



We are pleased to share the second edition of this newsletter, now that **all commissioned projects are fully underway and delivery is in full swing across the region.**

Since our first edition, momentum has grown significantly. Schools are engaging in professional learning and accessing a growing suite of practical tools and resources designed to support improvement planning and classroom practice.

This edition highlights a wide range of **free events, conferences and support opportunities now available** to schools and trusts, alongside new materials and updates from across the commissioned focus areas: **literacy, SEND and inclusion, early years development, and infrastructure and coordination.**

Through this newsletter, we aim to make it easy for you to see what is available, what is coming up next, and how your school or trust can engage in ways that align with your priorities.

We hope you find this edition both informative and practical, and that it supports you in accessing the high-quality, funded provision now available across the region.

In partnership with



OUR AIM

Our aim is to make it easier for schools and leaders to access support, connect with colleagues across the region, and share what is working in practice. Whether you are looking for targeted professional development, high-quality resources, or opportunities to collaborate, this newsletter will signpost you to what is available and how to get involved.

IN THIS EDITION

- Partner news
- Free conferences and events
- Resources across SEND, Literacy, and Early Learning
- RISE East Midlands Directory



OVERVIEW

SEND Support

Delivered through a coherent East Midlands partnership and led by the Community Inclusive Trust, we're supporting mainstream schools, Enhanced Provision bases, and Alternative Provision settings with consistent, high-quality SEND practice.



What settings gain:

- SEND Reviews for selected schools, plus Action Planning Days and follow-up visits.
- Virtual SEND CPD accessible to all East Midlands schools hosted digitally.
- Enhanced Provision Base training for schools exploring or preparing to open a resource base.
- SEND & AP Regional Network for collaboration and resource sharing.

Literacy Support - EYFS to Key Stage 4

Provision covers all key phases from Early Years through to KS4. All resources have been devised and developed by experienced local practitioners. Feedback from our sessions has been overwhelmingly positive so far.



What settings gain:

- In-person training from experienced practitioners and school leaders.
- Webinars, events and podcasts on themes such as Developing Early Writers, Moderation, Improving Writing Outcomes, Effective English Leadership and Oracy.
- An extensive resource bank to ensure development and consolidation can be ongoing.

Early Learners' Strategy

The Early Learners' Strategy is research-driven and evidence-informed, supporting schools to strengthen learning environments, curriculum planning, and early language development, with a focus on vulnerable learners.



What settings gain:

- Evidence-informed audits to review quality of provision.
- Professional learning workshops for Early Years leaders and practitioners.
- Practical tools and guidance to strengthen learning environments and early communication.

Infrastructure and Project Coordination

Led by Inspiring Leaders to make it easier for school leaders and teachers to access high-quality support and resources, connect with colleagues across the region and drive sustainable improvements in teaching and learning.



What settings gain:

- A digital hub providing access to Continuing Professional Learning (CPL) and CPD opportunities, School improvement resources and toolkits and more.
- Cross-programme coordination to ensure schools can access the right support at the right time and share best practice.
- Strategic partnership engagement to target areas of greatest need.

Literacy Support - EYFS to Key Stage 4



We hope you had a lovely break over half term. There is still so much on offer through our Literacy project which is FREE to all schools across the East Midlands.

A comprehensive programme of online learning, practical resources, in-person training, and networking opportunities is available to support and strengthen both classroom practice and leadership.



CPL



LEADERSHIP SUPPORT



MODERATION



RESOURCE BANK



PODCASTS

Here's what's available now:

