

# Leadership of SEND

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September 2023 – July 2025



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
EDUCATION OFFICE

FOUNDATION FOR  
EDUCATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP



### WHY A 'LEADERSHIP OF SEND' NETWORK?

At the Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership (CEFEL), we believe that 'leaders in education are called to pursue social justice and wellbeing of all, showing love for the disadvantaged, marginalised and vulnerable'. Enabling children with SEND to flourish in all aspects of school life is essential to this mission. We know that all over the country, passionate leaders of SEND are seeking the best possible ways to do this in the face of challenges and obstacles. Bringing school leaders together in networks has been CEFEL's core purpose for the last 5 years, with proven impact. As we face the future together, how can we increase our efficacy as leaders by learning from experts, sharing best practice and using our collective influence to improve the life chances for the children and young people we serve?

#### WHO IS THE NETWORK FOR?

This network is for dioceses and MATs to run locally in order to support school leaders with their SEND provision. It is not a SENDCo network, although of course SENDCos are very welcome! Our hope is that leaders of all levels within schools will come together to share their learning and experiences and seek out collaborative solutions. This can include headteachers and executive leaders, governors, inclusion leads or key support staff. The network enables school leaders to connect with experts in the field on a range of topics, through nationally delivered Zoom sessions, and the discuss with other leaders locally about the specifics of their context.

We will also run a national group for Secondary Leaders, in connection with the National Secondary Leaders' Network.

## The shape of the Network

# National Expert Webinars



National Led Training/ National Network



Local network session to unpakt the topic, led by diocese or MAT

The structure of the network is:

- **Expert teaching** • Expert teaching from foremost professionals in the field (we have heard from lead consult Gary Aubin, Author of 'The Lone SENCO', Gareth Morewood, Educational Advisor for Studio III, Abigail Hawkins, ENDCO, DSL, Education Consultant (CEO) at SENDCO Solutions Ltd & SENSible SENCO CIC and Amjad Ali, Co-founder of the charity The BAMEed Network, experienced SENDCo, senior leader and TEDx speaker which is available to everyone in the network via Zoom
- **Local networking** for school leaders to come together with others in their area and unpack what this teaching means for their pupils in their context. This is led by local facilitators (from the diocese, MAT or DP), who take part in national training provided by CEFEL, with dates that are locally set.

This network is not a course and does not replace the depth of knowledge and understanding that can be gained through expert training. It is an opportunity to engage in discussion, raise awareness and identify areas for development and gaps in knowledge. One of the key benefits of this network is connecting schools with organisations who *do* have expertise in this field and can offer their own programmes, resources and materials, which schools can access to deepen their knowledge of these topics in much greater depth. **The structure and organisation of your local network will be based on the preferences and needs of its participants. It is possible to deviate from the suggested meeting guidelines and create a customised structure that suits your network best.**

## Year 1

Session Type	Date	Topic	National/ Regional
OPEN WEBINAR	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 <b>4:00 – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Psychology Safety</b> What is Psychological Safety? How does it impact well-being, performance and collaboration in schools? How do we create psychologically safe spaces?	Patrice Dawkins - Jackins
Facilitators Session 1	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 <b>3.45-4:30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network</b> – how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Local Network Session 1	During October-November 2023	<b>Locally led network session on What is psychological safety? How to create psychologically safe spaces according to our context?</b>	Led locally
Expert Webinar 2 (virtual):	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 <b>4:00 – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Flourishing Pupils 1- Trauma and SEND</b> Effective support and interventions for children and young people with SEND	National Speaker(s) (Zoom)
Facilitators Session 2	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 <b>3.45-4.30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network</b> – how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Local Network Session 2:	During November 2023	<b>Flourishing Pupils 1- Trauma and SEND</b> Unpacking the national input locally	Led locally
Expert Webinar 3 (virtual):	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 <b>4:00 – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Flourishing Pupils 2</b> Ensuring the voices of pupils are heard and their needs are fully met.	National Speaker(s) (Zoom)
Facilitators Session 3	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 <b>3.45-4.30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network</b> – how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Local Network session 3:	During January 2024	<b>Flourishing Pupils 2</b> Unpacking the national input locally	Led Locally
Expert Webinar 4 (virtual):	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 <b>4:00-5:00 pm</b>	<b>Flourishing Adults – enabling effective relationships between staff and parents</b> Supporting effective teacher practices with SEND Including Cultural Humility	National Speaker(s) (Zoom)
Facilitators Session 4	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 <b>3.45-4.30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network</b> – how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Local Network session 4:	During March - April 2024	<b>Flourishing Adults</b> Unpacking the national input locally	Led Locally
Expert Webinar 5 (virtual):	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 <b>4:00-5:00 pm</b>	<b>Flourishing Systems</b> Leading SEND for the whole school impact- developing systems and making things happen	National- Rachel H Speaker(s) (Zoom)
Facilitators Session 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024 <b>3.45-4.30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network</b> – how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Local Network session 5:	During May 2024	<b>Flourishing Systems</b> Unpacking the national input locally	Led Locally
Expert Webinar 6 (virtual):	11 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 <b>4:00-5:00 pm</b>	<b>Flourishing Together</b> What do we really mean by <i>Inclusion</i> ? Who is included, and where are the gaps?	National Speaker(s) (Zoom)
Facilitators Session 4	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024 <b>3.45-4.30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network</b> – how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member

