ALDCS

The Association of London Directors of Children's Services



ALDCS The Association of London Directors of Children's Services

Thursday 18th March 2027

LiiA SEND Inclusion & Belonging Conference

LiiA Together for London's Children

LONDON INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE

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SEND Inclusion Activity

Autumn 2026 Bulletin

Welcome...

The London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LiiA) aims to strengthen inclusion across London's education system by bringing together leaders, schools, local authorities and partners to identify, develop and share evidence-informed practice that enables every child and young person with SEND to thrive within their local community.

Our 2026/2027 LiiA SEND programme includes delivering our second LiiA 'SEND Inclusion and Belonging Conference' to showcase evidence-informed practice and connect Local Authorities and education settings across London to explore effective inclusive practice and strategic development; developing and piloting a School Inclusion Self-Review Tool to help schools evaluate and strengthen their inclusive practice; supporting Post-16 SEND inclusion through improved transition planning and collaborative regional action; identifying and promoting effective Inclusion and Inclusion Base models to improve mainstream inclusion and specialist provision; and supporting Local Trust and Cluster Development by sharing successful partnership models and helping local authorities develop collaborative approaches with schools.

Together, these projects aim to embed a culture of inclusion, strengthen system leadership, improve collaboration between schools and partners, and ensure that effective practice is identified, tested and shared at scale across London.

LiiA is excited to be working alongside leaders, practitioners and partners across the sector on a range of innovative, inspiring and collaborative projects designed to support universal sector improvement and strengthen outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Through sharing insight, using data intelligently, developing effective practice and creating opportunities for collaboration and innovation, we want to support schools and services to build greater capacity for inclusion, remove barriers to learning and participation, and ensure that every child and young person with SEND is able to thrive, achieve and reach their full potential.



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LiiA SEND Inclusion & Belonging Conference



Together for London's Children

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LONDON INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE

Join education and SEND leaders from across London for the 2027 LiiA SEND Inclusion & Belonging Conference – a pan-London event bringing together schools, early education providers, post-16 settings, local authorities and partners to celebrate what great inclusion looks like in practice.

Following the success of our inaugural conference, which welcomed over 200 delegates and 40 exhibitors, the 2027 conference will be bigger and even more focused on sharing the practice that is making a real difference to children and young people with SEND.

With 60 exhibitors, inspiring keynote speakers, practical workshops and dedicated opportunities to network with colleagues from across London, the conference will provide space to share ideas, learn from one another and celebrate the people and settings creating cultures of inclusion and belonging.

What to expect:

🎤 **Inspiring keynote speakers**

Hear from leading voices across education, SEND and inclusion, exploring the opportunities and challenges facing the sector and what it takes to create genuinely inclusive experiences for children and young people.

💡 **Practice Spotlight**

Discover inspiring approaches from schools, early education providers, post-16 settings and local authorities across London, showcasing practical examples of how inclusion and belonging are being achieved in everyday practice.

🤝 **60 exhibitors**

Explore a wide range of organisations, services and projects supporting inclusion, SEND and improved outcomes for children and young people.

🗣️ **Practical workshops**

Take part in interactive sessions designed to stimulate discussion, share learning and give leaders practical ideas they can take back to their settings and local areas.

🌐 **Pan-London networking**

Connect with school leaders, SEND professionals, local authority colleagues and other education partners from across London. Share experiences, make new connections and learn from colleagues tackling similar challenges.

Free tickets available to secure from Monday October 12th 2026. Ticketing details will be released at www.liia.london and also via email comms and LinkedIn.

Kensington Conference and Events Centre, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NX



Educational Settings

Together for London's Children

LONDON INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE

SEND Inclusion Activity

Autumn Term 26/27

Inclusion and Belonging Programme 2026/2027 Educational Settings

The LiiA 'SEND Inclusion and Belonging Programme' celebrates and showcases the inspiring practice taking place across London to ensure children and young people with SEND can thrive, participate and feel a deep sense of belonging in their early years setting, school or post-16 provision. The programme will shine a light on settings that are creating genuinely inclusive cultures, where difference is valued, barriers to participation are removed, and children and young people are supported to develop their confidence, relationships, independence and sense of self. Through the programme, we want to share what works, celebrate progress and inspire others. We will showcase the approaches, cultures and everyday practices that make a meaningful difference to the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. We are looking for settings across London that can showcase how they are going beyond simply providing support, to creating environments where children and young people are known, valued, listened to and able to be themselves. Application guidance for educational settings is attached. To make a direct application, please follow the link:

