Department for Education

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

In-house training materials for schools and post-16 settings

September 2026

Introduction

The government's Schools White Paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving, committed to strengthening support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including the development of high-quality training materials to support schools and post-16 settings.

The Department for Education (DfE) has now published the first set of SEND In-House Training Materials, designed to help settings strengthen inclusive practice, support staff development and reduce the time needed to develop training materials locally. Further materials will be published throughout the academic year.

These free DfE materials have been informed by Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) guidance and developed by Ambition Institute to support SEND professional development in schools and post-16 settings.

At a glance:

- Free SEND and inclusion training materials
- For schools, reception onwards, and post-16 settings
- Designed for leaders delivering teaching and support staff development
- The first SEND In-House Training Materials are available now
- More materials coming throughout the year
- Available on GOV.UK:
  - **Schools:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Mainstream Schools
  - **Post-16 settings:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Post-16 Settings

In addition, a new online Early Years training package has been launched with Dingley's Promise. This is designed and is freely available for all early years educators working with children aged 0-4 to strengthen inclusive practice and better identify and support children with SEND. Available at: Early Years CPD Training - Dingley's Promise

The SEND In-House Training Materials provide free, practical and editable resources, including strategies and tools that settings can adapt to support staff and strengthen inclusive practice for learners with SEND.

Purpose

The purpose of this toolkit is to support stakeholders in raising awareness of the training materials and sharing information through their networks and communications channels.

This toolkit includes:

- An overview of the SEND In-House Training Materials
- Key information for schools and post-16 settings
- Details of what is included in the first set of materials
- Suggested communications content
- Useful links and resources

If you have any further questions from within your organisation, or from your members, please do not hesitate to contact our comms team at Enquiries.CPD@education.gov.uk

Why have these materials been developed?

Helping schools and post-16 settings strengthen inclusive practice and deliver effective staff development

Many schools and post-16 settings already provide training on SEND and inclusion. The SEND In-House Training Materials have been developed to support that work by providing free, editable resources that leaders can use and adapt within their own setting.

The training package aims to support staff to:



Build confidence and expertise in inclusive teaching practices



Create positive, supportive and inclusive learning environments



Understand and effectively respond to individual needs

Free, editable resources containing practical strategies and tools to help schools and post-16 settings strengthen inclusive practice and reduce planning workload.

How do the materials work?

Flexible resources designed for use within schools and post-16 settings

The materials are designed to support leaders, including SENCOs, inclusion leads and those responsible for professional development, to deliver SEND and inclusion training that meets the needs of their own setting. They can be used within existing staff development programmes and adapted to local priorities and contexts.

- **How can settings use the materials?**
  - During INSET days, staff meetings, team meetings and twilight sessions.
  - As part of planned professional development programmes.
  - To train teachers, leaders, teaching assistants and support staff.
  - Alongside existing SEND and inclusion activity.

- **What's included?** The package includes:
  - Structured, editable training sessions and facilitator guidance
  - Knowledge-building resources and reflection activities
  - Support for planning professional development
  - Practical examples, case studies and exemplification

- **What is the publication schedule?** Currently available:
  - Guidance on how to use the materials
  - Introduction to SEND reform and inclusive teaching
  - Introduction to Areas of Development
  - Speech, Language and Communication Development materials

- **Additional materials will be published throughout the academic year.**
  - Additional Areas of Development
  - Inclusive teaching resources
  - Case studies and exemplification
  - Tools for planning and evaluating professional development

Schools and post-16 settings can use the materials flexibly to support professional development, strengthen inclusive practice and meet local workforce needs.

Why schools and post-16 settings may find these materials useful

Free, evidence-informed DfE materials designed to help schools and post-16 settings deliver high-quality SEND and inclusion professional development that supports staff, strengthens practice and benefits pupils and learners.

Save time	• Free, editable resources reduce the need to create SEND training materials from scratch where settings were already planning to deliver CPD.
Build staff confidence	• Supports staff to develop a stronger understanding of SEND, inclusion and how to support children and young people with different needs.
Create a shared approach	• Helps leaders, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff develop a common understanding of inclusive practice across the setting.
Turn learning into action	• Combines knowledge with practical examples, reflection activities and opportunities to consider how approaches can be applied within individual settings.
Support effective professional development	• Designed to help leaders move beyond one-off training sessions and support learning that is embedded and sustained over time.
Flexible and relevant	• Resources can be adapted to local contexts and used alongside existing school improvement activities or post-16 quality improvement approaches.
Support day-to-day practice	• Provides practical strategies, tools and examples that staff can consider and adapt to support all learners, and especially learners with SEND.

