

**Schools
North East**



COMMERCIAL SUPPORTER BROCHURE

2025/2026

WHO WE ARE



Set up by schools for schools, we are a self-funded, registered charity that represents all 1,150 schools in the region – **and we are the only school-led regional network in the UK.**

Schools North East is a movement for change, giving a voice to North East schools in the national debate. A region-wide consultation in 2007 revealed that **schools desperately needed support** in getting their voices heard as they were consistently left out of the education policy debate. And so Schools North East was born!

School engagement and input drives everything that we do. Together we are the definitive, apolitical voice of North East schools, **influencing the shape of regional and national policy** to deliver on your vision for our young people. North East schools are at the very heart of what we do.

As a charity, **we are independent, but not neutral.** We campaign to improve conditions for North East schools, engaging with partners across all sectors. **Innovation is at our core.** We seek fresh solutions to the challenges of the present to shape our future, and have a strong social purpose, which is the foundation of our work. **Our integrity underpins all that we do.**

As a network of all of our region's schools, our strategy is entirely driven and directed by them. Through our consultations, networking, surveys, roundtables, podcast, annual calendar of events, and ongoing discussions with individuals and local networks, **we Lead not Plead.**

We have developed exponentially over the past 18 years, and Schools North East has grown to be The **Voice, Glue, Bridge** of North East schools and trusts.



WHY BECOME A COMMERCIAL SUPPORTER?

Schools North East is unique. Unlike traditional sponsorship opportunities, we are:

- School-led – founded and governed by North East school leaders, ensuring everything we do reflects the real needs of schools. We are entirely self-funded, with all surplus reinvested back into the network
- Not-for-profit – every penny we raise is reinvested into supporting schools and improving outcomes for children.
- Campaigning for our schools – we champion the voices of North East schools nationally, highlighting the pressures they face and the solutions they create.
- Driving social impact – by working with us, you're helping to strengthen education across the region and shape brighter futures for young people. For example, support from our Commercial Supporters has helped us influence Free School Meal policy, host national leaders like Michael Fullan, and launch a website that reached thousands more people.

WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE AS A COMMERCIAL SUPPORTER:



Exclusive Reach & Insights

- Direct access to 3,000+ hard-to-reach North East school leaders, business professionals, and key decision-makers at our events.
- Year-round insights from school leader network meetings, keeping you ahead of emerging challenges via termly Policy Updates.

Brand Visibility

- Welcomed as a Commercial Supporter in our Weekly Update (5,000+ subscribers), with extended reach via X (9,000 followers) and LinkedIn (4,600 followers). Our social channels connect directly with school leaders, education officials, and the sector's most influential decision-makers.
- Exclusive discounted sponsorship of the Weekly Update, positioning your services directly with schools.
- A dedicated company profile on our Services for Schools website to showcase case studies, testimonials, offers, and CPD opportunities – with your events included in our Event Updates mailer (7,000+ contacts).

Events & Sponsorship Advantages

- Priority booking and discounted rates to attend, exhibit, speak at, or sponsor our annual and stand-alone events.
- 15% saving on sponsorship and exhibition packages with the National Network of Special Schools for School Business Professionals (NNoSS), including the 2026 national conference in Liverpool.
- Additional sponsorship options across webinars, school communications, and our Jobs in Schools | North East platform.

Tailored Support

- Access to your bespoke dashboard, a personalised hub with priority booking, access to all current sponsorship opportunities, and a full record of your past and upcoming bookings.

Our main contacts are CEOs, Head Teachers, Senior Leaders, and School Business Professionals, with the majority of our events aimed at strategic and operational leaders in schools and trusts.



- Our annual Education Business Conference (formerly School Business Management Conference) is the biggest of its kind with over 300 regional delegates attending.
- The Schools North East Annual Summit, our flagship conference, sells out annually to 500 regional senior leaders.
- Exhibition stands at our annual Academies Conference are exclusively open to our Commercial Supporters, and we regularly have high level speakers including Secretaries of State and leading figures in education.



THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

Policy

In 2024/25, Schools North East issued 10 Stakeholder Briefings, shaped by roundtables, surveys and direct feedback from school leaders.

