

HFL Education Primary and Nursery School Headteachers' Conference 2026 seminars

Thursday 8th October – 12:20 – 13:00

<p>Local Government Reform and the Schools White Paper: What Headteachers Need to Know</p>	<p>This session will unpack the key proposals within government local reform agenda and the Schools White Paper, focusing on what they mean for primary and nursery settings. We will explore implications for leadership, accountability, partnerships and place based working, helping headteachers navigate change with clarity and confidence.</p>
<p>Making the most of the context of your school: don't hide your light under a bushel</p>	<p>In this session you will explore how ensure the context of your school fully reflects your school; this will include how to paint a true picture of your school in the mind of inspectors alongside how they may use published information about your school as a starting point to discussions with leaders.</p>
<p>Dealing with AI Complaints</p>	<p>With no definitive guidance available yet from Central Government on dealing with AI-generated complaints, but with numbers of them appearing to rise noticeably, this session will focus on dealing with such complaints in a reasonable manner using the current complaints handling arrangements in place.</p>
<p>Talking Heads – Creative solutions to internal alternative provision</p>	<p>This "Talking Heads" seminar explores innovative, school-based approaches to internal alternative provision. Hear directly from headteachers as they share case studies showcasing creative strategies, challenges, and impact on pupil outcomes. This interactive session offers practical ideas and peer insight to support inclusive practice within your own setting.</p>
<p>From Telling to Transforming: Coaching That Grows Teachers</p>	<p>Move beyond giving answers and start developing thinking. This practical, no-nonsense session equips primary leaders with simple coaching models that build ownership, sharpen practice and lead to sustained improvement across classrooms.</p>

Thursday 8th October – 14:10 – 14:50

<p>Because we're worth it: what every head teacher needs to know about feeling included in our schools</p>	<p>This panel discussion brings together external panellists to share their lived experiences of SEND in education, offering powerful insights into what genuine inclusion feels like from a pupil perspective. Through honest reflection and dialogue, the session will challenge assumptions and highlight practical ways headteachers can foster belonging and equity in their schools. Delegates will leave with a deeper understanding of inclusive culture and the impact of leadership on ensuring every child feels valued.</p>
<p>Putting in place a well-thought-out pupil premium strategy</p> <p>Sponsored by Third Space Learning</p>	<p>A strong Pupil Premium Strategy Statement can be a powerful vehicle for embedding passion and purpose into your work to support disadvantaged pupils—bringing together a purposeful, passionate and precise approach.</p> <p>This session offers a focused exploration of both the purpose and the practicalities of crafting an effective strategy statement. It will guide you in developing a document that is rooted in aspirational intent, clearly articulates your school's priorities, and evidences a relentless commitment to raising attainment for some of our most vulnerable learners.</p> <p>Through this session, you will consider how to create a strategy that is not only compliant, but compelling—one that aligns vision with action, uses evidence intelligently, and keeps equity at its core.</p>
<p>Your School, Your Story: Owning the Narrative in Ofsted Inspections</p>	<p>This session focuses on using context and self-evaluation to shape inspection conversations, ensuring your story is clearly understood during the learning walk. Practical, strategic, and grounded in what works. Leave ready to articulate strengths with clarity and purpose.</p>
<p>Personal Safety within a school setting</p>	<p>This session will reflect on the need for personal safety support in schools for staff. Taking into account key elements of staff training, physical environment and culture. This allows our development to support the increase in complex needs across our mainstream schools.</p>
<p>Equity, Expectation, and Excellence: Leading Neurodiversity in School Teams</p>	<p>This session supports leaders to make confident, evidence-based decisions that enable neurodivergent staff to thrive without compromising expectations or outcomes for children and young people. Through practical scenarios and real-world examples, we will explore how schools have made proportionate tweaks to environments, working practices, and communication to support staff effectively. We will also examine what “reasonable” really means in reasonable adjustments, how to respond when staff feel unfairly treated, and how to challenge performance appropriately while meeting legal and moral responsibilities.</p>

Thursday 8th October – 15:15 – 15:55

<p>Getting the Balance Right: Supporting Staff Mental Health</p>	<p>This session explores how to support staff compassionately while maintaining clear expectations and operational stability. We'll look at when support remains appropriate, and how leaders can make consistent, defensible decisions that protect both staff wellbeing and pupils' outcomes. Practical examples will help leaders feel confident navigating difficult conversations in their own settings.</p>
<p>From policy to practice: managing staff absence with confidence</p>	<p>Managing staff absence is a key leadership challenge, balancing legal compliance, staff wellbeing and operational impact. This session will take you through what is required, common pitfalls, and what strong, proactive practice looks like, with opportunities to reflect and shared learning.</p>
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<p>Talking Heads: Building a wellbeing culture between you and your staff</p>	<p>This "Talking Heads" session focuses on strengthening staff wellbeing through intentional leadership and culture-building. Headteachers will share practical examples of how they support their teams, foster trust, and embed wellbeing into everyday practice. Leave with realistic, peer-informed ideas to help nurture a positive and sustainable working environment in your school.</p>

Friday 9th October – 11:20 – 12:00

<p>From Coping to Collective Strength: What Leaders Do to Build Teams That Learn, Recover and Grow</p>	<p>Resilience is not an individual trait or a reactive state—it is a collective, intentional practice shaped by leadership behaviours, team habits, and organisational culture. This workshop supports leaders to build reflective, high-trust environments where challenge, setbacks and even failure are embraced as opportunities for learning, growth, and strengthened collective efficacy. Participants will explore how purposeful leadership structures, routines, and behaviours can cultivate resilient teams that not only sustain performance under pressure, but continuously learn, recover, and grow together.</p>
<p>Belonging by Design: RSHE as a Leadership Lever</p>	<p>This session explores how RSHE can be intentionally designed as a leadership lever to build a culture of belonging from the early years upwards. It will support headteachers to reflect on how curriculum, environment, and everyday interactions align to shape inclusion, wellbeing, and pupil experience. Leaders will leave with one clear, practical action to strengthen a whole-school culture where every child feels safe, valued, and able to thrive.</p>
<p>Recruit, Develop, Retain: Building Strong Teams for Stronger Schools and Communities</p>	<p>This session explores how to recruit the right people and create the conditions for them to thrive. You'll gain practical strategies to attract and appoint high-quality staff, build a culture that supports retention, and strengthen your team through effective workforce planning, wellbeing, and professional development. We'll also signpost further resource to access after the conference.</p>