

PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL HEADTEACHERS' CONFERENCE:

Inclusive Leadership: Getting the best out of everyone

Thursday 8th - Friday 9th October 2026

Hinxton Hall Conference Centre, Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire, CB10 1RQ

Day 1

Time	Details				Location
9:00 am	Conference registration opens Tea & Coffee and Exhibition				Exhibition Hall
10:00 am	Welcome to Day One Cathy Longhurst, Headteacher, Mandeville Primary School & Carole Bennett, CEO, HFL Education				Frances Crick Auditorium
10:15 am	Come What May: Lessons for education from a life in disaster Lucy Easthope, Director and Visiting Professor Lucy's keynote draws on her experience as an international emergency planner to explore what strong leadership looks like in moments of uncertainty. Through real-world insights from crisis response, Lucy will share practical lessons for school leaders on preparedness, decision-making and learning from how other systems navigate disruption and change. Introduced by Carole Bennett, CEO, HFL Education				
	Sponsor Dragons Den An opportunity to hear from exhibitors at the Primary Headteachers' Conference about who they are and how their products and services can help you. Compèred by James Roach CEO of the Inclusive Multi Academy Trust				
11:35 am	Break				Exhibition Hall
Seminars	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Exhibition Hall

12:05 pm	Making the most of the context of your school: don't hide your light under a bushel Marcus Cooper, CEO, Spiral Partnership Trust	Dealing with AI Complaints Paul Davies, HFL Education	Talking Heads – Creative solutions to internal alternative provision Anne Peck, HFL Education	From Telling to Transforming: Coaching That Grows Teachers Justine McDonald, HFL Education		
12:45 pm	Lunch					Exhibition Hall
	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	
2 pm	Because we're worth it: what every head teacher needs to know about feeling included in our schools Panel Discussion facilitated by Cathy Longhurst, Headteacher at Mandeville Primary School	Putting in place a well-thought-out pupil premium strategy Sponsored by Third Space Learning Joanna Di Bella & Heidi Otranen, HFL Education	Your School, Your Story: Owning the Narrative in Ofsted Inspections Sponsored by Rethink Maths Lisa Massey & Linda Hardman, HFL Education	Personal Safety within a school setting Robyn McFayden, North Herts Education Support Centre	Equity, Expectation, and Excellence: Leading Neurodiversity in School Teams Chris Williams, Jessica Lumley and Hena Mahmood, HFL Education	
2:40 pm	Break					Exhibition Hall

	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Exhibition Hall
3:05 pm	Getting the Balance Right: Supporting Staff Mental Health Jessica Lumley and Chris Williams, HFL Education	From policy to practice: managing staff absence with confidence Hena Mahmood, HFL Education	Putting in place a well-thought-out pupil premium strategy Sponsored by Third Space Learning Joanna Di Bella & Heidi Otranen, HFL Education	Talking Heads: Building a wellbeing culture between you and your staff Anne Peck, HFL Education	Networking time
3:45 pm	Move to auditorium				
3:55 pm	Different, Not Difficult, A Generational Intelligence Session for Primary & Nursery Headteachers Andy Goram, Lead Facilitator, Purple Story Group Inclusive leadership isn't just about protected characteristics — it's about understanding the full range of human experience that walks into your school every day. As a headteacher in 2026, you're leading teams that span four generations, managing parents whose expectations are shaped by entirely different life experiences, and trying to retain Early Career Teachers who see the world — and work — differently to the colleagues who trained them. This keynote is about making that your advantage, not your problem.				Frances Crick Auditorium
4:55pm	Closing thoughts and reflections on Day One Anne Peck, Director of Education Services (Primary and Early Years)				
5 pm	Conference day closes Residential guests check in				Conference Centre Reception Desk
6:00 pm	New Heads Welcome				Green Room
7:00 pm	Drinks Reception				Chestnut Suite
7:30 pm	Gala Dinner				Chestnut Suite

Day 2

Time	Details			Location
09:00 am	Conference registration opens Tea and Coffee served in Exhibition Hall			Exhibition Hall
09:40 am	Welcome to Day Two Anne Peck, Director of Education Services (Primary and Early Years), HFL Education			Frances Crick Auditorium
09:55 am	The Ripple Effect: The Importance of Belonging & Mattering The Ripple Effect: Every Moment Matters dives into the raw and lasting impact of every interaction we have with children and young people. Through the 5 ripples—Stability, Growth, Trust, Momentum, and Legacy—and the 5 elements of connection—Patience, Presence, Creativity, Curiosity, and Authenticity—this talk unpacks the deeper, often unseen, consequences of our actions. It’s a powerful call to reflect on how we show up, lead, and leave a legacy that transforms lives. Steven Russell, Dual-Perspective Leader – Transformational Speaker			
10:55 am	Break			
Seminars	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	Seminar Room	
11:20 am	From Coping to Collective Strength: What Leaders Do to Build Teams That Learn, Recover and Grow Kelly Moss & Eileen Anderson, HFL Education	Belonging by Design: RSHE as a Leadership Lever Tracey Harper, HFL Education	Recruit, Develop, Retain: Building Strong Teams for Stronger Schools and Communities Lucy Makins, HFL Education	
12:00 pm	Light Refreshments & snack including departure			