



Welcome to our **December 2023** newsletter. We hope you have had a good autumn term and all the new children are nicely settled. The Bristol Standard team has been busy as usual particularly getting the 7th edition of the Birth to Five framework ready for you. It was launched on 23rd November and you can find out more further on in this newsletter.

We have been pleased to see many of you at our network meetings and childminder reflective forums, these are such popular meetings and people are really pleased to network with others.

This is my last newsletter as I shall be retiring on 31st December. It has been a joy and a privilege to lead The Bristol Standard for the last eighteen years. I can honestly say I have enjoyed every minute and not least the lovely people I have come into contact with. The Bristol Standard is much more than a quality improvement framework, it can be used as a model for our own lives as it is such a positive reflective tool.



The Bristol Standard is at a high point at the moment with lots of investment and developments. I am delighted to be handing it over to some very experienced and highly motivated people. I know they will take it to even further heights. You can read more about the new leadership team further down in the newsletter.

I wish you all the very best as you continue your Bristol Standard journey and would like to thank you for your commitment and support over the years.

A big Bristol Standard thank you to Beth Osborne

We would like to say a very big thank you to Beth who has been part of the Bristol Standard Family since she did her first submission in her school in 1995. Since then Beth has been the deputy Bristol Standard leader, as well as deputy of the Development Group. She has been a committed member of the Bristol Standard Family and we are truly grateful for her insightful leadership and creative skills. Beth is the person behind all the wonderful photos in the Bristol Standard documents. Beth is pictured here with her granddaughter.



Beth's role as Birth to Three Consultant has been growing, with her leading on Five to Thrive and being responsible for the Birth to Three LSLs. In addition, Beth has enjoyed working more closely with The Children's Kitchen over the last year. She is also responsible for the EY website and social media. With all these roles needing more of her time Beth has made the difficult decision to stand down from her Bristol Standard role. We wish her all the very best with her future work.



Bristol Standard Champions win Nursery World Nursery of the Year Award



We would like to congratulate **Archfield House Nursery** on their recent very well-deserved award as Nursery of the Year. The team at Archfield House and Woodlands Nursery have used the Bristol Standard for many years and have truly embedded it in their practice. We have been pleased to work with them on projects and recently Cassie Holland was involved in the review of The Bristol Standard Birth to Five framework.

Rebecca Clevett, owner and manager of the nursery says:

We have been part of the Bristol Standard family for over 15 years. It has and continues to have a huge influence on our reflective practice journey. We love how it encompasses the entire nursery community to share their voice, celebrating our strengths and looking towards the future for continuous improvement. We believe taking part in the Bristol Standard has positive outcomes for children in our care and ensures they can thrive within the nursery environment. The new paperwork has been a welcome improvement that enables us to continue with Bristol Standard during challenges with staffing due to the recruitment crisis. We would like to say a HUGE thank you to Nicky Bale for her years of dedication, commitment and advocacy for the Bristol Standard - the jewel in Bristol's crown!

The Bristol Standard Online (TBSO)

The Bristol Standard Online has now been in use for nearly a year and all settings now complete Pathway 1 or 2 using the online forms. We would like to thank our web designer Alex Tanner for all his hard work and continued dedication to ensure that the site works for all involved.

We have had such positive feedback from settings about how easy The Bristol Standard Online is to use. The validators have been delighted at the quality of submissions and have felt inspired by your reflective journeys.



We are now working with the web designer to create the next phase of the online system. This will involve being able to complete a submission for The Outdoor Reflective Framework and Bristol Standard for Health, alongside or separately to your Bristol Standard submission. We hope to have this available for you later in 2024.

We are also developing the site so that we can offer the purchase of the Bristol Standard to settings across the country. We have a number of settings who have already expressed an interest in this so the Bristol Standard Family will continue to grow and benefit children, families and staff across the country.



Extra Validation days for 2023-2024

We have had a big increase in the number of settings and childminders who are using the Bristol Standard, and this has made our validation days bigger. We have decided to put in a validation day for each month of the year with the exception of April and December because of Easter and Christmas. This will give you more choice of when to submit. The dates for this year will be:

Thursday 18th January 2024

Thursday 8th February 2024

Thursday 14th March 2024

Thursday 9th May 2024

Thursday 6th June 2024

Thursday 4th July 2024

Bristol Standard for Health

We are very pleased to be collaborating with our Public Health Colleagues to relaunch the Bristol Standard for Health Priorities. This was a very popular part of the Bristol Standard repertoire of reflective frameworks when it was piloted a few years ago. The team are currently reviewing the priorities and we will be piloting it with 10 settings in the Spring with a view to making it more widely available the following academic year.



Pilot settings will be asked to complete one Health Priority which will be validated in the summer. This project is being led by Jane Smith. If you are interested in being included in the pilot, please contact: jane.smith@bristol-schools.uk



Launch of new 7th edition Bristol Standard Birth to Five Framework

We are delighted to announce the launch of the new updated Bristol Standard Birth to Five framework. We have been working hard to update it with current research and to refresh the existing version. It is a new format and has all new photos to inspire you on your quality improvement journey.

