



Events



ISSUE 4

Thursday 11 December 2025

Autumn Term Issue

Continuing Professional Development Offers from SWIFT & Our Partners

High quality CPD at affordable rates to enhance professional development in your school.

Access through your SWIFT Membership package at no charge and/or discounted rates.

Or as a non-member, you can access the programmes on a pay-as-you-go basis.

[YOU CAN READ HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS AND THANK YOU FOR FORWARDING TO YOUR COLLEAGUES](#)

SWIFT Spring Leadership Forum

Wednesday 21 January 2026 | 1530 – 1700

Online

Join like-minded school leaders for the keynote on How to Improve Teaching by Steplab Director of Training, Harry Fletcher-Wood.

How to Improve Teaching
Keynote | Harry Fletcher-Wood
Director of Steplab

In this session Harry will look at why it is hard to improve teaching, and what teachers, leaders, and schools can do to make it easier.

Both the underlying evidence and practical strategies that inform effective professional development will be considered, along with the barriers we face, and how we can overcome them.

Introduction to CODE Maths Hub by Laura Clitheroe, Hub Lead

Foreword by SWIFT Executive Director, Martin Smith

Cost: FREE to colleagues from SWIFT Member Schools, SWIFT NPQ Programme Members, Early Career Teacher Programme Mentors and Appropriate Body Service Induction Leads.
£35 for colleagues from other schools.

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact

Jude.Baylis@sw-ift.org.uk



REGISTER [HERE](#)

SWIFT Secondary Leadership Professional Community

Friday 16 January 2026 | 1100 – 1415 | Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre

SWIFT is delighted to continue the Secondary Leaders Professional Community for school and Trust leaders in Devon, Plymouth, Torbay, and the wider region.

Agenda

Arrival, Coffee and Networking

1100 – 1115 | Welcome and introductions | Tim Harris

1115 – 1215 | Leadership in a time of flux | Tim Harris

1200 – 1245 | Building leadership capacity | Tim Rutherford

1245 – 1315 | Lunch and networking

1315 – 1400 | Codifying Leadership Behaviours | Steve Margetts

1400 – 1415 | Reflections and takeaways from the day

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Supporting Learners with Extreme Anxiety and Demand Avoidance

Wednesday 21 January 2026 | 0930 - 1230 | Countess Wear Community School

This practical and informative session explores how to support learners who experience extreme anxiety and demand avoidance, often associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Pathological/Extreme Demand Avoidance (PDA/EDA).

We will begin by examining the nature of anxiety and tracing the history and understanding of PDA/EDA. Participants will explore why some children on the spectrum show a persistent resistance to everyday demands, considering the three types of demand and the various forms of resistance that may occur.

The session will also focus on identifying and applying effective strategies to support learners experiencing demand avoidance. With a workshop-style approach, there will be plenty of opportunities to share experiences, reflect on practice, and discuss real-life examples.

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Working Smarter Not Harder: Embracing AI with Mr P ICT (3 Sessions)

Starts Tuesday 10 March 2026 | 0930 - 1530 | Oldway Primary School

The session will be packed full of ideas for how to enhance teaching and learning through the use of technology with a focus on emerging AI technology.

Learn how AI functions and discover practical ways it can streamline administrative tasks.

Explore strategies for introducing AI concepts to students. This course also delves into various tech tools that can save teachers time, making teaching more efficient and enjoyable.

Please note: There will be three dates for this course, all included in the price:

Tuesday 10 March Face to Face 0930 - 1530

Tuesday 5 May Online 1530 - 1700

Tuesday 30 June Online 1530 - 1700

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Fully-Funded Opportunities from The MTPT Project

The [MTPT Project](#) is the UK's charity for parent-teachers. From humble beginnings as a blog and a Twitter handle, inspiring, empowering and connecting teachers choosing to complete personal and professional development while on parental leave, the MTPT Project has grown into the voice of parent-teachers in the UK.

The charity runs training and networking events, provides 1:1 and group coaching to teachers on leave, and is the only organisation completing research into women aged 30–39 – the largest demographic to leave teaching every year. Since 2016, the MTPT Project has worked to tackle the motherhood penalty in education, to transform education into a sustainable and "life-friendly" career choice for all.

VIEW TRAINING AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

Professional Communities

Professional Communities bring colleagues together to network, connect with leading practice, hear from expert speakers, and provide mutual support. Held termly, our team of Professional Community Leads provide a high level of expertise, enabling the design of high-quality agendas, recruitment of expert speakers and the identification of local expertise.



