

# EfL LearningShared 2024/25

A unique networking and collaborative learning and development opportunity...



learningshared

As leaders of specialist settings we find ourselves in the most challenging of landscapes. A maelstrom of issues including funding, recruitment, capacity and complexity seem to converge around our school communities and make for the most challenging of landscapes to deliver high quality, aspirational provision for the most vulnerable of learners. The power of community has arguably never been more important and our shared values of collegiality, collaboration and professional generosity provide opportunities to innovate and find shared solutions to common barriers and challenges.

## Doing more with less....

Our umbrella theme for the year tackles the reality of delivering the best education and opportunities for learners against a backdrop of budgets that continue to be stretched and squeezed to breaking point.

**Across 3 meetings (1 each term):** Keynote inputs, group coaching; illuminations and workshops led by practicing specialist school headteachers will explore innovative whole school approaches and practice in the following areas...

**\*Ambitious curriculum and defining success**

**\*Strategic vs Operational - The realities of leading a specialist school**

**\*School Improvement at all levels**

**\*Accountability Frameworks - A positive change?**

**\*Workforce Development and building capacity**



## LONDON: FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER 2024

Swiss Cottage School, Development & Research Centre, 80 Avenue Road, London, NW8 6HX

### Speakers / Facilitators include:

**Diane Rochford OBE, Vijita Patel** (Swiss Cottage School), **James Waller** (Sunningdale School), **Alistair Crawford** (NNSP), **Becky Francis CBE, Gary Aubin** ('The Lone SENDCo) & a variety of specialist school leaders

### Regional Opportunities:

**Midlands** (Derby - November 29th) & **North West** (Greater Manchester - December 5th)

### Our EfL LearningShared Regional Leadership Networking & Development conferences feature:

- Key inputs from system and sector leaders
- Presentations and lightning talks from Specialist School leaders across the region
- Case studies of Innovative practice
- Round table discussions providing opportunities to connect, share and learn with colleagues from across the community.
- National updates from DfE and Ofsted

For more details including costs and to register your interest in attending:  
[www.evidenceforlearning.net/efllearningsharedconferences](http://www.evidenceforlearning.net/efllearningsharedconferences)



Swiss Cottage School  
Development & Research Centre



Sunningdale School



Tollgate Primary School



NEW BRIDGE SCHOOL



HAWTHORNS SCHOOL



Uffculme School



HOLLINWOOD SCHOOL



NETHER HALL SCHOOL



Nether Hall School



## Agenda\*

The umbrella theme for the day will be 'doing more with less' and exploring the realities of the current education landscape as a specialist school leader. At the heart of our EFL LearningShared conferences are a series of workshops and roundtable discussions. Here's an overview of the big questions and themes that we'll be covering at the events...

### **Ambitious Curriculum - Defining Success**

In this session we will deep dive into the question of what success looks like for learners with a broad range of additional needs and how we define pathways that lead to aspirational long term outcomes. Delegates will be invited to share innovative practice and positive case studies from their setting.

\*What does ambition look like for learners in your setting?

\*Do your curriculum pathways lead to positive outcomes beyond the school gates?

\*How do you evidence and articulate progress and successful outcomes for learners?

\*How do learners and families contribute to curriculum design and the creation of their pathways and learning journeys?

### **Strategic vs Operational - The Realities of running a Specialist School**

As Specialist settings increasingly become a 'catch all' for elements of health and social care it can become increasingly challenging for school leaders to lift their heads up from the day to day challenges and cast a strategic eye on longer term issues and opportunities. In this session we will hear from school and Trust leaders about how they keep at the cutting edge of innovation and reform in the system.

\*How do you balance the operational pressures of being a specialist school leader with the more strategic, outward facing aspects of your role?

\*What are the key connections that support and challenge your strategic thinking?

### **Accountability Frameworks - A Positive Change?**

After 100 days of the new government we have seen some pretty significant changes in how schools will be held to account. In this session we will share Ofsted updates around what to expect in the coming months and also hear from school leaders who have experienced and led inspections since the changes have come into effect.

\*What does accountability look like across your setting / Multi academy Trust?

\*How do you engage in the wider regional / national conversation around system change? e.g. DfE Curriculum and Assessment Review?

\*How does EFL support conversations with external agencies e.g. Ofsted / LA / MAT Leaders?

### **Workforce Development and building capacity**

The challenges of recruitment and retention are felt most acutely in the specialist sector with many settings regularly operating at 80% staffing and colleagues are perhaps reaching leadership and senior positions in school with less experience and expertise than they would have in the past. School leaders will share their approaches, strategy and successful case studies for workforce development.

\*How do you recruit and retain staff in your setting?

\*What CPLD opportunities are there for your workforce?

\*How does Inquiry support workforce development at your setting?

### **DfE Curriculum and Assessment Consultation**

Our Autumn regional conferences provide a unique opportunity to engage with and contribute to the live DfE consultation on curriculum and assessment. Lightning Talks, panel and roundtable discussions will support us in capturing the voice of the specialist sector and feed this directly to the Review panel chair and inclusion rep who will be joining us in person and virtually at our Swiss Cottage event on Dec 6th.

\*What are the opportunities / risks for the specialist sector?

\*What successful / innovative approaches to curriculum and assessment would you like to share with the panel?

\*Are there opportunities and examples to share with our mainstream colleagues?

### **\*Illuminations & contributions from Specialist School leaders from across the Community\***

#### **Roundtable Discussion & Networking**

As with all events we've run in the past, the emphasis of each day will be on discussion, learning and networking... giving you lots of opportunity to meet and forge relationships with new partners and collaborators for your professional networks. The format of the whole day is roundtable discussion and networking, both structured through our agenda and freeform during lunch and break times.

**\*\* This is a very unique opportunity to come together with leaders from across the region and country for a full day of shared learning and networking. \*\***

#### **Bringing together a large, powerful community of specialist schools & practitioners**

The EFL and LearningShared community now comprises almost 900 specialist schools, colleges and alternative provisions across the UK, as well as a rapidly growing number of mainstream schools & Trusts. Consequently these events provide a unique and brilliant opportunity for us to come together to directly harness and tap into the phenomenal wealth of knowledge and experience that exists across the community.

These networking and development conferences are very much for you, and we sincerely want to make each event one of the most useful and informative professional development and networking events of the year for you.

*\*Please note that the precise agendas and speakers for each event may vary slightly. Please get in touch with any queries.*

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