

Belong here



National Association
of Special Schools

We are a membership association for special schools in England and Wales. We provide support, advice, information, events, training and a strong national voice.

Our values

We put NASS members and their learners at the heart of all we do.

We are proactive, outward-facing and collaborative, to continuously improve opportunities and standards for member schools and their learners.



Our vision

Our vision is that every child and young person with SEND receives the education and support they need to achieve their best possible outcomes.

Children and young people with SEND are supported by a diverse range of specialised provision, in and from special schools, with the capacity and quality to meet their needs.

Our mission

We **inform and support** our members, enabling them to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

We **represent** our members, influencing policy and practice as the voice of special schools.

We **research and share** approaches that deliver positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

We **create networks and communities** of schools that enable the growing and sharing of effective practices for schools.

“ *NASS provides a **high level of valuable support to SEN schools**. Thank you all for your work in supporting schools and protecting our sector.* ”

*As a school we would be lost without the **breadth of services support and guidance** you issue.* ”

NASS member survey 2025



What we do

NASS is a strong, national voice for all special schools.

We're a growing community of over 500 schools and organisations, and welcome every type of special school – independent, special academies, multi-academy trusts with special schools, non-maintained, and maintained special schools.

✓ Be informed

We offer expert advice to members on issues, policies and changes affecting the sector. Members receive regular newsletters, briefings and have access to events and training on topics vital to delivering excellent SEND provision. Our team is also available to provide individual guidance and support.

We unite the NASS community through our online platform, two annual conferences and termly special interest groups, fostering collaboration, shared expertise and peer learning.

Through our partnerships with organisations, members gain exclusive access to expertise on key issues as well as special rates on a wide range of products, services and solutions.

✓ Be recognised

Central to our mission is helping special schools become centres of excellence, delivering and evidencing the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND. We recognise, enable and share excellence from across our membership, investing in initiatives that provide long-term value and supporting members' development through bespoke leadership programmes.

We also celebrate our members publicly, including showcasing their achievements on our website, social media and through the annual NASS Awards.

✓ Be represented

We work hard to ensure our special school community receives proper representation. We are recognised by the Department for Education and Ofsted as the key sector body for special schools and seek to influence and push for change on behalf of our members. We respond to all key government consultations, ensuring that the views and concerns of our members are not only raised but also heard.

Our representation extends to all key working groups and forums, including the Special Educational Consortium and National SEND Reference Group.



We know that each of our members finds unique value in being part of our community.

For some, it's the ability to connect with peers and seek advice. We know for others it is benefits such as being kept up-to-date on issues that impact them, having access to expert guidance from the NASS team or tailored training available for their staff. We want our members to take full advantage of the value of NASS membership and below is a snapshot of some of the key benefits we offer.



Expert guidance and lobbying influence

We offer guidance and support on issues affecting you. As the key sector body, recognised by the Department for Education and Ofsted, we are a powerful voice and push for change on behalf of you and all our members.



Staying informed

Our fortnightly newsletters, NASS News and NASS Events, keep you informed on latest guidance, sector news, training and events. You can add as many of your staff to the distribution list as you like. You will also receive briefings on all major government reforms and announcements.



Peer networking and connections

You can connect, share views and support other members in our NASS Community Platform. We hold six termly Special Interest Groups that create opportunities for you to network with your peers, discuss challenges, hear from guest speakers, share experiences and best practices:

- AI
- Heads, Principals & CEOs
- Heads of Care
- HR & Finance
- Teaching & Learning
- Speech & Language Therapy



Bringing the NASS community together

We unite the NASS community through two annual conferences - NASS Connect, our free online conference in the summer and NASS Conference which takes place in the autumn. Both offer opportunities for joint learning, sector updates and valuable networking.



NASS partners

We partner with organisations that share our values and can provide innovative, practical and impactful solutions to meet the evolving needs of our membership.



Helping with recruitment

Our School Jobs page is one of the most frequently visited sections on our website, and as a NASS member, we will list your jobs free of charge.



Specialist training and events

We organise webinars, many of which are free for members, and tailored training opportunities for special schools on a wide range of topics, helping your staff stay up-to-date on current guidance.



