



LiiA London Schools Inclusion Network

Rationale and Terms of Reference

2026/2027

Rationale

The LiiA Schools Inclusion Network will be established in response to the overwhelming feedback from delegates attending the LiiA SEND Inclusion & Learning Conference.

The conference demonstrated that London schools are eager to move beyond one-off events towards a sustained network that supports school improvement through collaboration, evidence-informed practice and collective problem solving. Delegates consistently identified networking, practical examples of effective inclusion and opportunities to learn directly from other schools as the most valuable aspects of the conference. Schools also requested greater opportunities to share practice, explore emerging policy and work together around common challenges.

The network will provide a pan-London forum that:

- prepares schools for the implementation of the Schools White Paper and SEND Reform;
- develops consistent understanding of emerging National Inclusion Standards and universal provision;
- shares practical examples of inclusive practice;
- supports leaders to evaluate impact through data;
- strengthens collaboration between schools, Local Authorities and system partners;
- creates a trusted professional learning community where challenges can be explored openly.

The network will directly support LiiA's wider ambition to strengthen inclusive practice across London through school-led improvement, workforce development, collaboration and dissemination of effective practice.

Vision

London schools connected. Every leader learning. Every child included.

Purpose

The Network exists to:

- Support schools to become White Paper and SEND Reform ready.
- Develop excellent universal inclusive practice.
- Share innovative practice across London.

- Build leadership capacity for inclusion.
- Improve outcomes for children and young people through collective learning.
- Create stronger partnerships between schools, Local Authorities and LIA.

Principles

Members agree to work within the following principles:

- Collaboration before competition
- Openness and trust
- Evidence-informed improvement
- Equity for all learners
- Shared accountability
- Practical solutions
- School-led innovation
- Co-production with families and partners wherever possible

Equitable Pan-London Membership Model

To ensure the network genuinely represents London's education system, membership should deliberately balance geography, phase, governance and context.

Representation

Each London sub-region should be represented including:

- North London
- South London
- East London
- West London
- Central London

Alongside representation from:

- Maintained schools
- Academy Trusts
- Special Schools
- Mainstream Primary
- Mainstream Secondary

- All-through schools
- Alternative Provision
- Inclusion Bases
- Post-16 providers

Additional membership should include:

- Local Authority Inclusion Leads (associate members)
- Educational Psychology representation
- NHS partners (themed sessions)
- Parent Carer representation for selected meetings
- LIA programme leads

This will create a genuinely system-wide improvement network rather than another school forum.

Membership Expectations

Members will:

- Attend regularly.
- Share practice honestly.
- Present examples of successful inclusion.
- Trial approaches between meetings.
- Contribute to discussion.
- Offer peer support.
- Share useful resources.
- Support evaluation of network impact.

Members become ambassadors for inclusive practice within their own organisations.

Governance

The network will be:

Hosted by

LiiA

Chaired by

A rotating Headteacher from the membership (annual rotation)

Vice Chair

Volunteer Headteacher

Secretariat

LiiA

Suggested Terms of Reference

Purpose

To improve inclusive practice across London's schools through collaborative leadership, professional learning and practice sharing.

Objectives

The Network will:

1. Prepare schools for SEND Reform.
2. Develop White Paper readiness.
3. Explore implementation of National Inclusion Standards.
4. Share effective universal provision.
5. Promote evidence-informed practice.
6. Develop leadership capacity.
7. Strengthen collaboration between schools.
8. Showcase innovative practice.
9. Support implementation of LIA programmes.
10. Inform future LIA priorities.

Membership

Open to:

- Headteachers
- Executive Heads
- Principals
- SENCOs (where appropriate)
- Inclusion Leaders
- Trust Inclusion Directors

Meeting Frequency

Half-termly (6 meetings annually)

Duration:

2 hours

Format:

- Policy Update
- Practice Spotlight
- Thematic discussion
- Collaborative problem solving
- Action planning

Ways of Working

Members will:

- Respect confidentiality.
- Share learning openly.
- Focus on solutions.
- Commit to implementation.
- Promote equity.
- Support one another.

Outputs

The Network will produce:

- Practice Spotlights
- Case Studies
- Implementation Guides
- White Paper Readiness Resources
- Recommendations for LIIA
- Annual Impact Report

Proposed 2026–27 Calendar

Meeting	Theme	Suggested Lead
September	Launching the LIA Schools Inclusion Network — Building London's Community of Practice, White Paper Readiness and SEND Reform Overview	LIA & Chair
October	Culture is the Foundation of Inclusion — Whole-school culture, leadership behaviours and inclusive improvement	Headteacher
December	Universal Provision & Curriculum Adaptation — Adaptive teaching, Quality First Teaching and removing barriers	Outstanding school
February	LIA Inclusion Data Dashboard — Using the Dashboard to evaluate inclusion, identify trends, benchmark performance and drive strategic improvement	Lia Data Team
April	Complex Needs in Mainstream Schools — SEMH, behaviour, attendance, school refusal and inclusion bases	School leaders & partners
June	Building Sustainable Inclusive Systems — Funding, specialist provision, effective partnerships with NHS and Local Authorities, and preparing for the next academic year	Cross-sector panel

Additional Practice Spotlight Sessions

Between meetings, members could volunteer to deliver 30-minute online "Practice Spotlights" covering topics such as:

- Effective Inclusion Bases
- Early Years Inclusion
- Working with Families
- Autism Friendly Schools
- Attendance and Inclusion
- AI to support SEND
- Evidence-based interventions
- Trust-wide inclusion strategies

These respond directly to the conference feedback calling for more workshops, discussion, networking and practical examples.

Success Measures

After Year 1, the network should be able to demonstrate:

- Increased confidence of leaders in implementing SEND Reform and the Schools White Paper.
- A growing library of London practice examples.
- Stronger peer-to-peer collaboration across boroughs.
- Increased use of the LIIA Inclusion Data Dashboard to inform school improvement.
- Evidence of shared solutions influencing local inclusion strategies.
- Positive member feedback and wider engagement across London.

This approach positions the LIIA Schools Inclusion Network as a flagship, school-led improvement community that complements LIIA's wider SEND networks while creating a dedicated forum for headteachers and inclusion leaders to shape London's response to national reform through practical collaboration, evidence and shared leadership.