



A big thank you!

Despite the pandemic, May 2021 was our busiest month ever!

It's been heartening to be part of the spirit of co-operation among those of us who continued to work in play and education settings throughout the pandemic.

We'd like to say a BIG THANK YOU for the wonderful feedback we've had from schools and early years settings across the county.

We're so pleased that you have continued to trust us to work with you during these difficult months. It hasn't been easy juggling the needs of dozens of settings, but we are all humbled by the lovely words that have come our way. #bestjobever

Free Courses for Parents

We're running 3 free courses over the next year for Polish speaking parents. The courses provide parents with cultural knowledge and practical ideas for helping the development of bilingual skills. The course is suitable for parents of children under 8 years.

First sessions August 2021.

A flyer, in Polish, can be downloaded from www.diversityvoice.org.uk/parents.



Summer holiday support



HELP IN EARLY YEARS SETTINGS

We have some limited capacity to provide support in settings which remain open over the summer, and are now taking bookings for the holiday period.

ONLINE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AGED 7+

For children aged 7+ needing a little extra help, we may be able to offer online lessons during the holiday period. This is a great opportunity to catch up before the September term. Last summer, we worked with a number of children with autism who benefitted greatly from quieter 1:1 time online.

We are only able to work with a small number of children at any time online, so please do get in touch soon if you have children who would benefit from this help.

Refer parents

Much more than EAL support! We offer a wide range of other help in any language to migrant and other minority cultural communities.

 www.diversityvoice.org.uk

 [Facebook @diversityvoice](https://www.facebook.com/diversityvoice)

 [Twitter@diversity_voice](https://twitter.com/diversity_voice)

SEPTEMBER 2021 BOOKINGS

We are already taking enquiries about bookings for September 2021. If you would like to secure your existing booking, please get in touch with us as soon as possible.

To book in-class or distance support for Polish-speaking children, or for help communicating with parents, email linkworker@diversityvoice.org.uk



New Info Page for Schools & EYS

We've been busy updating our website! You can now access [info on our Polish Linkworker service](#) at www.diversityvoice.org.uk/schools. Our new info booklet is available to download from that page.

If you have questions about our service, Anita Mosedale, our operations manager, is ready to help.

Our [new flyer for parents](#) of children we're working with is now downloadable from our website at www.diversityvoice.org.uk/parents

Our linkworkers will be distributing copies to parents over the coming weeks, and will leave some with you.

About our Service

We've put together answers to the most commonly asked questions about our service.

Is it free? We work under a funded agreement with Somerset County Council to provide support to schools, early years providers and parents. The service is free at the point of delivery for early years settings, but is chargeable at £38 per hour for schools.

What can you help with? Our agreement is to provide help for speakers of Polish.

- In-class support
- Translating materials for parents
- Interpreting at parent-teacher meetings
- Helping parents to overcome language and cultural barriers to participation in their child's education

How often can your support workers come to class? Most schools and EYS require one morning or afternoon each week.

Who will provide the support? You can find out more about our team at www.diversityvoice.org.uk/about.

Can you provide online help?

- We can always help with online (and telephone) interpreting. It can be a good way to help with parent-teacher meetings too.
- We have capacity at some times during the year to work 1:1 with children online.

EUSS Status Update

June 30 was the deadline for EEA/Swiss citizens to have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme for status to preserve their rights to live and work in the UK.

You may find children in your school or early years setting that have not had an application made for them.

Not to worry! In most cases, they have an indefinite right to have a late application made for them (as long as they were under 18 before the deadline date).

Parents who have not yet applied may be able to make a **late application** if they can show good cause, and we urge anyone who has not yet done so to do this now, if they are eligible.

Diversity Voice is registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner to provide assistance to those applying to the EUSS.

Applications to the EUSS: www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status.

The new Q&A on our website helps with most questions about the scheme. www.diversityvoice.org.uk/euss