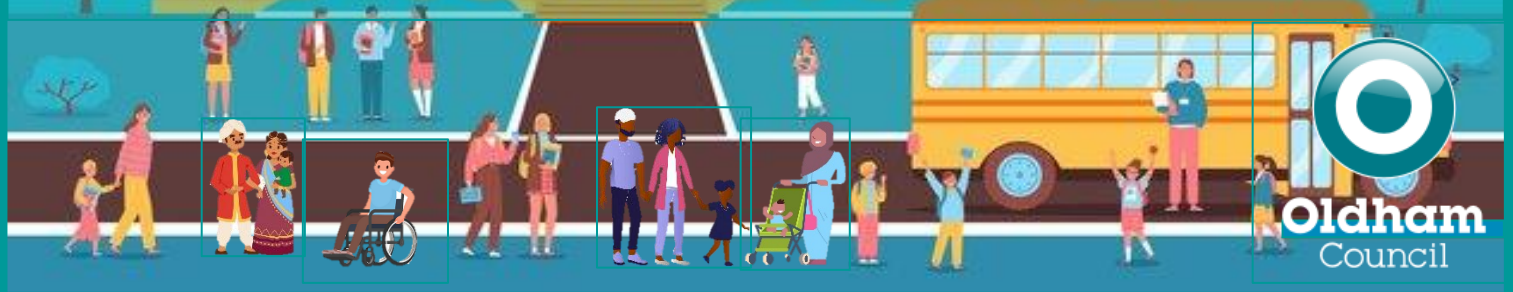


Briefing to Schools and Early Years Settings



Volume:	Summer 2026	Week No:	29-30	Date:	Thursday 7 May 2026
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Ofsted Updates



Early Years and childcare Ofsted updates

- [Sir Martyn Oliver's speech at the Early Years Alliance Connect Roadshow](#) - Ofsted's Chief Inspector spoke at this event in London.
- Updated several documents to reflect the recent change to inspection timescales for providers registered on the Early Years Register:
 - [Become a childminder: pre-registration briefing](#)
 - [Become a childcare provider: pre-registration briefing](#)
 - [Early years inspection: toolkit, operating guide and information](#)
 - [Inspecting and regulating registered childcare providers: information for parents](#)
- [Consented addresses for childminders and domestic childcare](#) - Updated addresses as at 31 March 2026.
- [Report a serious childcare incident](#) - Updated to clarify that we expect significant events to be reported as soon as possible but always within 14 days.
- [Video: Ofsted's early years team answers your questions](#) - Uploaded a video of our 'Facebook Live' event where our early years team answered questions submitted by the audience. To attend future Facebook Live events, make sure you're following our [Facebook page for childcare providers](#).

Safeguarding

NEW: Whole school approach to child sexual abuse

The CSA Centre have published a new, step-by-step guide for early years provisions, schools, colleges and other education settings to help improve their response to child sexual abuse. Education professionals are in a unique position to identify and respond to child sexual abuse, and evidence shows that when education settings are well equipped to respond, **the effect can be transformative**.

To help them, we have developed a **free, accessible Whole School Approach framework**. It provides education settings with useful prompts and templates to **assess their response to child sexual abuse**, identify where policies, recording practices, information sharing, and culture are working well, and where gaps may exist.

Read the framework in a new, mobile-friendly web format on the CSA Centre website, share with other education settings or colleagues you know, and **start to transform your response to child sexual abuse today**.

[Click here](#) to read the new guidance

Point of contact: info@csacentre.org.uk

Recognising trauma and responding with care

When someone experiences threat, fear or overwhelming stress, their body reacts automatically to keep them safe. These survival responses are not choices. They can shape how children, young people, families, and even professionals behave in difficult or high pressure situations.

Understanding these trauma responses helps us make sense of behaviours that might otherwise seem confusing, challenging or unexpected.

The PACE approach offers a simple, trauma informed way to support people. Using *Playfulness*, *Acceptance*, *Curiosity* and *Empathy* can help others feel safer, understood and more able to regulate their

emotions. When we view behaviour as communication, we can respond with compassion rather than frustration. This creates safer, more supportive environments for everyone.

OSCP working with Oldham CAMHS, has created two short explainer videos to support all practitioners. These videos offer clear guidance on recognising trauma responses and responding in ways that build connection and emotional safety.

[Watch the video: Communicating using PACE](#)

[Watch the video: Bodily reactions to threat](#)

Both videos are short, simple and easy to share with teams. They are helpful prompts for reflection and practice

Supporting those affected by domestic abuse: soul sisters

Soul Sisters is a grassroots charity dedicated to supporting individuals impacted by domestic abuse. Guided by strong community focused values, the organisation works to empower and advocate for those who may be experiencing practical or emotional challenges.