- Primary Curriculum & Assessment
- Equality & Diversity
- Primary Languages
- Primary SEND
- School Business Management
- Primary Design Technology
- PSHE
- Primary Art
- Estates Management
- RE
- Sixth Form
- Secondary Leadership
- Secondary Curriculum, Assessment and Data

VIEW & BOOK ONTO SESSIONS [HERE](#)

Primary and Secondary Subject Leader Briefings

Early Years, Maths, Science and English Subject Briefings for primaries and SEND, Maths, Science and English Subject Briefings for secondaries are designed to provide termly updates, guidance and examples of effective practice, drawing on area and national sources.



Primary Subject Briefings

- Early Years with Phil Armstrong | Early Excellence
- English with Danni Cooke | Ilsham English Hub Lead
- Maths with Josh Lury | CODE Maths Hub
- Science with Carla Bennett

Secondary Subject Briefings

- SEND with Amjad Amid
- Maths with Craig Barton
- Science with Jo Castelino
- English with Jennifer Webb

No charge for SWIFT members.

VIEW & BOOK ONTO SESSIONS [HERE](#)

EYFS & Primary Courses

CPD sessions, professional communities, briefings and training tailored for early years/primary educators and school staff. Topics span curriculum and assessment, subject leadership, inclusion, wellbeing and safeguarding.

VIEW & BOOK ONTO SESSIONS [HERE](#)

Secondary & Sixth Form Courses

CPD sessions, professional communities, briefings and training tailored for secondary/sixth form educators and school staff. Topics cover subject leadership & curriculum, assessment, inclusion, wellbeing and safeguarding.

VIEW & BOOK ONTO SESSIONS [HERE](#)

Other Events for your Diary

Ilsham English Hub

- **Various CPD opportunities**
Find more information [HERE](#)

Empowering Early Years CPD

- **Various CPD opportunities**
Find more information [HERE](#)

Cambridge Nationals CPD

- **Various CPD opportunities**
Find more information [HERE](#)

Cornerstone English Hub CPD

- **Various CPD opportunities**
Find more information [HERE](#)

Please note our events are booking through our [website](#) and [Eventbrite](#)

Improving Oral Language Programme – Devon Research School

A three-day professional development programme for primary and secondary schools

This evidence-informed professional development programme helps schools strengthen oral language across the curriculum, from talk for learning to vocabulary, reading, and writing. It supports teachers and leaders to translate research into practice through structured reflection, practical tools, and collaborative planning.

Day 1: 23 January

Explore the evidence base - what are some effective approaches? What's ineffective? We will use audit tools to assess current practice and begin defining your school's key priorities in relation to oral language.

Day 2: 27 February

Day 2 will focus on the role of oral language in supporting vocabulary development and reading. We will also think about next steps for implementation based on the audit tools from Day 1.

Day 3: 24 April

On Day 3, we will explore the role of oral language in relation to writing. We will support you to develop an actionable implementation plan to ensure programme insights can be enacted in your own setting.

Who is the programme suitable for?

The programme is suitable for Headteachers, Teaching and Learning leads, literacy leads, SENCOs, curriculum leaders, and teachers from primary and secondary schools who want to strengthen oral language as part of an evidence-informed approach to literacy and inclusion.

£295 per person (£150 for a second delegate)
All days run 9:30 - 15:00 & include lunch

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Research Schools Network South West and South Coast Regional Conference

Moving from Research to Practice

How do we move from what research says to what actually happens in the classroom?

Join us to explore how leaders can engage meaningfully with research evidence, support their teachers to bridge the gap between research theory and classroom practice, and implement the evidence to drive consistent, high-quality teaching across their schools.

Dates, Venue & Contact

June 12th 2026 from 9am to 3pm
Rougemont Hotel, Exeter

£100 per person
(£50 additional delegate)

Contact us:
info.cornwall@researchschool.org.uk

Keynote Speakers



Harry Madgwick
EEF - Senior Content and Engagement Manager



Charlotte Orpin-Wright
EEF - Regional Lead for the South West and South Coast

Workshops

Regional Directors Delivering Workshops



Amanda Grant
Hampshire



John Rogers
Cornwall



Laura Spence
Gloucestershire



Tom Colquhoun
Somerset



Jon Eaton
Devon



Register

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