

The aims of Whole School SEND

Aim 1

- Equip the school workforce to prioritise and understand their responsibilities in relation to SEND and to share and embed good practice at individual and setting-level within their CPD and school improvement plans, particularly in relation to SEN Support, early intervention and effective preparation for adulthood.

Aim 2

- Equip schools to meet their training needs in relation to SEND to improve provision through delivery of targeted training packages within specific Local Authorities.

Aim 3

- Build capability within the school workforce to ensure all professionals can contribute to excellent SEND provision at every point in their career by providing clear CPD pathways to support their development, including in relation to specialist provision.

2021-22 contract: sector-led improvement



‘A core online offer of sector-led improvement activities delivered through the school-based Regional SEND Team that helps foster a culture of reflection, challenge and support between peers and across the sector, particularly in relation to SEN Support, early intervention and effective preparation for adulthood.’

1b(1): Professional development groups

1b(2): Special schools

Sector-led improvement: special schools

‘Drive performance in special schools by building relationships with existing special school networks and bringing these into the WSS member community to facilitate the sharing of effective practice across the specialist sector and to mainstream settings.’

Widen access of as many special schools as possible to outputs of specialist groups, DfE, WSS etc

Share live priorities and concerns of specialist sector with DfE, to inform national policy

Widen access of mainstream schools to expertise and experience of special schools

Sector-led improvement: special schools



Facilitate sector-led sharing of effective practice between special schools and between specialist and mainstream settings to drive performance:

- a) share outputs and effective practice from the national SEND Reference Group with special school networks not currently engaged in WSS to build/develop these relationships and increase the representation of a diverse range of special schools within the WSS member community
- b) encourage and facilitate special schools to engage, share their views and discuss practice within this national, sustainable SEND community, including on themes such as adaptations to the national curriculum and embedding preparation for adulthood provision at an early stage, and key learning for mainstream settings
- c) share outputs from special schools which evidence good practice, for example through case studies, talking heads videos and blogs, across the WSS community
- d) share mini-briefings with DfE regarding sector priorities

Sector-led improvement: special schools



What will this look like in practice?

1. Conduct an audit of special schools to find out about local, regional and national networks of special schools (September)
2. Engage with these networks; encourage membership of WSS (on-going)
3. Share outputs from the specialist sector with networks via SEND gateway (quarterly from September)
4. Collect feedback from special schools to inform briefing papers (3: September/October, December, February/March)