Covering Ofsted, SEND, attendance, recruitment, funding, rural challenges and more, these ensured the lived experiences of North East schools reached the Department for Education, Ofsted, MPs, mayors and the media.

They prompted national coverage and questions in Parliament, amplifying the region's collective voice.

Our Commercial Supporters are valued members in our influence and policy work.

New Website

In 24/25, we launched the new Schools North East website, designed to better showcase the energy, ambition, and excellence of our region's schools.

With a cleaner layout, improved navigation, and new features—including an event archive, integrated blog, and 'In the Media' hub—the site makes it easier than ever for commercial supporters, schools, and the wider community to connect with our work.

Already attracting significantly more visitors, the platform offers greater visibility and impact for our commercial supporters, ensuring your messages reach a broader and more engaged audience.

This isn't just a new website, but a powerful new platform for collaboration.

Media Presence

As the collective voice of all 1,150 schools in the North East, Schools North East is a trusted authority in the media. Leading regional and national outlets – including BBC, Sky News, and LBC – consistently seek our expertise on the issues shaping education.

In 2024/25 alone, we provided commentary on Ofsted, exams, SEND, pupil numbers, early years, and more, ensuring the voice of North East schools is not only heard but amplified on the national stage.



OUR VISION

Young people in North East England who are confident, enterprising, skilled and aspiring: learning and developing within well resourced, nurturing, purposeful and collaborative school environments.



OUR VALUES



INCLUSIVE



INDEPENDENT



INNOVATIVE



INTEGRITY

NOT JUST SNE



JOBS IN SCHOOLS | North East

Powered by Schools North East, Jobs in Schools | North East is a not-for-profit jobs portal created by schools, for schools. Research showed that the North East was collectively spending more than £2m on advertising vacancies nationally, putting increased pressure on already strained budgets. To save our schools and trusts thousands of pounds we created this unique platform.

This is a tailored-made solution that's simple to navigate for candidates, and cost-effective for schools. Designed to bring all of the vacancies in our region together in one handy place, this jobs portal is run on a not-for-profit basis. All profits are reinvested into the platform.



National Network of Special Schools for School Business Professionals

We're the power behind the only network of its kind in the country: The National Network of Special Schools. We bring together School Business Professionals working in special and hospital schools, and alternative provisions across England.

Each year, we hold an in-person conference for our 268 members to connect, influence, and upskill. It is the only national conference for SBPs working in these settings, and many members regard it as a highlight of their year.



We have various opportunities for you to support (and engage with) this audience, including regular online conferences and our annual in-person conference.

National Conference Exhibitors (2024)

“Location was good and room had plenty of space. Delegates were engaging...
Great event and love the passion of those that attend.”



2023/24 marked a major milestone with the launch of the Schools North East Podcast, now a vital voice for education in the region. In 24/25, the podcast released 15 episodes featuring 23 guests, tackling urgent issues from rural and SEND challenges to accountability, inclusion, and parental engagement. Each conversation has provided invaluable insights, bridging the gap between national policy and the day-to-day realities of North East schools while amplifying the collective voice of our network.

Our podcast is now regularly followed by listeners from the Department for Education and the BBC, which is proof that this platform has become a powerful channel for raising the profile of North East education. It's enabling us to showcase the remarkable leadership, creativity, and resilience within our schools and ensure the region's voice is heard in national discussions.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

2024/2025



With the support of our commercial partners, we've delivered real impact for schools and the wider education system across 24/25:

- Major visibility for our region: Catherine McKinnell MP chose our Summit for her first national speech in October, and Tom Rees and Michael Fullan each headlined their own individual Schools North East events. In recent years, we have also successfully secured Gillian Keegan (Secretary of State for Education from 2022 to 2024); Mary Myatt (renowned education adviser, writer and speaker); and Ziauddin Yousafzai, (educational entrepreneur and activist best known as the father of Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai) as keynote speakers at our events.
- Policy influence that matters: We secured national attention for North East priorities — from SEND reform to free school meal auto-enrolment pilots — with 87 regional and national media appearances and two Select Committee submissions.
- Reaching more schools than ever: Our new website launch drove record-breaking traffic, making it easier for schools, partners, and policymakers to engage with our work.
- Expanding our voice: Our podcast grew rapidly, with listeners including the DfE and BBC, ensuring North East schools shape the national conversation.
- Growing engagement: Almost 150 organisations now partner with us, supporting over 3,000 school professionals at 40+ events and conferences.