Inclusion Base Effective Practice Call 2026/2027 Educational Settings

Following the Department for Education's recent Inclusion Bases in Schools guidance, LIIA is keen to showcase innovative and effective practices that already exist across mainstream settings in London. We want to capture different examples of inclusion bases that specialise in a range of areas, like autism, speech, language and communication, SEMH and more. This is designed to inspire the development of practice across London during this demanding time. We want to hear from innovative schools and settings that:

- 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

Educational settings are able to nominate themselves within this call. Participants will be invited to exhibit in the SEND Inclusion and Belonging Conference and within the digital LiiA Practice Spotlight. For application guidance and further information, visit the link opposite:

LiiA London Schools Inclusion Network

Having listened to feedback of school leaders, we are delighted to announce the launch of the LIIA 'London Schools Inclusion Network'!

A pan-London forum that will meet half-termly, the network will offer school leaders an opportunity to discuss and share best practice during this evolving tie for SEND and Inclusion. From SEND Reform preparation, to understanding National Inclusion Standards and evaluating impact through data, it will be a collaborative and impactful space led by its members. Our first meeting will be Tuesday 13th October from 10am - 11:30am. For membership enquiries, purpose or Terms of Reference, please contact Matthew Rees. For Membership registration please follow the link opposite:

‘What works well in SEND Inclusion’ - LiiA Practice Spotlight

LiiA ‘Practice Spotlight’ is a sector led improvement programme, shining a light on practice across London Children’s Services that is transforming the lives of children and families. This academic year, Educational settings will have access to a range of scalable case studies, celebrating effective inclusive practice across a range of schools and colleges pan-London. Our ‘What works well in Inclusion’ Practice Spotlight, brings together the showcased work of all exhibiting settings and Local Authorities at our most recent SEND ‘Inclusion Conference’. All of the work showcased within the spotlight was endorsed via the 2026 LiiA ‘Investing in Inclusion’ programme. This bank of case studies, thematically presented, provides a rich practice guide that can be utilised by Local Authority colleagues and school leaders alike. This resource will be launched in September 2026. The LiiA ‘Practice Spotlight’ can be accessed using the link opposite:

LiiA ‘Inclusion and Belonging’ Schools Data Dashboard

The **‘Inclusion and Belonging Schools Data Dashboard’** will provide schools and system leaders with meaningful intelligence to understand and strengthen inclusive practice. Bringing together a range of educational, attendance, SEND and inclusion indicators, the dashboard will enable schools to benchmark themselves against similar settings, ide9o strengths and areas for development, and support evidence-informed decision making. The dashboard will underpin school improvement by helping leaders monitor progress towards creating more inclusive and equitable learning environments. It will also support completion of the LiiA ‘School Inclusion Self Review Tool’. The dashboard will be tested and trialled with a focus group prior to regional launch. As such, we welcome you to a launch event on the 12th October 2026 to see the dashboard in demonstration mode and will provide an opportunity to engage with LiiA on future developments of the tool. Sign up for the workshop is available via the link:

LiiA ‘Inclusion and Belonging’ Self Evaluation Tool

The LiiA Inclusion and Belonging Self-Review Tool is a practical leadership resource designed to support schools to reflect on their current inclusive practice, understand the barriers experienced by their pupils and develop a clear, evidence-informed School Inclusion Strategy.
The tool is structured around the seven principles of inclusion identified by the Department for Education (DfE) and provides a framework for schools to consider how these principles are reflected in their own policies, practices and provision. The Self-Review Tool provides a structured opportunity for school leaders to bring together data, professional knowledge, pupil and family voice, and evidence of current practice. For each of the seven principles, leaders will consider their current position, identify strengths and areas for development, and explore the evidence underpinning their judgements. This enables schools to distinguish between what they know, what they believe, and what they need to investigate further. The process culminates in the identification of a small number of strategic inclusion priorities. These priorities can then be translated into the school's ‘Inclusion Strategy’. The tool demonstration will be shared on 12th October 2027. Register via the link opposite.

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award

As part of LiiA’s pan-London support offer, we share with you an ongoing opportunity to engage in the UNICEF UK’s Rights Respecting Schools Award. The award provides a practical framework for creating an inclusive school culture where every child is valued, respected and supported to participate in school life. Grounded in children's rights, RRSA helps schools strengthen belonging, pupil voice, wellbeing and equality, while supporting wider inclusion priorities.

In London, state-funded schools can access Rights Respecting Schools Award membership for free until March 2028, thanks to support from the London Mayor's VRU. This includes training, resources and accreditation at Bronze, Silver and Gold, and support from a Professional Adviser. Schools will also receive a free starter pack of resources worth £180. For further information on the award, visit the link opposite:



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