Local Network session 6:	During July 2024	<b>Flourishing Together</b> Unpacking the national input locally Celebration and review of learning	Led locally
Expert Webinar 7 (virtual)	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 <b>4:00 – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Flourishing for ALL 1: Mental health and EFT Tapping-</b> Learn how this powerful technique can support and improve mental health outcomes by reducing stress and regulating emotions.	Nicola Harvey
Facilitators Session 7	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 <b>4.00-4.45 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network - Mental health and EFT Tapping-</b> how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Network Input Session 7	During October- November	<b>Locally led network session on -Mental health and EFT Tapping-</b> Learn how this powerful technique can support trauma healing and improve mental health outcomes by reducing stress and regulating emotions.	Led locally
Expert Webinar 8 (virtual):	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 <b>4.00-4.45 pm</b>	<b>Flourishing for ALL 2:</b> Intersectionality in SEND – over and under-diagnosis/ variations in support/ barriers to success	National Speaker(s) (Zoom)
Facilitators Session 8	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 <b>3.45-4.30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitating your SEND network – Flourishing for ALL 2-</b> how to lead your local network sessions, support your group and make use of the resources.	Led by CEFEL team member
Network Input Session 8	During November- December	<b>Flourishing for ALL 2:</b> Unpacking the national input locally	Led locally
<b><i>Year 2 ENGAGED in SEND Practice</i></b>			
	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 <b>4.00-5.00pm</b>	<b>Bill Lucas- Action Research</b> 6-week intervention case study	Zoom Link
Action Research input session 1	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 <b>4.00-5.00pm</b>	<b>Developing-</b> Explore action research and develop individual questions 'If I do 'x' will 'y' happen?  Watch the Bill Lucas +link webinar and come with some initial "wonderings"	Zoom Link
Action Research input session 2	24 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 <b>4.00-5.00pm</b>	<b>Discussing</b> -What progress am I making with my investigation, have I got the right evaluation methods?  Come with my question, and progress with my investigations so far...?	Zoom Link
Action Research input session 2	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 <b>4.00-5.00pm</b>	<b>Evaluating</b> - What have I found out? I did 'x' did 'y' happen? How will I share my findings? What next?	Zoom Link
Present Research	July	<b>Conference</b>	In person

**We want to see the children and young people in our schools more able to access the learning, support and nurture they need to be able to fully thrive and live hope-filled lives.**

In our networks, we have the following principles, which research has shown to contribute to the inclusion and flourishing of children with additional needs:

- A willingness to learn and admit any gaps in knowledge
- The courage to seek help and make difficult decisions
- Empathetic listening, which seeks to understand
- Open-mindedness to different approaches and ideas
- Non-judgemental engagement with others
- Commitment to action in service of children/ young people

Each network session will build on the learning from the expert instruction. There will be an expectation that participants will engage with that learning, considering how to apply it to their own context. Key questions will encourage participants to try out/ explore a particular activity or strategy in their own school and report back at the next network session.

### **ROLE OF DIOCESE/ MAT/ DELIVERY PARTNER:**

Each host diocese/ MAT/ DP will need to provide a *facilitator* for the network who will engage with the taught sessions and CEFEL-led training. They will recruit schools locally, convene the local meetings and lead discussions using the materials and training provided. The time commitment for this is around 1 hour per month, plus preparation time.

CEFEL will provide:

- All taught sessions by SEND experts and leading practitioners (on Zoom)
- Training and ongoing support for facilitators (led by Lorraine Prince, Head of Networks and Gary Aubin, SEND Consultant)
- Materials for facilitators to use in their network groups, including suggested reading and key questions to reflect on practice in school
- An online resource area with access to taught session recordings, additional reading and signposting of further training and expertise

### **Cost of the Network for 2023-25:**

We want to ensure this network provides access to expertise and high-quality practice and therefore to do this, we need to be able to cover the costs involved. We do not make a profit from this network and have kept the fee as low as possible. The fee also covers the second year of the network, and there is a discounted combined fee for those partners involved in both the Becoming Trauma Informed Network and the Leadership of SEND network.

The cost of the Network for 2023-25 is:

<b>Price:</b>	<b>Price per school (If 10 schools in Network)</b>	<b>Price per school (If 20 schools in Network)</b>
All this for <b>£750</b> per local network for DDEs or MATs (Includes training and resources)	£75	£37.50

Or £250 to join the national network for individual schools and Year 2 for £250.

CEFEL will host and lead a national secondary network group with up to 20 secondary schools. If there is demand for a primary national group, we will offer one – however, our preference is for these to be locally led.

Contact [Lorraine.Prince@churchofengland.org](mailto:Lorraine.Prince@churchofengland.org) for more details or to sign up.