



NNoSS

National Network of Special Schools

for School Business Professionals

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Spring Virtual Conference Agenda

Tuesday 11 February 2025

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09:30 Log In & Welcome

Pauline Aitchison, NNoSS Network Lead

09:40 Industry Relations

Ben Greene, Associate, Browne Jacobson

The Browne Jacobson team has seen a significant rise in the levels of trade union activity in recent years, and the role of trade unions appears set to increase further under the new Labour Government. Education being a highly unionized sector, Ben will discuss recent trends in trade union activity, explore reasons why trade union activity may be on the rise and set out of top tips for how employers can build an effective working relationship with a trade union.

10:15 Medicines in Specialist Schools - using the opportunity of the Call for Evidence of the SEND Crisis to call for change

Dr Shirley Woods-Gallagher, Executive Director Leadership, Health & Care, New Bridge Group, Inspirational Speaker, Podcaster, Advisor, Book Reviewer and Executive

This session will include; National Funding formula for health interventions in specialist, three levels of activity and health delegation and liabilities.

10:45 10 minute comfort break



10:55 UNISON's work for school support staff

Joanna Parry, National Officer, Education Team, UNISON

UNISON represents around 250,000 school support staff across the UK. The government has laid legislation in England to create a new negotiating body for school support staff to establish pay, terms and conditions, in which UNISON is a key stakeholder. UNISON also continues to campaign around issues affecting school support staff such as dealing with health needs in schools, violent behaviour and cover for teachers. This session will give an update on UNISON's work in these areas.

11:30 Open Mic

Chaired by Pauline Aitchison

Open discussion - this is your chance to lead the conversation with colleagues, give and seek support, discuss challenges and share celebrations.

12:15 Final Thoughts & Close

Pauline Aitchison, NNoSS Network Lead

Visit the next page for: **Speaker biographies**
NNoSS Annual Conference 2025



Ben Greene, Associate, Browne Jacobson

Ben is an Associate in Browne Jacobson's education employment team and advises on employment law matters in the education sector. Having advised schools and universities since 2021, Ben understands the complexities of the education sector and is able to advise on Burgundy book terms, holiday pay issues and safeguarding concerns.

Dr Shirley Woods-Gallagher, Executive Director Leadership, Health & Care, New Bridge Group, Inspirational Speaker, Podcaster, Advisor, Book Reviewer and Executive

Shirley is an unapologetic, empowered Autistic leader of public services in the specialist school sector in the UK. She leads the national network of sector regional leaders for the Medicines In Specialist Schools Group. She is a recipient of a UNESCO and International Federation of Inclusive Practitioners Global Inclusion Awards in both 2025 and 2024 for her leadership. She is a Trustee for the Greater Manchester charity, Respect for All who provide counselling to people who are either Autistic and/or have a learning disability. The charity won the MACC Spirit of Manchester Campaign Award in 2023 and a UNESCO IFIP Global Inclusion Award 2024 for social impact. She is also a member of the Advisory Panel for Children's Viewing at the British Board of Film Classification. She is also an Advisor for Invest In Play. Her expertise as a writer, speaker, executive director, and advisor has enabled her to drive critical discussions on neuroinclusion from an intersectional perspective, helping organisations and individuals alike become more neuroinclusive. Through her work, she continues to make neuroinclusion an intentional act for all ages from early years right through to work and skills.

Joanna Parry, National Officer, Education Team, UNISON

Joanna is currently a National Officer in UNISON's Education team, focusing on policy and campaigning work around pay and professional issues affecting school support staff. Joanna is interested in training and development for school support staff and highlighting the value they add value to pupils' education and wider experience at school. These interests are reflected in the development of UNISON's Skills for Schools website and the introduction of a national celebration day for school support staff, Stars in Our Schools.

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National Conference 2025

**Session announcement:
MENOPAUSE IN THE
WORKPLACE**
Julie Liddell, Still Human**Keynote announcement:
DIANA OSAGIE**
Author, Courageous
Leadership**Keynote announcement:
CLAIRE KNOWLES**
Insights Discovery: Communication
Strategies for Success