to the most sophisticated computer technology currently available. AAC can be a way to help someone understand, as well as be a means of expression.

Why would people use AAC?

Some people, both children and adults, find communication difficult because they have little or no clear speech. There are many reasons why this might be the case: for example, as a result of cerebral palsy, stroke, head injury, motor neurone disease or learning disability.

The idea behind AAC is to use the person's abilities, whatever they are, to compensate for their difficulties and to make communication as quick, simple and effective as possible when speech alone does not work. Although we all use aspects of AAC from time to time (e.g. waving goodbye instead of saying it, pointing to a picture or gesturing to make yourself understood in a foreign country) some people rely on AAC all of the time. Helping people to communicate improves their quality of life. It improves their opportunities, education, social life, friendships and independence.

For more information:

[Communication Matters – Everyone has a right to a voice](#)

[More than words: AAC Awareness Month 2026 - Smartbox](#)

Home to school travel

[Home to School Travel](#) support is currently provided for children and young people within Swindon who require additional support in getting to and/or from their educational setting if they are eligible under the Council's policy. The [policy document](#) provides children, young people and their families with information on what the Council offers, who this support is available to, and what to do if a decision is made that a family may not agree with. This policy only applies to children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

We are looking to gain families views on a number of proposals for the 0-25 Home to School Travel Support Policy 2027-2028, including a proposed charging model for post-16 Travel Assistance, minor wording changes, and updated service information

In order to ensure we gain the views of as many families as possible, we would kindly ask you to [complete the survey](#) and also let other local families know about the survey. It is important that everyone has an opportunity to have their say as part of the consultation.

The survey is open until Monday, 26 October.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this consultation please [email the team](#).