Leadership programmes and support

We help you develop and become centres of excellence through bespoke leadership programmes for special schools. Recent programmes include creating a new Senior Leadership course and network and a NASS School Improvement Partner training course. We also have a strong network of NASS SIPs that can offer their support to other NASS members.



Piloting innovation

We look for innovative ways to tackle issues that affect you by collaborating with partners and give you the opportunity to be part of this research. In 2025, we ran an AI pilot programme for special schools involving 11 NASS members as well as a programme that addresses key challenges of attrition, retention and recruitment in schools.



Developing knowledge

We invest in initiatives that will provide long-term value for you. For example, we commissioned a report on the cost and value of meeting need for children and young people with SEND. We also sought legal advice to give you clarity on the setting and payment of fees and more recently around changes in procurement.



Highlighting and celebrating excellence

We take pride in sharing your excellence and best practice. We do this through recognising your work at our annual NASS Awards and using our social media channels and website to highlight the difference you are making throughout the year.

Interested in joining our special school community?

If you have any questions or would like to apply to become a NASS member, please contact Jenny Hayward, NASS Operations Officer.

 jhayward@nassschools.org.uk

 **07827 688650**

Follow us @nassschools   



**50% off
first-year full
membership
fees**

2026/27 NASS membership fees



NASS operates a rolling membership. Four weeks before your renewal date, we will send you a reminder about your subscription and the applicable fees* for the coming year.

We offer a 50% discount on first-year membership fees** to all schools and organisations eligible to join NASS as full members. This introductory discount is designed to support new members as they settle in and start accessing our full range of benefits.

Full membership - individual and trusts/groups

Membership of NASS is open to all types of fully registered special schools.

This includes independent, special academies (including converter and free schools), multi-academy trusts with special schools, non-maintained, and maintained special schools.

Full membership: Individual schools

NASS membership offers exceptional value, with fees tailored to the number of learners in each school. Annual fees for individual schools can range from as little as £77 to just £227 per month. This ensures that schools of all sizes can access our full range of resources and support.

School category	Number of learners	Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due*
Small	Up to 50 learners	£879.02	£43.95	£922.97
Medium	51 to 150 learners	£1,741.44	£87.07	£1,828.51
Large	151+ learners	£2,603.84	£130.19	£2,734.03

* Annual membership fees may be subject to increases due to inflation. Any changes will likely come into effect from 1st April each year.

**Discount is not available for schools that have previously been part of NASS and wish to rejoin.

Full membership: Trusts and Groups

For Trusts and Groups, we calculate annual membership fees based on the number of schools within your organisation. This approach ensures we deliver the best value while providing comprehensive access to NASS resources and support across your network.

Discounted group membership is available to organisations with two or more schools eligible for full or associate membership. To qualify, all special schools within the organisation must become members.

If your Trust or Group has more than 50 schools, please contact the NASS team for a quote.

Number of schools in a Trust/Group	Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due*
2	£2,095.95	£104.80	£2,200.75
3 to 4	£3,667.91	£183.40	£3,851.31
5 to 6	£5,239.87	£261.99	£5,501.86
7 to 8	£6,811.83	£340.59	£7,152.42
9 to 10	£8,383.78	£419.19	£8,802.97
11 to 15	£10,787.96	£539.40	£11,327.36
16 to 20	£12,945.56	£647.28	£13,592.84
21 to 25	£15,124.78	£756.24	£15,881.02
26 to 30	£17,304.00	£865.20	£18,169.20
31 to 35	£18,385.50	£919.28	£19,304.78
36 to 40	£19,467.00	£973.35	£20,440.35
41 to 45	£20,548.50	£1,027.42	£21,575.93
46 to 50	£21,630.00	£1,081.50	£22,711.50

Associate membership

Associate membership: Schools

Associate school membership is open to all newly registered special schools that have not yet received their first full Ofsted inspection. Associate school members are expected to move to full membership status within one year of their first full Ofsted inspection, on the anniversary of joining date.

School category	Number of learners	Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due*
Small	Up to 50 learners	£439.51	£21.98	£461.49
Medium	51 to 150 learners	£870.72	£43.54	£914.26
Large	151+ learners	£1,301.92	£65.10	£1,367.02

Associate membership: Individuals

Individual associate membership is open to individuals working in the fields of special education, residential care and disability outside of special schools.

Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due
£213.67	£10.68	£224.35