



# SchoolsPlusNews

Autumn 2008

## SCHOOLS MEET CORE OFFER

As your Consortium Co-ordinator, I am delighted to advise that most of our schools are meeting the Core Offer as set out by the DCSF—this means there is

- Adequate provision for childcare between the hours of 8am-6pm or in our Secondary schools a safe place for pupils to be during these hours.
- A range of out of school hours learning opportunities, including study support
- Support for parents in the form of parenting classes, family learning, and information on transition stages.
- Community access to our schools where this is appropriate
- There is swift and easy referral to specialist services to support children and young people.

Schools have been awarded certificates which should be displayed to show their achievement,

Those schools who are not quite meeting the Core Offer will receive even more support over the year to enable them to do so.



Maureen Miller, Consortium Co-ordinator (centre) with senior school staff who received awards at last year's awards ceremony.

## WATFORD DELIVERS CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY

In the survey of childcare provision across Hertfordshire last year, Watford was shown to meet the requirements. It showed that at the time of the survey there are enough providers to meet the demand for child-

mindings, full day care places, breakfast and after school clubs, pre-school and nursery places.

However, we do need to keep our eye on the ball. All it takes is one provider to close and we have a gap

in provision. If you are now aware of any such gaps please do let your Consortium Co-ordinator know so that we can work with our District Partnership Team to find alternatives.

**See inside for**

**Parenting**

**Family Learning**

**Counselling Service**

**Communication  
Groups**

**HELP Project**

**Common  
Assessment  
Framework**

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**Contact Information**

**Have Your Say ...**

**For more information visit our website : [www.hertsexextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford](http://www.hertsexextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford)**

**Or ring your Co-ordinator on 07922222712**

## WHAT IS PARENTING SUPPORT?

There are times in all our lives when we all ask ourselves if we are getting it right— but in parenting there is no perfect pattern to follow, and in an ever changing world this task is often challenging. All we can do is aim to be “good enough” parents to our children.

Through our parenting support workshops and courses we offer the opportunity to meet with other parents and discuss ways in which we can be “good enough”

- for those with younger children it may be about exploring new ways of improving your child’s behaviour or talking through transition and the stresses that brings to the family.
- for parents of teenagers finding out about agreeing boundaries, discussing difficult subjects, tackling the emotional turmoil of transition both for yourself and your child.

We always commission the services of recognised providers and always have two qualified facilitators for each course. Courses are free and take place at various schools across the Consortium. However if you prefer not to go to a course locally, we do have an arrangement with Consortia in Three Rivers that our parents can attend their courses, and their parents attend ours.

### To find out more contact

Maureen Miller, SchoolsPlus Extended  
Schools Consortium Co-ordinator,  
on 079 222 22 712

Susan Bugden, Parenting &  
Information Officer for Watford  
on 01442 453467

or Jane at Families In Focus CLC,  
on 01442 219720

## Free Parenting courses

### Preparing for Teenagers

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008

7.00 – 9.00pm

Westfield CTC

Come along to pick up ideas and tips  
on living with teenagers.

If the course you  
are looking for is not here  
please let us know

### 123 Magic

Tuesdays 1.00 – 3.00 p.m.

11, 18, 25 November and  
2, 9 December

Chater Infant School

Find out about some behaviour man-  
agements methods for parents with  
younger children (5-8)



## WHAT IS FAMILY LEARNING?

Family Learning is a way of supporting parents to improve their skills, especially in Literacy, Numeracy and English (for speakers of other languages— known as ESOL) - they can in turn support their children’s learning.

Family Learning can be just for adults or can be where part of a class involves working with children too. Courses are run to improve skills to allow adult to take qualifications e.g. English Speaking Board or National

Tests (which are equivalent to GCSE grades) and take place within our Consortium schools. Classes are usually held whilst older children are in school and if required for younger children a crèche is provided.

If you are interested in improving your skills in this way please look out for information on your school notice board or contact your Consortium Co-ordinator to find out more.



## Healthy Eating & Living Project (HELP)

This is a Pilot project which is taking place in some of our schools. We are working in Partnership with HCC Healthy Schools Adviser and the YMCA to offer short fun and exciting course to families to have a better understanding of the benefits of healthy eating and getting a little more exercise into their lives. Course will take place in the named schools from 3.30–5.00 p.m. Places are limited so please look out for information in your school and enrol early

School	Induction Date	Course Dates
Field Juniors	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2008	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov to 9 <sup>th</sup> December
Laurance Haines	23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2008	6 <sup>th</sup> Nov to 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Holywell	13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2009	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan – 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Central	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2009	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan – 12 <sup>th</sup> March



## WHAT IS THE COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK(CAF)?

It is a new way of working with children and young people which involves listening to you and your child to find out their needs and their strengths and to assess if they need additional support.

The CAF form and process is there to help your child get the support they need and ensures that everyone involved with your child works together in a co-ordinated way to support your family. Completing the CAF form and having a "Team Around the Child" enables this working together, and a "Lead Professional" may be appointed to co-ordinate the services supporting your child.

If you would like to know more about this you can contact your school, local Children's centre, or Extended Schools Co-ordinator; you can call 01438 737575; or you can log on to [www.ecm.gov.uk](http://www.ecm.gov.uk) or [www.hertsdirect.org.uk](http://www.hertsdirect.org.uk)

## CONSORTIUM COUNSELLING SERVICE

Our Consortium Schools have signed up to the purchase the services of a qualified Counsellor with Play Therapy skills who works in schools across our area to support children and young people with their emotional well being, individually or in groups. We have a referral service from schools, and parental consent and engagement in the process is required. By offering this service we hope that we can address difficulties the children and young people are experiencing in their lives reasonably quickly.

## COMMUNICATION GROUPS

Another aspect of Swift & Easy Referral to specialist services has been the employment of a Speech and Language Therapist who is working with small groups of children in schools across the Consortium to help them with their communication skills. This work is aimed at those with needs but who do not quite meet the criteria for referrals to speech and language therapy. Again we have a referral process, with parent permission required. Both the schools and parents are kept informed of progress.

**For more information visit our website : [www.hertsexextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford](http://www.hertsexextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford)**

**SCHOOLSPLUS EXTENDED SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM**

Co-ordinator : Maureen Miller

**Our Consortium Schools**

Bromet, Cassiobury Infants and Junior Schools,  
Central Primary, Chater Infant and Junior Schools,  
Chessbrook ESC, Field Infant and Junior Schools,  
Holywell Primary, Laurance Haines School,  
Oxhey Early Years Centre, St Anthony's RC Primary,  
Watford Grammar School for Boys, Watford  
Grammar School for Girls, Westfield Community  
Technology College

c/o Westfield Community Technology College  
22 Tolpits Lane  
WATFORD  
Herts  
WD18 6NR

Phone: 079 222 22712

E-mail: [esco.schoolsplus@hertsexextendedschools.org.uk](mailto:esco.schoolsplus@hertsexextendedschools.org.uk)

*Making sure every child matters*



**HAVE YOUR SAY ...**

Here is your chance to have your say on what we are presently doing.

Is there any type of activity or service which you think would be suitable for your school which we are not already providing?

Is there something we could be doing better?

Please tell us either by email ([esco.schoolsplus@hertsexextendedschools.org.uk](mailto:esco.schoolsplus@hertsexextendedschools.org.uk)) or by using this space and sending it in via your child's school

Your enquiry/comment on our extended services:

Please include your contact details if you require a response.

Name ..... Tel No.....

Email .....

**For more information visit our website : [www.hertsexextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford](http://www.hertsexextendedschools.org.uk/westwatford)  
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