You can start using it straight away even if you are currently using the 6th edition. Three of the dimensions have new titles but the content is still relevant to your current submission. The new titles are:
Dimension 1 Values, Aims and Vision
Dimension 3 The Reflective and Researchful Practitioner
Dimension 9 Partnerships with Families and Community



The reflective questions section is slightly different. It is now called Conversation Starters and as well as some questions to stimulate your discussions there are also some topics for conversation.

We would like to thank everyone that was involved in the review and all the settings who provided us with vignettes or let us take photographs to bring the framework to life.

If you were unable to come to the launch, we will make arrangements to get a hard copy to all Bristol settings. Your mentor can give you the password. You can also access it online at:

[Publications - Bristol Early Years](#)





Childminder Reflective Forums

Please save the dates and book onto the Reflective Forums for Childminders. The Dimensions and dates are as follows and you can book on any session using the Early Years Events Calendar:

[Bristol Early Years – Calendar](#)

Childminder Reflective Forums Dates for your Diary 2023/2024:

September 7th 7 – 8.30pm Values & Aims

This underpins everything you do and will inspire everyone to have high aspirations.

October 19th 7 – 8.30pm Relationships & Interactions

This will support you to think about attachment, friendships and understanding emotions.

November 16th 7-8.30pm The Reflective Practitioner

This collaborative reflection will support your practice

Staffing, Leadership & Management

This will support thinking about well being and professional development

January 18th 7 – 8.30pm The Physical Environment

This will help you to think about your environment and choose resources that challenge and inspire.

February 22nd 7- 8.30pm Play & Learning Experiences

Evaluating how children develop in response to the play and learning experiences you provide.

March 14th 7 – 8.30pm Observation, Assessment & Planning

This will support you to think about how you build a picture of a child's development over time.

Accountability, Monitoring & Impact

This session will reflect upon all areas of your provision for efficiency, effectiveness and impact

May 16th 7 – 8.30pm Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

This will support you to reflect on the importance of valuing difference and promoting inclusion

July 4th 7- 8.30pm Partnerships with Parents & the Local Community

Reflecting on the importance of parents as partners and connecting with children's communities



Network meetings 2023-2024

Carol and Pat facilitated some inspiring sessions for last year and this year promises to be even better. You can book on through the EY calendar link to Eventbrite. We are keeping our network meetings online to make it easier for you to attend.

Weds 10 th January 4-6pm	Using The Bristol Standard online (TBSO) This session will go through everything you need to know about using the online forms including how to upload evidence, access mentor feedback and print your document. There will be opportunities for networking and mentor support.
Weds 6 th March 4-6pm	Celebrating the Depth of your Reflections This session will show you how to include depth and breadth in your strengths, targets and benefits to fully celebrate your setting There will be opportunities for networking and mentor support.
Weds 15 th May 4-6pm	An introduction The Bristol Standard This is a session for people who are new to The Bristol Standard or are interested in using it to support their reflective practice. There will be opportunities for networking and receiving support to get started.
Weds 12 th June 4-6pm	Looking Back to Look Forward This session will show you how to look back reflectively on what you have done in your previous submission and how you can move forward for the next year. There will be opportunities for networking and mentor support.





Celebrate settings that have achieved the Bristol Standard this term

Bristol

Archfield House Nursery

Ashton Vale Pre-School

Briarwood School - Infants

Bright Horizons

Bristol Grammar School

Brunel Field Primary

BS3 Community

Chapel Hill Day Nursery, Gloucestershire

Jack and Jill Pre-School

Out There Forest School and Kindergarten

St Bonaventures Pre-School

Wellspring Settlement

Willow Tree Little Kindergarten

Windmill Hill City Farm

Childminders

Arnos Vale Montessori

Little Steps Childminding Services Playability
Childcare

Plymouth

Bright Stars Nursery

Kings School and Nursery

Little Nippers Childcare

Oakwood Primary Academy

South Gloucestershire

Kings Forest Primary School

Wiltshire

Gooseberry Bush Day Nursery

Holt Pre-school



New beginnings

The Bristol Standard will continue to thrive under new leadership in January 2024 with some familiar faces:



Liz Leeson will take on the role of Bristol Standard Strategy Operations Lead. Liz is looking forward to continuing her work on the digitalisation project and leading the LSL group as well as overseeing the mentoring side of the Bristol Standard



Jane Smith will be our Bristol Standard Strategy Partnerships Lead. Jane will lead on projects including the Health Pilot which will take place next year. Jane is looking forward to linking with all our partners including the Family, BAND and children's hospitals



Deb Brown will be our Bristol Standard Strategy Lead for Finance and Promotion. Deb is excited to take on this role and will be leading on selling the Bristol Standard more widely as well as being involved with the digitalisation

To find out more about the rest of the team please visit:

[Meet the Bristol Standard Team - Bristol Early Years](#)

If you would like to find out more about the Bristol Standard or have any questions please contact:

Bristol.standard@bristol.gov.uk