



National Conference 2026

NAVIGATING SEND REFORM: STRATEGY, PRACTICE AND LEADERSHIP

08:00 - 08:45 *Arrival, registration & networking exhibition*

08:45 - 08:55 **Welcome: Pauline Aitchison**
NNoSS Network Lead & Deputy Director, Schools North East

08:55 - 09:30 **Building a Sustainable Learning Support Workforce
for Special Schools**
Sarah Monk, Chief Strategy Officer, Edwin

09:30 - 09:50 **School Business Professionals Policy Briefing**
Ben Hardy, Policy Manager, Schools North East

09:50 - 10:45 **SEND Reform & the Schools White Paper
Setting the Scene, Roundtable & Sector Voice**
Ben Hardy & Pauline Aitchison

10:45 - 11:30 *Exhibition & networking break*

11:30 - 12:20 **Inclusion in Practice:
Delivering Outreach and Satellite Provision at Scale**
Amanda Goldthorpe-Hall, SBM, Philip Southcote School & Helen
Stewart, School Business & Operations Manager, Hope School

12:20 - 13:20 *Networking lunch & exhibition*

13:20 - 14:00 **The Evolving SEND System**
Dame Christine Lenehan, SEND Strategic Advisor, DfE

14:00 - 15:00 **Panel Debate: SEND Reform**
Chair: John Roberts, Tes
Panellists: Mark Vickers, Jayne Franklin, Dame Christine Lenehan &
Karen Smith

15:00 - 16:00 **Cultivating a Culture of Belonging for All**
Hannah Wilson, Director, The Belonging Effect

16:00 - 16:30 *Close & networking*