WRITING	READING	LEADERSHIP	MODERATION	SEND & ORACY
<p>Improving Writing Outcomes</p> <p>25/2/26 -Join waitlist</p>	<p>Diagnostic Reading Assessment</p> <p>3/3 & 19/3/26 - BOOK HERE</p>	<p>Partnership/MAT English Leaders Network</p> <p>19/3/26 BOOK HERE</p>	<p>Pre Key Stage moderation</p> <p>26/2 /26</p> <p>2/3/26 Book Here</p>	<p>Train the trainer - Building SEND Literacy Expertise</p> <p>Coming soon!</p>
<p>Guided Conversation to Support Writing Outcomes</p> <p>17/03/26 – Book here</p>	<p>Phonics via your English Hub</p> <p>Available now</p>	<p>Asynchronous Literacy Leadership Toolkit</p> <p>Available now</p>		<p>Turn & Talk: Oracy Framework</p> <p>31/03/26 – Book here</p>
<p>Creating an Early Writing Framework</p> <p>Coming soon!</p>				
<p>Writing Podcast & Case Study</p> <p>LISTEN HERE</p>	<p>Reading at KS3/4 Podcast & Case Study</p> <p>LISTEN HERE</p>	<p>Leading Literacy Podcast & Case Study</p> <p>LISTEN HERE</p>	<p>Moderation Podcast and case study</p> <p>LISTEN HERE</p>	<p>Strategies for SEND Podcast and case study</p> <p>Coming soon!</p>

The support is:

- ✓ Delivered by leading literacy practitioners
- ✓ Aligned with the new DfE Writing Framework
- ✓ Supported by practical, evidence-informed resources

An amazing learning experience. Fantastic strategies that can be implemented immediately!

300 CPL places booked
230 Schools registered



View the full brochure here

Short on time?
View a summary here:





EVENTS IN MARCH

UNIVERSAL
RISE
East Midlands

Literacy Support - EYFS to Key Stage 4



DON'T MISS !
19 March
1.30pm - 4.30pm

The power of a professional conversation:



! Join Carl on **19th March** for some powerful learning and exchange

MAT/Partnership English Leaders Network with Carl Pattison



If you support/advise English/Literacy across two or more schools, we would like to invite you to our MAT/Partnership English Leaders Network. We're inviting English leaders to come together for collective learning in the context of the latest guidance and research.

- ✔ Consider the latest national and local updates and what this means for schools
- ✔ Share current challenges and work with colleagues in similar roles to consider possible solutions
- ✔ Share best practice to support others and learn from those around them
- ✔ Identify the latest guidance and resources that can be used when supporting schools

Follow these links to access the literacy support and expertise available to your school, MAT or Partnership:

Find out more	Express your interest
CPL Bookings	Book your place here
Email	rebecca.smith@sdsa.net
Resource Bank	View resources

All the best,
Becky
Becky Smith
Project Manager

“I found the RISE course yesterday fantastic! So much so I have my SLT onto an action plan already today following a learning walk.**”**

Still to come... Building SEND Literacy Expertise with:



Amy Storer
Amy is an experienced former Headteacher that has led a school from RI to achieving world class accreditation.

She is also the NPQ SENDCo Lead Facilitator at Flying High, and a specialist in the development of classroom practice and leadership structures to ensure the needs of all pupils are met.

Creating an Early Writing Framework

Boost your Reception writing provision using a powerful progression framework with:



Rebecca Betts
Experienced Early Years practitioner with over 16 years of experience.

See our summary Early Years Provision:





EVENTS IN MARCH

UNIVERSAL
RISE
East Midlands

Leadership & SEND



East Midlands
Universal RISE Literacy
Support



In every mainstream classroom, there are children who can generate brilliant ideas but struggle to get them onto the page.

Sustained writing requires postural stability, core strength, fine motor coordination, pencil control, visual tracking and muscular endurance. It requires automaticity so that the hand does not slow the mind.

This recorded webinar, with accompanying workbook, will be released on 25th March. Register  to receive your copy.



Strategies for pupils with SEND



Materials released
Wed 25th March

This session focuses on the transcription side of writing: handwriting, spelling, sentence construction and the often overlooked demands that sit beneath them. Writing is not just cognitively complex. It is physically demanding too. For some pupils, the barrier is working memory, language processing or spelling retrieval. For others, it is fine motor control, handwriting fluency, grip strength or fatigue.

Rather than working from a deficit lens or over-relying on labels, we will explore how to design classrooms that:

-  Meet children where they are and build from strengths
-  Create genuine access to writing for all learners
-  Maintain high expectations while increasing access
-  Shift from a deficit model to a design-led approach
-  Recognise both the cognitive and physical load of transcription
-  Use assistive technology purposefully, not reactively
-  Reduce unnecessary strain while building fluency and stamina.