With current funding from Action Together Oldham, Soul Sisters is able to offer free practical and emotional support, including:

- Assistance with form filling
- Support with money worries and budgeting
- One to one emotional support and peer support spaces

These services aim to reduce barriers that often prevent people from seeking help and to ensure that timely support is available to those who need it.

Organisations and professionals are encouraged to share this information within their networks to help reach individuals who may benefit from these services.

Further details can be found on [the Soul Sisters website](#)

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 – Early Years



[Working Together to Safeguard Children](#) was updated in March 2026 and places a renewed and explicit emphasis on the role of Early Years and education settings as key safeguarding partners. The guidance is clear that Early Years providers have a vital responsibility in identifying concerns early, sharing information appropriately, working collaboratively with other agencies, and contributing to a joined-up safeguarding system that protects children and promotes their wellbeing.

In response, the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) has developed a short questionnaire for Early Years settings. This aims to understand what support, guidance and information-sharing arrangements would be most helpful in strengthening practice and ensuring the principles of Working Together 2026 are embedded into everyday safeguarding activity.

The partnership values the role of Early Years professionals in safeguarding children and will use the feedback provided to shape future support, communication and multi-agency working across Oldham.

Can the form please be returned by Friday 22 May 2026

[Early Years Safeguarding Assurance – Fill in form](#)

Point of contact: jayne.haigh@oldham.gov.uk

Transition

Early Years Transition Hub

We would like to remind you about the upcoming Transition Hub on **Thursday 21 May, 9:00am - 1:00pm**.

This is a valuable opportunity to professionally liaise with the children's schoolteachers and share key information about individual children attending their settings.

While transition reports can be handed over at this point if they are ready, please do not worry if these have not yet been completed, as the focus is on a verbal exchange to ensure teachers have the information they need ahead of children starting school.

With over 60 schools attending this year, the highest number to date, it promises to be highly beneficial and well supported event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Date: Thursday 21 May 2026

Time: From 9:00am

Location: Smokies Park, Ashton Road, OL8 3HX

Please use the below link to secure your place:

[Early Years Transition Hub: Thursday 21 May 2026 | Eventbrite](#)

Please see link to Oldham's Early Years Transition Document [Early Years Foundation Stage Transition | Oldham Council](#)

Point of Contact: early.years@oldham.gov.uk

Early Years

Help for early years providers

The Department for Education has a published webpage offering *Help for early years providers*, contains resources, activities and support articles for childminders and practitioners working with children aged 0-5 years.

Updated guidance is published here:

[Help for early years providers: Get help for your setting](#)

- Access resources and advice to help improve practice in the early years, including SEND guidance.
- Find out more about each area of learning, including activities you can do and guidance on meeting the needs of all children in your setting.
- Discover resources to help you support children's wellbeing and enrichment in your setting.

Partnerships

Two Hour Discussion Groups for Parents on Bedtime Routines

Attached - Bedtime Routines - May 2026

Want a stress-free bedtime for your child? Do you find bedtime for your children a battle? Are you struggling with having a routine for bedtime? We are here to help with our FREE 2hr bedtime routine course for parents of children aged 2-9 years.

The next group:

Date: Wednesday 20 May 2026

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Location: Horton Mill School Southlink (off Glodwick Road) Oldham OL4 1GL

[Click here](#) to book you place

Places are limited, please email for a space on parentsupporthub@oldham.gov.uk or use the QR code on attached poster to apply.

Point of Contact: parentsupporthub@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Easter HAF Applications 2026



 **Attached - Oldham Summer HAF Applications 2026 - Additional Guidance**

 **Attached - Blank HAF Application_Easter 2026**

 **Attached - Blank HAF Budget Proforma**

The application webform to deliver provision over Summer HAF 2026 in Oldham is now open. The application must be submitted via webform on the Oldham Council website. The link to the webform is here:- <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/xfp/form/1183>

Please refer to the attached supporting document and links below for further advice and guidance. DfE guidance here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2026-to-2027>

Frequently Asked Questions, [click here](#) to access.

The strict deadline for the return of expressions of interest via the weblink is on or before **5pm on Friday 29 May 2026**

Point of Contact: Carrie-Ann.Varey@oldham.gov.uk

CPD and Training

Pathways to Progress: Stronger Practice in Early Language, Literacy and Mathematics

We're thrilled to announce an exciting online event designed for early years educators:

Date: Thursday 14 May 2026

Time: 4.30pm – 6.00pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

[Click here](#) to book your place

What to expect:

- Expert speakers, including representatives from BookTrust, Early Childhood Maths Group and DfE.

- Gain valuable insights to improve practice in early language, literacy and mathematics

Point of Contact: foundationyears@beginbright.com

Thank you to colleagues who have contributed to this briefing.

Submissions and House Style

This document has been produced using a standard house style.

If you are emailing in any articles you want including in the weekly briefing, then please use the [Standardisation & Top Tips document](#) for guidance prior to submitting.

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