

SEND NEWS SPLASH

ISSUE TWENTY EIGHT
APRIL 24TH 2020

Below is an FAQ that we've added this week.

You can find more Coronavirus FAQ's on the Swindon Local Offer by [clicking here](#).

Q: Where can young people get advice on health and well-being?

A: The Mix is a useful website to signpost young people under the age of 25 to when they are seeking help or information on embarrassing problems, weird questions and or those 'please don't make me say it out loud' thoughts!

They offer a multi-channel service, which is free and confidential. This means the young person can choose how best to access support, for example, through watching video content online, phone, email or peer to peer and counselling services. The service aim to put 'control' in the young person hands.

[For more information, visit The Mix website.](#)

On Tuesday 21 April, Aldi confirmed that it has signed up to the national voucher scheme, which is one of the ways the Government is supporting children on free school meals during the Covid-19 outbreak.

[For more information please click here.](#)

Keeping Connected and Sharing Resources and Tips

Swindon SEND Families Voice and Swindon Borough Council's SEND & Inclusion Service has been working in co-production to put together a series of 'Frequently Asked Questions' on the Local Offer. This is updated on a regular basis with new information as it becomes available. The feedback from a parent presented below, highlighted how the tips and advice have been helpful for her and her family.

Katy, a parent from Wroughton said "It's been really helpful to have the regular updates in The SEND Room on how the SEND Service are working during this time as my little boy is currently under assessment for an EHCP. You people doing the legwork for me, and sharing that information, has meant I haven't had to worry about what is going to happen with regards to that. Thank you so much for all your good work 😊."



The Autism Support Team have also been proactive in offering support to those who are finding it difficult at home. They contacted the parent carer forum Swindon SEND Families Voice to say "While many of our families are doing brilliantly in these strange and challenging times, for some it is extremely tough. Please do feel very free to pass on my contact details to any parent/family/young person who is coming to your attention and you feel may benefit from a contact from one of our team members. As a service both our advisory and Autism Resource Centre (ARC) arms have been pretty active with our known high needs/Education Health and Care Plan caseload and I know some schools are going the extra mile to support where they can or signposting to us where they have concerns. Please do also encourage your parents to be in touch with their school staff/SENCo's as we are still getting referrals in and responding to these/following up with contacts to parents through that route too." Jenny Muirhead, ASC/SCID Lead.

[The SEND Room](#) is an online support group for parents and carers in the local area to provide peer to peer support.

There are also lots of resources and activity ideas available on [the Local Offer website](#).