Your membership helps us sustain this progress — delivering influence, reach, and value that benefits schools, young people, and the businesses that support them.

WE ENGAGED WITH...



Over 3,000 school colleagues, predominantly made up of decision makers such as CEOs, COOs, CFOs, Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers, and School Business Professionals.



Over 1,100 regional and national schools through our events, surveys, podcast, newsletter and more.



Over 1,500 current members through our Partner School, NNoSS, and Jobs in Schools | North East memberships.



WE DELIVERED...

- 8 Annual conferences
- 2 Annual events
- 3 Single issue events
- 13 Webinars
- 8 Roundtables
- 3 Online conferences

CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR 25/26 EVENTS CALENDAR



ANNUAL EVENTS 25/26 SNE Events 

AGM Friday 26 September 2025 08:30 - 11:30* Durham Exclusively for SNE Partner Schools, by invitation only	SUMMIT Thursday 16 October 2025 09:00 - 16:00* Newcastle Head Teachers, School Senior Leaders, CEOs	OFSTED UPDATE NORTH Thursday 13 November 2025 09:00 - 13:00* Sunderland School Leaders, Teaching & Learning Leads, Chairs of Governance
OFSTED UPDATE SOUTH Friday 14 November 2025 09:00 - 13:00* Middlesbrough School Leaders, Teaching & Learning Leads, Chairs of Governance	ACADEMIES CONFERENCE Thursday 29 January 2026 09:00 - 16:00* Gosforth CEOs, CFOs, COOs, Head Teachers, SBMs, Senior Leaders	CURRICULUM CONFERENCE Tuesday 10 February 2026 09:00 - 16:00* Newton Aycliffe School Leaders, Teaching & Learning Leads, Teaching Practitioners
PATRON'S DINNER Thursday 12 March 2026 18:30 - 00:00 Gosforth Exclusively for SNE Partner Schools, by invitation only	INCLUSION CONFERENCE Tuesday 19 May 2026 09:00 - 16:00* Newcastle School Leaders, SENCOs, Wellbeing Leads, Pastoral Leads	THE EDUCATION BUSINESS CONFERENCE Thursday 11 June 2026 09:00 - 16:00* Newcastle Anyone in a strategic or operational role within their school or trust
NNOSS CONFERENCE Thursday 30 April 2026 09:00 - 16:00* Liverpool SBP's from Special, AP & Hospital Schools	VIRTUAL TEACHMEETS 1 per term 15:30 - 17:00* Virtual, via Zoom Teaching Practitioners of all levels	VIRTUAL NNOSS CONFERENCES 1 per term 09:30 - 13:00* Virtual, via Zoom SBP's from Special, AP & Hospital Schools

 Open to all Schools  National Network of Special Schools for School Business Professionals Event, Powered by SNE  PS Partner Schools Only

*Timings subject to change

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APPLY TO BECOME A COMMERCIAL SUPPORTER TODAY.

MEMBERSHIP

PRICE

Band 1 (Turnover up to £500,000)	£440 plus VAT
Band 2 (Turnover of £500,000 to £1 million)	£550 plus VAT
Band 3 (Turnover over £1 million)	£660 plus VAT



Complete the [online registration](#) today to apply to
become a Commercial Supporter

The cost of membership is calculated from annual turnover and lasts 12 months. Sole traders and registered charities may inquire about discounted membership fees.

“ We all want what’s best for the young people in the North East. We want their education experience to be positive, effective, uplifting and memorable. And we all want those involved in education to be happy. But wanting is not enough. We have to make it happen, together.

The North East business community has an important role to play in supporting the next generation. Anything is possible when the right people do the right things.

*Will Washington, Commercial Director, The
Edwin Group*

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Proud to be a
Schools North East
Commercial Supporter



For every child, for every school, for the future of our region.