

EfL LearningShared

Leaders in SEND Regional Networking & Development Conferences



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: 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**



NORTH: Tuesday 25th March 2025

Grange School, Matthews Lane, Manchester, M12 4GR

Speakers / Facilitators include:

Diane Rochford OBE, Vijita Patel (Swiss Cottage School DRC), **James Waller** (Sunningdale School), **Louise Needham** (Hollinwood Academy) and **Alistair Crawford** (NNSP) & a variety of specialist school leaders

Regional Opportunities:

Midlands (Wednesbury - 5th March) &
South (London - 1st April)

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 enrol:
www.evidenceforlearning.net/efllearningsharedconferences

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. Lightning talk inputs will be followed by grouped sessions which will include the sharing of case studies and opportunities to share practice in roundtable discussions with colleagues from across the community. The conference will offer the opportunity to select the breakout group that is most relevant to your school / college / setting. The PMLD, SLD, generic and high functioning / SEMH groups will support more precise and focussed conversations about the live issues you face as a school leader. Here's an overview of the big questions and themes that we'll be covering at the events...

Ambition and Aspiration

Colleagues leading schools with very different contexts and cohorts explore what does ambition actually look like for learners with PMLD all the way through to those sitting their GCSE's. Our panel will share a number of uplifting case studies where learners have fulfilled their ambitions and aspirations.

- * What does aspiration look like for learners in your school?
- * How do you know you are ambitious enough for learners in your setting?

Preparing for life: Meaningful outcomes for learners with additional needs

What do we deem as success for learners in our school communities? A question we often ask ourselves as school leaders and one that can be challenging in the face of the school system and accountability measures. Our 3 workshops share approaches to PfA across PMLD / SLD settings through to more generic specialist schools and SEMH provision and highlight meaningful co produced outcomes.

- * How do you prepare learners for success beyond the school gates?
- * How do you balance PfA and the traditional curriculum within the current accountability frameworks / system?

Working with families and Experts by Experience

In each of our regions we will hear from a range of young people and adults with authentic lived experience about their journey and experience through school and how it has shaped their future. In addition we will hear from school leaders about their innovative approaches to capture and harness learner and family voice.

- * How do you capture and harness the voices of learners with the most complex of needs?
- * How do you reach families who perhaps find it more difficult to engage with home / school communication?
- * What do you do to communicate and engage with the wider family members of learners with additional needs?

The Big Picture: Policy updates from the DfE, Ofsted and other national organisations

In a period of significant change we explore policy and system reform that will impact on our schools in the coming months and years. The EfL LearningShared community enjoys positive relationships with a range of colleagues and key stakeholders at the DfE, Ofsted and other national organisations. The session will share updates and provide members of the community an opportunity to feedback and as a community influence the national landscape.

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

*** 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 over 800 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.*