How to avoid lowering expectations while increasing access.



Delegates will receive a practical workbook designed to support reflection, strategic thinking and implementation. It provides structured guidance, practical tools and curated resources to help translate the session's ideas into purposeful classroom practice, including consideration of assistive technology to enhance access and independence.



Equity in writing is not about reducing expectation. It is about designing the conditions that allow every pupil to meet it.

Expert Facilitator



Amy Storer

Amy is an experienced former Headteacher that has led a school from RI to achieving world class accreditation.

She is also the NPQ SENDCo Lead Facilitator at Flying High, and a specialist in the development of classroom practice and leadership structures to ensure the needs of all pupils are met.

ONLINE RESOURCE BANK



Resources to support this provision will be uploaded following the sessions.



KS2

inclusion in the mainstream



PRE-KEY-STAGE STANDARDS IN WRITING

2 March 2026

9.30am - 2.30pm

Some children may find it more difficult than others to make progress in writing and teachers should consider how to adapt their practice and provide the support these children may need.

In this training, delegates will explore the pre-key stage standards for KS2 in writing by reviewing strategies and teaching approaches to support children who are engaged in subject-specific study and are working below the overall standard of the national curriculum standards.

As part of the training, delegates will also be given the opportunity to work with colleagues from different schools to review writing for children working at the pre-key stage standards.

GUIDED CONVERSATION - A SEQUENCE FOR TEACHING WRITING



17 March 2026

9.00am - 12.00pm

Join us online for this interactive session with Teresa Heathcote, programme creator of The Teaching Sequence for Writing.

During the session, we will consider the picture for the teaching of writing in your school and develop strategies to develop pupils as confident and engaged writers.

Your facilitator is Teresa Heathcote.



Teresa Heathcote

Teresa has established herself as the go to expert for teaching Primary Writing. She has worked nationally for nearly twenty years, helping schools improve their teaching of writing.



Free KS2 SATs support sessions available to book



For Year 6 teachers and leaders

As the KS2 SATs period approaches, Year 6 teams are balancing high expectations with the everyday realities of classroom life. **Our free regional SATs sessions are designed to provide clarity, reassurance and practical strategies at exactly the right time.**

Why attend?



Strengthen classroom practice

Explore practical approaches to Writing and Mathematics that can make a tangible difference in the final stretch.



Connect with peers

Join a professional community of Year 6 colleagues who understand the pressures and priorities of this stage.



Tackle real challenges

Discuss SEND considerations, pupil groupings and common assessment pitfalls in an open, solutions-focused environment.



Take away practical tools

Access shared regional resources and materials you can use immediately in school.

[Read our brochure](#)



Book onto the event near you!



Lincolnshire

Monday 16th March

1pm - 4:30pm

The Epic Centre - Lincolnshire Showground



BOOK NOW



Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire

Tuesday 17th March

1pm - 4:30pm

Eastwood Hall



BOOK NOW



Leicestershire & Northamptonshire

Thursday 19th March

1pm - 4:30pm

Staverton Park Hotel & Golf Club



BOOK NOW



EVENTS IN MARCH

UNIVERSAL
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EARLY LEARNERS' CONFERENCE



FRIDAY 13TH MARCH-PRIDE PARK STADIUM, DERBY

 Pride Park Stadium-Corolla Suite DE24 8XL

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH-DAVENTRY COURT HOTEL

 Daventry Court Hotel NN11 0SG

Target Audience; ALL Primary & Infant HTs and EYFS Teams
Junior & Special staff welcome too

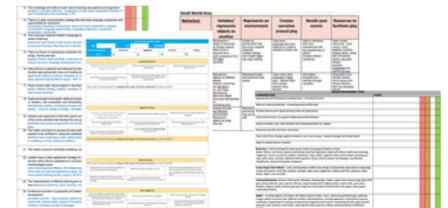
Guest speakers include;

Sarah Carey - School
Improvement Lead at Early
Excellence Outstanding Early
Years Leaders

