

Thank you for expressing interest in Running the SENSS, Secondary Schools With Families Together course (SSWiFT). This course enables parents, school staff and other professionals working with a child or young person, to attend a series of 4 workshops together. Three places are allocated to each family taking part, so two family members and one member of staff or other professional can attend. Each workshop will last two and a half hours and the topics covered will be:

- ◆ Identifying and understanding Strengths and Challenges
- ◆ Developing Emotional Wellbeing
- ◆ Supporting Academic and Social Learning
- ◆ Understanding and Managing Behaviour

The workshops cover information about Autism Spectrum Disorder and related communication and interaction needs and offer strategies to help support young people with these differences both at home and in school. SSWiFT provides an opportunity to share information and experiences within a positive and supportive environment.

Parents benefit from building links and sharing experiences with other parents.

School staff benefit from the opportunity to gain an holistic understanding of each young person's needs and a unique perspective into the experiences and knowledge of parents and carers.

For schools, this represents an immensely cost effective way of bringing knowledge and resources into the school and helps to forge important and lasting partnerships between the school and family.

### **Delivery Model and Costs**

Secondary schools are invited to host this course in school. Each course can accommodate up to 7 families.

You may want to offer this course to a particular year group or groups, or offer it to all the parents of children with C&I needs in your school.

The cost of the course is £400 per school.

Schools may charge parents to recoup these costs at a suggested level of £60 per Family, with concessions of £30 or £15 based on a family's ability to pay.

No family should be excluded because they are unable to meet the cost.

Schools may also decide, if preferred, not to recoup costs from parents and to invite them to attend free of charge in which case the cost of the course will be met by the school.



### To host the course, schools are asked to provide:

- ⇒ A **suitable room** for the workshops with a projector and comfortable seating
- ⇒ **Refreshments** such as tea, coffee and biscuits for participants each week
- ⇒ **Release time** for **at least** one key member of staff to attend the full course, ideally more than one. (As many additional staff as you wish may also attend selected sessions by agreement with the group)
- ⇒ **Admin support** – including advertising the course to parents, collecting course fees and printing / photocopying course materials

### What do I need to do next?

#### If you are keen to run a SSWiFT course in your school you should:

- Consider which families you want to invite; you might offer this to all families across the school, or target a particular year group or key stage for example. It is important that the opportunity is offered equitably
- Contact your C&I Specialist Advisory Teacher to identify a suitable time frame for the course - it is likely that 2 terms' notice will be required.
- When you have agreed dates – contact eligible families, invite them to attend the course and ensure that they have all the necessary information. SENSS provides an information leaflet for parents and an application form for this purpose.
- Identify which key school staff will also attend the course and ensure that they can be released.
- Confirm attendance with each family and let them know which school staff will be joining them on the course.
- Inform SENSS Admin\* and the C&I Advisory Teacher which families will be attending the course.
- School Admin will liaise with the C&I Advisory Teacher to prepare for the course, ensuring the materials are printed available for each session.

For Further information please contact your Specialist Advisory Teacher

Name:

Contact number:

\*[SENBST.Training@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:SENBST.Training@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



If you have any further queries please telephone  
SEN Business Support Team on 01865 323070

