

LiiA SEND Inclusion & Belonging Programme 26/27 *Educational Settings*

ALDCS
The Association of London Directors of Children's Services

LiiA Together for London's Children
LONDON INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ALLIANCE

LiiA SEND Inclusion and Belonging Programme 2026/27

Every child and young person deserves to feel that they belong.

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.

As part of your programme application to share your effective inclusive practice, we will ask you to align your case study submission with the seven principles of inclusion that schools are expected to use when developing their 'Inclusion Strategy' for publication by 31 December 2026, as outlined by the Department for Education:

- Ambitious leadership and governance that embeds inclusion
- Evidence-based support, prioritising early intervention
- High-quality, adaptive teaching
- Enriching provision that all learners can access
- A safe and respectful culture fostering belonging and participation in learning
- Strong partnerships with families and wider services, where appropriate
- Inclusive environments with continuous improvements to accessibility

Your case study submission could be a celebration of existing practice with proven outcomes and impact for young people accessing it, or it could spotlight emerging practice that has the potential to have a high impact on meeting the needs of all young people. One of the key components of your application will be the voice of your learners. We are eager to find out how they feel a deeper sense of belonging to your setting as a consequence of your inclusive values, teaching, or intervention.

Why apply?

Our inaugural year of our inclusion programme showcased the work of over thirty educational settings, from Early Educators through KS1-4 and engaging Post 16 providers too. This year, we want to engage fifty educational settings. As a successful applicant, you will:

- Be invited to exhibit at the LiiA 'SEND Inclusion and Belonging Conference' in March 2027.
- Be invited to join the LiiA 'School Inclusion Network.'
- Have opportunities to engage with other settings to share practice and learn collaboratively.
- Have your practice shared in the digital LiiA 'Practice Spotlight' area to share your expertise pan-London.

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Who can apply?

Any educational setting across London can make an application to showcase their practice. We invite applications from all regions and phases. Applications should be made directly from the setting and should be submitted by a member of the Leadership team.

Applying

We will ask you to submit a brief application which will outline how your work in developing inclusive practice and creating a sense of belonging within your setting supports young people with SEND within your setting. You will need an endorsement contact, either from your Local Authority (this can be from a Director of Educating or a SEND Service Lead) or from a Trust Lead - their details will need to included within your application. The focus of your application will be sharing an outline of your work and what you feel has showcase potential for other settings across London to engage in. We also would like to hear what young people feel about the impact of your support for SEND.

We know how busy educational settings are and as such, we have made the application process as streamlined as possible.

You can complete the online application form here:

The application process closes on Friday 30th October 2026 and outcomes will be shared with all applicants w/c 9th November 2026.

We very much look forward to learning more about the amazing work that is taking place across settings in London and thank you for your time in developing an application. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Andy Higgs
Head of Inclusion
London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LiiA)
www.liia.london

Feedback on 25/26 Programme and Conference

“An inspiring, well-organised event that successfully brought together the SEND community”

"A wonderful networking opportunity."

"Really streamlined and professional."

"An inspirational prgramme."

“But more than that I wanted to say how much I enjoyed the event. To have so many forward-thinking minds brought together like that was so special. ** and I had goosebumps at one point. Sometimes when you are working alone, in world of apparent blocks, it can feel like nothing will ever change. But everyone there is achieving amazing things often just with a mindset. It staggers me that it seems so hard to get this mindset adopted by everyone… but that’s the point I was trying to make on stage. That’s the challenge right. LiiA is truly inspirational and we’d love to be a part of your work in whatever way we can”.**