LiiA Together for London's Children

LONDON INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE

ALDCS

The Association of London Directors of Children's Services



# LiiA Call for Effective Practice Examples: 'Inclusion Bases' across London

## About this call

The London Innovation & Improvement Alliance (LIIA), working with London local authorities, is developing a pan-London collection of effective practice to showcase high-quality 'Inclusion Bases' operating in mainstream schools.

This work follows the publication of the *Department for Education's* new *Inclusion Bases in Schools* guidance (June 2026), which sets out six principles for effective inclusion bases and highlights their role in strengthening inclusive practice across mainstream education.

We know that many schools across London have developed innovative and effective approaches—whether long-established or newly created—and we want to capture these examples so that others can learn from them.

The resulting collection will form part of LiiA's wider programme to support inclusion across London by identifying and sharing approaches that are effective, scalable and sustainable.

## Who can apply?

Applications should be submitted by mainstream schools that operate an inclusion base or equivalent specialist provision.  In the first round of applications, Local Authority Directors or Service leads should encourage settings to apply from within their locality, that have demonstrated effective practice in developing an impactful base within a mainstream setting. **Applications should be made directly by the setting following discussion with their Local Authority.**

This may include (but is not limited to):

- Autism resource bases
- Communication and interaction bases
- Speech, language and communication provision
- SEMH or nurture bases
- Sensory support provision
- Physical disability resource bases
- Complex needs provision
- Other specialist or targeted inclusion provision based within a mainstream school

We recognise that schools may use different terminology. You do not need to call your provision an "Inclusion Base" to apply.  If your provision provides specialist support while promoting inclusion within mainstream education, we encourage you to submit an application.

## What are we looking for?

We are interested in examples that demonstrate how inclusion bases:

- improve outcomes for children and young people
- enable pupils to participate successfully in mainstream school life
- strengthen inclusive practice across the whole school
- make effective use of specialist expertise
- work in partnership with families and other professionals
- provide models that could inform practice in other schools and local authorities.

We are equally interested in innovative approaches, learning from implementation and examples of continuous improvement.



## How applications will be considered

Applications will be reviewed against four broad areas.

**1. Impact**

We are interested in evidence that the provision has made a positive difference, for example through:

- improved attendance
- improved engagement
- improved learning and progress
- improved wellbeing
- successful inclusion in mainstream learning
- positive outcomes for families
- reduced exclusions or specialist placements where appropriate.

Both qualitative and quantitative evidence are welcome.

**2. Quality of practice**

We are looking for provision that demonstrates strong inclusive practice, including:

- clear purpose and defined cohort
- effective leadership
- ambitious curriculum
- strong relationships with mainstream staff
- pupil-centred approaches
- collaboration with families and external partners.

The DfE's six principles provide a useful reference point but do not form a checklist.

**You can access the Department for Education guidance on 'Inclusion Bases' (June 2026) here**



**3. Sustainability**

We are interested in approaches that have become embedded and are sustainable, including:

- effective staffing models
- efficient use of resources
- leadership support
- workforce development
- long-term planning.

**4. Transferability**

Successful examples should offer learning that could reasonably be adapted by other schools or local authorities.

This might include:

- practical approaches
- systems and processes
- leadership models
- resources
- implementation lessons.

A pan-London panel will meet to assess each application on merit against the above criteria.

***Outcomes will be shared w/c Monday 9th October 2026.***

## Supporting evidence

Evidence might include:

- attendance data
- pupil progress
- exclusion data
- pupil voice
- parent or carer feedback
- staff feedback
- inspection findings
- external evaluation
- case studies
- other measures relevant to your provision.

*Please note, applicants do not need to provide every type of evidence.*

## What happens if your application is selected?

Selected schools will be invited to contribute to one or more of the following:

- LiiA's pan-London 'Practice Spotlight'.
- case studies
- webinars or workshops
- conference presentations
- peer learning events
- practitioner networks.

*Schools will be contacted before any materials are published.*

## Completing the application

Please answer each question as fully as possible.
You do not need to produce lengthy responses—clear, concise examples supported by evidence are encouraged.

Where appropriate, please include:

- what you did
- why you chose this approach
- what difference it has made
- how you know it has been successful
- what others could learn from your experience.

Further guidance is outlined within the application form.
*Please be aware that the application should be made by the setting following discussion with their Local Authority.*

## Before you submit

**Please ensure:**

- responses have been agreed by the Headteacher or appropriate senior leader
- you have permission to share any supporting material
- no pupils can be identified through your responses or attachments
- any photographs or media have the necessary permissions if submitted separately.

## Timescale

Applications should be submitted using the accompanying Microsoft Form by **Wednesday 30th September 2026.** The application form can be accessed here:

**Access the Form & Complete your Submission here**

Following review, LIIA will contact successful schools regarding the next stage of the effective practice programme. Showcasing activity will commence On **October 12th 2026** and will be completed by **April 30th 2027.**

Thank you for taking the time to share your work. By contributing, you will help build a growing pan-London evidence base of effective inclusion practice that supports schools, local authorities and partners to strengthen inclusive education for children and young people across the capital.

Andy Higgs
**Head of Inclusion**
**London Innovation & Improvement Alliance**

## Contact:

**for inquiries relating to this call, please contact:**

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