*An opportunity to consider
high quality provision,
curriculum planning and
interactions that can be
tailored to your setting*

THE DAY WILL FOCUS ON:

-  Accessible Environments
-  Adaptable Curriculums
-  Ambitious Learning
-  Active Engagement



RESOURCES INCLUDE;
SELF EVALUATION AUDITS
PLAY PROGRESSIONS
ENVIRONMENT AUDITS
LEARNING WALK TOOLS



SIGN UP NOW: [EARLY LEARNERS' CONFERENCE - DERBY](#)

SIGN UP NOW: [EARLY LEARNERS' CONFERENCE - DAVENTRY](#)

Regional SEND Support



Discover the online units available to all schools across the East Midlands, created as part of the regional SEND support and designed to support high-quality, inclusive SEND practice.

Units available:

- High Quality Teaching - The Inclusive Teacher
- Scaffolding
- Communication and Interaction Needs Toolkit
- Physical and Sensory Needs Toolkit
- Cognition and Learning Needs Toolkit
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs Toolkit
- Distributed Leadership
- Building Effective Relationships with Parents
- Role of Teaching Assistants Working with Pupils with SEND
- Delivering Effective Intervention Programmes
- Calm and Ready to Learn
- Behaviour as a Form of Communication
- Emotion Coaching
- Pupil Interaction - Questioning and Scaffolding
- Trauma-informed Practice
- De - escalation

Enhanced Provision Based Training:

- From National Context to Local Design
- Belonging as the Anchor
- Design That Works
- People, Practice and Professional Expertise
- Policy, Processes and Partnerships
- Knowing It's Working

How to access online training modules

Simply register your interest and we'll do the rest!

 **REGISTER NOW**

Literacy Support

The Universal RISE Literacy online Resource Bank is now available!

The resource bank combines the best resource from the previous Priority Literacy project with new materials to provide literacy support to schools.



How to access the resource bank

All our resources can be accessed by clicking the link below!

CLICK HERE 



EAST MIDLANDS ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR HUBS

Attendance and behaviour remain pressing priorities for schools across the country, as leaders continue to respond to rising levels of absence and increasingly complex behaviour needs. Ensuring pupils are in school, engaged in learning and supported to succeed is central to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children and young people.

The regional improvement for standards and excellence (RISE) attendance and behaviour hubs programme is a national initiative designed to support schools in improving pupil attendance and behaviour.

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE PROGRAMME

Joining the programme offers schools an exciting opportunity to engage with attendance and behaviour hubs to improve their practice and become partner schools.

The benefits include:

- access to expert support from experienced lead schools
- access to self-assessment and action-planning tools
- continuing professional development (CPD) tailored to a school's attendance and behaviour priorities
- opportunities to observe effective practice and share learning with others
- being part of the national effort to improve attendance and behaviour

THE SUPPORT SCHOOLS RECEIVE

Regional support

This pathway is for the majority of schools that want light-touch support to help them make changes to their practice. As part of this pathway, partner schools will have access to:

- a structured attendance and behaviour CPD offer
- opportunities to visit the allocated lead school as part of termly open-day events
- opportunities to discuss and share effective practice with other schools in their hub

Enhanced support

This pathway is aimed at partner schools that want and need more concerted support to improve their school's attendance and behaviour. Eligible partner schools will receive 10 days of leadership support over 3 terms from their allocated lead school. This support will be aimed at helping the partner school understand its attendance and behaviour strengths, identify areas for development and develop and implement an improvement plan.

Enhanced support will involve:

- the partner school completing an attendance and behaviour self-assessment
- the lead and partner schools carrying out a full-day attendance and behaviour deep dive exercise to understand the issues
- joint development of an attendance and behaviour action plan
- training and guidance from the lead school to help the partner school implement the plan



LEAD SCHOOLS

The schools leading hubs have been carefully selected through a competitive and rigorous application and interview process. Our lead schools in the East Midlands are:

- Church Lane Primary School & Nursery, Sleaford
- Bluecoat Wollaton Academy, Nottingham
- Hollingwood Primary School, Chesterfield
- Charnwood College, Loughborough
- Keelby Primary Academy, Grimsby
- Granville Academy, Swadlincote
- Sneinton St Stephen's CofE Primary School, Nottingham
- Landau Forte College, Derby
- Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, Lincoln
- Sir Jonathan North Girls' College, Leicester
- The Newark Academy, Newark

HOW TO JOIN THE PROGRAMME

To join the RISE attendance and behaviour hubs programme and receive support email us at em.abhmailbox@education.gov.uk or scan the QR code.





