

SEND CONFERENCE 2026

Illuminating Inclusion:

Schools as a lighthouse for learners with SEND



Time	Details			Location
8:45am – 9:25am	Conference registration			Foyer
9:30am – 09:45am	Conference Welcome & SEND Reflections Louise Barrell, Lead SEND Adviser, HFL Education Carole Bennett, CEO, HFL Education			
09:45am – 10:00am	HCC: Send Strategy Update Hero Slinn, Director of Inclusion and Skills Children's Services			
10:00am – 11:00am	Doing What Works: A practical toolkit of adaptive teaching strategies to help meet the needs of all learners Claire Gadsby, Education Consultant and Author			Conference Room
11:00am - 11:15am	Exhibitors Dragons Den An opportunity to hear from exhibitors at the SEND Conference about who they are and how their products and services can help you Compered by Natalie Fogden			
11:15am – 11:35am	Break			Function Room
11:40am – 12:15pm	Integrating EAL and SEND provision Glynis Lloyd, Trainer at The Bell Foundation			Conference Room
12:20pm – 12:55pm	Workshops			Drop-in session rooms
	8	51	17	
	Getting the start right inclusive beginnings in the primary maths classroom (Primary and Secondary)	Unconditional positive regard-tools to take into school as a SENCO. (All phases)	Inclusive early years environments: Lighting the Way for Every Learner (Early years)	
1pm – 2pm	Lunch			Function Room
2:05pm – 2:40pm	Workshops			Drop-in session rooms
	49	23	4	

	AI for Inclusion: Supporting SEND Learners with Generative Tools <i>(Primary and Secondary)</i>	Making Writing Concrete: Using Dictations to Support Early Literacy Development <i>(Early years and Primary)</i>	Illuminating Understanding: inclusive vocabulary strategies for science classrooms <i>(Primary and secondary)</i>	
2:40pm – 2:55pm	Networking Opportunity & Break			Function Room
3:00pm – 3:55pm	Access All Areas - Belonging, Celebration and Self Care for everyone Nina Jackson, Associate Director, Independent Thinking Ltd			Conference Room
3:55pm - 4pm	Closing Remarks & Conference End TBC, HFL Education			

Session Details

This list gives full details of each keynote and seminar session.

Doing What Works: A practical toolkit of adaptive teaching strategies to help meet the needs of all learners

Claire Gadsby, Education Consultant and Author

Claire Gadsby will present a practical toolkit of adaptive teaching strategies designed to support the needs of all learners, particularly those with SEND. Drawing on evidence-informed approaches, Claire will share techniques that SENCO's can implement immediately to create more inclusive, responsive, and effective learning environments

Integrating EAL and SEND provision

Glynis Lloyd, Trainer at The Bell Foundation

This interactive workshop will focus on focus on practical strategies to support SENCOs in developing inclusive provision when working in collaboration with class teachers, subject leads, faculty heads, leaders and parents.

Getting the start right inclusive beginnings in the primary maths classroom

Nicola Randall, HFL Education

This session invites leaders to reflect on the experience of pupils with SEND as they enter the maths classroom and the messages they receive about their place in the learning. We'll explore how the opening moments of a lesson can either illuminate inclusive practice or unintentionally reinforce barriers. The session focuses on developing consistent, inclusive

approaches that help all learners feel welcomed, valued, and ready to engage.

Unconditional positive regard-tools to take into school as a SENCO

Sarah- Jane Ferguson, HFL Education

Discover practical tools SENCOs can use to embed Unconditional Positive Regard and strengthen inclusive practice. This session offers simple, impactful strategies to support relationships and belonging for learners with SEND.

Inclusive Early Years Environments: Lighting the Way for Every Learner

Maria Griffin, HFL Education

This dynamic training workshop is tailored for SENCOs, teachers, early years and KS1 practitioners who are passionate about creating inclusive, engaging, and equitable learning spaces. Discover practical strategies to support children with diverse needs, foster a sense of belonging, and embed inclusive values into everyday practice.

Whether you're just starting out or refining your approach, this session will empower you to light the way for every learner ensuring no child is left behind.

AI for Inclusion: Supporting SEND Learners with Generative Tools

Chris Carter, HFL Education

This hands-on workshop explores how generative AI can be used to adapt and create learning materials that better meet the needs of SEND learners. Through practical demonstrations using widely available tools, attendees will see how AI can support adaptation, accessibility, and personalised learning. The session will offer guidance on using AI responsibly and effectively. Participants will leave with plenty of ideas to take back to their settings, helping them harness AI to promote inclusion and improve outcomes for all learners.

Making Writing Concrete: Using Dictations to Support Early Literacy Development

Kirsten Snook, HFL Education

This practical workshop explores how dictation can be used as a co-scribing tool to support transcription, sentence structure, and fluency in early writing. We'll unpack how the Writing Framework positions dictation as a bridge between oral language and independent composition, especially for learners who need structured support to develop their foundational skills, such as spelling, grammar and sentence structure. Perfect for EYFS and primary colleagues looking to embed purposeful, inclusive writing routines.

Illuminating Understanding: inclusive vocabulary strategies for science classrooms

Anna Mapley, HFL Education

Recent research highlights the critical role of scientific language in helping students access and engage with science meaningfully. For learners with SEND, the explicit teaching of vocabulary is not just beneficial—it's essential. This workshop will explore practical strategies to embed, recall and use precise scientific terms to empower students to communicate their understanding with clarity and confidence.

Access All Areas - Belonging, Celebration and Self Care for everyone

Nina Jackson, Associate Director, Independent Thinking Ltd

Nina Jackson brings a powerful understanding of how all children and young people learn, helping them discover their unique spark and love of learning. Her approach celebrates creativity, resilience, and the magic within every learner, especially those with SEND. She champions inclusive education, focusing on accessibility for all, not just those with a diagnosis. Through dialogic learning and meaningful connection, Nina empowers children to communicate, flourish, and feel a true sense of belonging. Her own journey of overcoming challenges adds depth and authenticity to the strategies she shares. This keynote also celebrates the vital role of SENDCOs, reminding them of their impact and the importance of self-care and recognition.

