

NASS Conference 2025

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NASS

National Association
of Special Schools

DAY ONE - THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

- 9.00 AM **REGISTRATION OPENS & REFRESHMENTS**
- 9.50 AM **WELCOME FROM NASS CHAIR**
- 10.00 AM **UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION**
Claire Burton, Director of SEND & Alternative Provision
Department for Education
- 10.40 AM **STATE OF THE SECTOR**
Claire Dorer OBE, NASS
- 11.10 AM **REFRESHMENT BREAK**
- 11.30 AM



WELLBEING SPACE

Bookable 30 minute supervision sessions available across both days, led by experienced supervisors from Talking Heads with specialist knowledge of the education sector

MORNING DISCUSSIONS & WORKSHOPS

TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS – MAKING IT MORE THAN A ‘BUZZ PHRASE’

Dale Pickles, SENDcast
Jake Lucas, Novalis Trust
Emily Rattenbury-Barlow, Octavia House School
Dr Asha Patel, Innovating Minds

FUTURE READYING YOUR WORKFORCE: THE OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANSFORMATION

Dr Matt Silver, Glass House Leadership Lab

SPECIALIST FROM THE START: INNOVATING ITT FOR SEND EXCELLENCE

Harry Paget-Wall Collins and
Nicky Ashby-Guest, Gallery Trust
Chris Ludlow, Best Practice Network

MOVING FROM RESTRAINING WELL TO RESTRAINING LESS

Ben Higgins, Bild
Helen Wood, Loddon School

THE REVISED GATSBY BENCHMARKS: INCLUSIVE CAREERS EDUCATION FOR SEND LEARNERS

Alexandra Chapel and Kelly Spicer,
West of England Careers Hub
Clare Cornell, Aurora Hedgeway School

USE OF INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE LEARNING OUTCOME FOR STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

Dr. Aida Nazari, LuxAI
Peter Marshall and Paula-Marie Leech,
Acorn Park School

- 12.30 PM **LUNCH** *(Informal peer networking in Duchess rooms for Care, Leadership, Teaching and HR & Finance)*

- 1.30 PM **NASS AWARDS 2025**
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- 2.30 PM **NASS AGM**

- 3.00 PM **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

- 3.20 PM **SUPPORTING BOYS AND YOUNG MEN IN A WORLD FULL OF CHALLENGES**
Michael Conroy, Men at Work CIC

- 4.00 PM

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

CONSTRUCTIVELY ENGAGING WITH BOYS AND YOUNG MEN AROUND SENSITIVE ISSUES – AVOIDING PITFALLS, PROMOTING THE POSITIVE AND LEARNING FROM THEM

Michael Conroy, Men at Work CIC

THE FLEX FACTOR: EMBRACING FLEXIBLE WORKING IN SCHOOLS

James Sage, RWK Goodman
Lucia Santi, The Grove School

EMBEDDING OF RELATIONAL PRACTICE

Beth Elkins and Victoria Howe,
Gretton School

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN: BIOPHILIC DESIGN TO ENHANCE PUPIL OUTCOMES

Christopher Leese, TG Escapes

NAVIGATING THE CHANGE TO COME: LEAD IT, SHAPE IT, OWN IT!

Deirdre Fitzpatrick, Educational SEND Consultant

FIT FOR THEIR FUTURE: DESIGNING CURRICULA THAT WILL SUPPORT SEND LEARNERS TO THRIVE

Melissa Farnham, ASDAN

- 5.00 PM **DAY ONE OF CONFERENCE CLOSES**
- 5.30 PM **DEEPLY RESTORATIVE SOUND BATH** *(pre-booked places)*
- 7.30 PM **CONFERENCE DINNER**
- 9.30 PM **DISCO**

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DAY TWO - FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

9.00 AM **REGISTRATION OPENS & REFRESHMENTS**

9.30 AM **DAY TWO WELCOME FROM NASS CHAIR**

9.35 AM **AN UPDATE FROM OFSTED**
Adam Sproston, Ofsted

10.15 AM **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION - MORE THAN MAINSTREAM. WHAT ROLE DO SPECIAL SCHOOLS PLAY IN AN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM?**
Claire Dorer OBE, NASS
Chris Lore, Spaghetti Bridge
Emma Sanderson, Momena Connect - Outcomes First Group
Sue Ackroyd, William Henry Smith Foundation
Tracie Coultas-Pitman, BeyondAutism

11.10 AM **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

11.30 AM

MORNING WORKSHOPS

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE
Carolyn Eyre, Eyre Safeguarding Ltd

SUPPORTING NEURODIVERSITY IN THE WORKPLACE: A PRACTICAL WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL LEADERS
Holly Bristow and Claire Huntington, Parayhouse School

"WE NEVER GIVE UP, WE NEVER EXCLUDE": A 25-YEAR JOURNEY TO ZERO EXCLUSIONS IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Thomas Keaney, TCES Group

EMPOWERING SEND EDUCATION WITH AI: OUR JOURNEY AT THE GROVE
Lucia Santi and Thomas Kelly, The Grove School

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO SELF-HARM
Satveer Nijjar, self-harm expert and mental health advocate

MENOPAUSE MEET
Julie Liddell, Still Human - part of Edwin

12.30 PM **LUNCH** *(Informal regional networking in Duchess rooms for London & South East, Midlands, North and South West & Wales)*

1.30 PM

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE
Carolyn Eyre, Eyre Safeguarding Ltd

THE PREVENT AND PROTECT DUTIES - ARE YOU READY?
Natalie Wargent and Miriam Carrion Benitez, VVV

CRISIS COMMS FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
Jess Shepherd, Sparrowhawk Communications

EMPOWERING SEND EDUCATION WITH AI: OUR JOURNEY AT THE GROVE
Lucia Santi and Thomas Kelly, The Grove School

UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO SELF-HARM
Satveer Nijma, self-harm expert and mental health advocate

MATHS - THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE NUMBERS
Karen McGuigan, Maths for Life

2.30 PM **THE POWER OF REST**
Julie Liddell, Still Human - part of Edwin

3.10 PM **CLOSING REMARKS**
Mari Davis, NASS

3.20 PM **DAY TWO OF CONFERENCE CLOSES**

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