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TEACHING SCHOOL HUBS



L.E.A.D. Teaching School Hub Lincolnshire

Areas: Boston, Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven, East Lindsey, West Lindsey

✉ admin@leadtshub.co.uk

Leicester and Leicestershire Teaching School Hub

Areas: Blaby, Harborough, Leicester, Oadby and Wigston

✉ TSHub@LeLTSH-tmet.uk

Leicestershire and Rutland Teaching School Hub

Areas: Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Rutland

✉ contact@Lrtshub.org.uk

Northamptonshire Teaching School Hub

Areas: North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire

✉ hello@northantstshub.org

Potentia Teaching School Hub

Areas: Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, North East Derbyshire

✉ info@potentiatsh.co.uk

Redhill Teaching Hub

Areas: Bassetlaw, Gedling, Newark and Sherwood

✉ enquiries@redhillhub.org.uk

Spencer Teaching School Hub

Areas: Derby, Erewash, South Derbyshire

✉ info@spencerteachingschoolhub.org.uk

Teaching School Hub | Flying High Teaching School Hub

Areas: Ashfield, Broxtowe, Mansfield, Nottingham, Rushcliffe

✉ futures@flyinghightrust.co.uk



EAST MIDLANDS RISE DIRECTORY

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ENGLISH HUBS



Flying High English Hub

Areas: Amber Valley, Ashfield, Bolsover, Broxtowe, Chesterfield, Derby City, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, Gedling, High Peak, North East Derbyshire, Nottingham, Mansfield, Rushcliffe, South Derbyshire

Learners First English Hub

Areas: Bassetlaw, Doncaster, Derby, Rotherham, South Derbyshire

Roads English Hub

Areas: Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Leicester, Luton, Melton, North Northamptonshire, North West Leicestershire, Oadby and Wigston, Rutland, West Northamptonshire

St Wilfrid's English Hub

Areas: Bolsover, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Kirklees, High Peak, Sheffield

Witham St. Hughs English Hub

Areas: Bassetlaw, Boston, East Lindsey, Newark and Sherwood, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, South Holland, South Kesteven

MATHS HUBS



East Midlands East Maths Hub

Areas: Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire districts (Mansfield; Newark and Sherwood; Bassetlaw; Gedling; Rushcliffe)

✉ enquiries@ememathshub.org

East Midlands South Maths Hub

Areas: Leicester, Leicestershire, North Northamptonshire, Rutland

✉ admin@emsmathshub.org.uk

East Midlands West Maths Hub

Areas: Derby, Derbyshire districts (other than High Peak), Nottingham, Nottinghamshire districts (Ashfield and Broxtowe)

✉ mathshub@georgespencer.org.uk

Enigma Maths Hub

Areas: West Northamptonshire

✉ enigmamathshub@denbigh.net

Turing NW Maths Hub

Areas: Derbyshire district (High Peak)

✉ enquiries@mathshubsturingnw.co.uk



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MUSIC HUBS



Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership (Derbyshire County Council)

Areas: Derby and Derbyshire

✉ music.partnership@derbyshire.gov.uk

Leicestershire Schools Music Service (Leicestershire County Council)

Areas: Leicester and Leicestershire

✉ music@leics.gov.uk

Lincolnshire Music Service (Lincolnshire County Council)

Areas: Lincolnshire

✉ musicservice@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Areas: North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire and Rutland

✉ office@NMPAT.co.uk

Nottinghamshire Music Hub (Culture, Learning and Libraries (Midlands))

Areas: Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

✉ ask@inspireculture.org.uk

**READ OUR PREVIOUS
NEWSLETTERS**

No.1

CLICK HERE