Flexible and practical support that schools and post-16 settings can adapt to their own context.

What's available now?

Available from Friday 25 September 2026

The first set of materials is designed to help schools and post–16 settings build staff understanding of the proposed SEND reforms and inclusive practice.

Included in September publication:

- Introduction to SEND reform
- Introduction to Inclusive Teaching
- Introduction to Areas of Development
- Speech, Language and Communication Development materials
- Overall planning guide for leaders, and facilitator guidance for each session

Further materials are planned for January 2027 and April 2027. Details will be added once content and timings are confirmed:

- Deeper dives into additional Areas of Development
- Spotlights on inclusive teaching strategies
- Case studies
- Tools for planning and evaluating professional development
- Further practical guidance and exemplification

The training materials provide practical professional development support during the 2026 to 2027 academic year. References to proposed SEND reforms and Areas of Development remain subject to final policy decisions.

Suggested Draft Newsletter Post

Below is draft post you can use or adapt to help your communications activity.

New SEND and Inclusion Training Materials Now Available

The Department for Education has published the first set of SEND In-House Training Materials to support schools and post-16 settings in delivering professional development on SEND and inclusion. The training materials form part of the government's wider commitment to strengthening support for children and young people with SEND and are designed to help settings build staff knowledge, confidence and understanding of inclusive practice.

The free, editable materials include structured training content, facilitator guidance, practical strategies and activities for discussion and reflection. They are designed to reduce the time needed to develop training materials locally and leaders can tailor them to their setting and use them during INSET days, staff meetings, staff development days and wider professional development programmes. Developed by Ambition Institute for DfE, the materials complement other SEND professional development opportunities, including the NPQ for SENCOs.

This first set of materials covers:

- Introduction to proposed SEND reforms and inclusive teaching
- Introduction to Areas of Development
- Speech, Language and Communication Development
- Supporting guidance for leaders and facilitators

Additional training materials will be published throughout the academic year, including further Areas of Development, practical teaching resources, case studies and professional development support materials. Find out more and access the materials:

- **Schools:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Mainstream Schools
- **Post-16 settings:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Post-16 Settings

Suggested Draft Social Media Posts

General awareness

📣 **New free SEND and inclusion training materials now available** 📣

The Department for Education has published a new suite of SEND In-House Training Materials to support schools and post-16 settings with staff development on SEND and inclusion.

The materials include practical, editable resources that leaders can adapt for their own setting.

👉 **Schools:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Mainstream Schools
👉 **Post-16 settings:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Post-16 Settings

#SEND #Inclusion #ProfessionalDevelopment

School and post-16 setting leaders

📚 **Supporting staff development on SEND and inclusion**

Looking for practical SEND training resources for your staff?

The new DfE SEND In-House Training Materials provide free, editable resources, facilitator guidance and professional development tools. Leaders can tailor the materials and use them with staff during INSET days, staff meetings and wider CPD programmes.

👉 **Schools:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Mainstream Schools
👉 **Post-16 settings:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Post-16 Settings

#SEND #SchoolLeadership #FELeadership

Inclusive Practice

✅ **Helping schools and post-16 settings strengthen inclusive practice**

The new DfE SEND In-House Training Materials are designed to help leaders, teachers, teaching assistants and support staff develop a shared understanding of inclusive practice and support children and young people with SEND.

Free resources are now available on GOV.UK.

👉 **Schools:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Mainstream Schools
👉 **Post-16 settings:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Post-16 Settings

#SEND #Inclusion #ProfessionalDevelopment

Useful links and related SEND professional development

The SEND In-House Training Materials provide flexible, setting-led professional development for staff across schools and post-16 settings. They complement, rather than replace, qualifications, professional development and evidence-informed guidance.

DfE SEND information and resources	Qualifications and professional development	Evidence, practice and inclusion resources
SEND In-House Training Materials: • **Schools:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Mainstream Schools • **Post-16 settings:** SEND and Inclusion Training for Post-16 Settings	NPQ for SENCOs	EEF: Guide to Inclusive Teaching (16-19 version is also upcoming)
SEND reform information	National Professional Qualifications	Inclusive mainstream fund for schools
SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years	EEF: Effective Professional Development in 16-19 Settings	EEF: Deployment of Teaching Assistants

Additional post-16 and inclusion resources		
EEF: Developing Independent Learners: 16-19	Inclusive mainstream fund 16-19 providers	Education Training Foundation (ETF) and EEF (2019): Learning Support Assistants in FE and Training: Guidance for Leaders and Managers

Need further support?

If colleagues within your organisation, members or networks have questions about the materials, please get in touch with our comms team at Enquiries.CPD@education.gov.uk