



SAAShow

BIRMINGHAM NEC 18 – 19 NOVEMBER 2026

Mapping the Future of Your School.

Plan. Procure. Prosper.

18th & 19th November 2026

NEC, Birmingham

What to Expect

Everything you need to turn two days of insight, connections and solutions into practical next steps for your school, academy or trust.

YOUR TWO DAYS AT A GLANCE

One event. A clearer route forward.

The Schools & Academies Show is built for senior education leaders who need practical answers, trusted insight and time-efficient ways to move their priorities forward.

At a time of policy reform, financial pressure, workforce challenges, rising SEND demand and accelerating technology change, the show brings the people, evidence and solutions school and trust leaders need into one place.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN FROM ATTENDING

- 1 Policy clarity**
Hear directly from sector leaders and understand what change means in practice.
- 2 Better decisions**
Compare evidence, peer experience and expert guidance before setting next steps.
- 3 Smarter procurement**
Review trusted solutions and test value, fit and implementation in one visit.
- 4 Relevant CPD**
Build a personal programme around leadership, finance, SEND, estates, people and technology.
- 5 Meaningful connections**
Meet peers, speakers and suppliers who can help long after the event closes.
- 6 A sharper plan**
Return with practical ideas, useful contacts and a clearer sense of priority.



300+

Industry-leading speakers

50+

Hours of CPD content

250+

Education solution providers

4,000+

Education leaders to connect with

AGENDA OVERVIEW

Build a programme around your priorities

The SAASHOW agenda connects policy with implementation and strategic questions with practical action



Policy, Inspection and Accountability

Understand how policy, inspection and accountability are shaping the decisions school and trust leaders make.

Trust Growth and Governance

Explore how to build a sustainable trust while strengthening governance, preserving local identity and supporting effective leadership.

Finance and Procurement

Discover how to make confident spending decisions, strengthen financial oversight and secure greater value from limited budgets.

SEND and Inclusion

Explore how to turn SEND reform into practical, sustainable provision that improves participation and outcomes for every learner.

Estates and Sustainability

Learn how to create safe, resilient and sustainable learning environments while managing costs and competing operational demands.

School Improvement

Discover practical approaches to strengthening pupil engagement, developing a meaningful curriculum and improving the conditions for learning.

EdTech and Digital Transformation

Explore how technology, data and AI can support teaching and school operations through informed investment and effective implementation.

Independent Schools Resilience

Explore how independent schools can respond to financial pressures, changing parental expectations and an evolving education landscape while protecting their distinctive offer.

HEADLINE VOICES

Meet the Speakers

Hear directly from policymakers, trust leaders, inclusion specialists and digital innovators across SAASHOW and its co-located events.



The Rt Hon. Laura Trott MP

Shadow Secretary of State for Education
The Conservative Party



The Rt. Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP

Spokesman for Education, Skills & Equalities
Reform UK



Sir Martyn Oliver HMCI

Chief Inspector
Ofsted



Sir Ian Bauckham

Chief Regulator
Ofqual



Sam Freedman

Senior Fellow
Institute for Government



Sue Lovelock

Regional Director of the West Midlands
Department for Education



Richard Bettsworth

Director of Public Affairs
Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)



Angi Gibson

President
National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)



Mark McCourt

Chief Executive Officer
Academy Transformation Trust



Jeremy Spencer SHMI

Senior His Majesty's Inspector - Multi Academy Trust Inspection
Ofsted



Stephen Morales

Chief Executive Officer
The Centre for Education Operational Excellence (CEOE)



Edward Vitalis

Chief Executive Officer
Invictus Education Trust



Lucy Ford

Income Generation Manager
Generations Multi Academy Trust



Cassie Buchanan

Chief Executive Officer
The Charter Schools Trust



Dr. Anita Devi

Chief Executive Officer
TEAM ADL



Caroline Wright

Director General
British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA)

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

Day One highlights

Start with policy and inspection, then build your route through inclusion, curriculum, workforce, finance, estates and evidence-led technology.

MAIN STAGE

09:30–10:00

Opening Keynote Delivered by Ofsted

- Sir Martyn Oliver – His Majesty's Chief Inspector, Ofsted

11:55–12:25

Behind the Grades: How Can You Trust Your Outcomes?

- Sir Ian Bauckham – Chief Regulator, Ofqual

12:45–13:15

Rolling Out the Red Carpet for SEND and Inclusion

- Annamarie Hassall MBE – Chief Executive Officer, nasen
- Clive Lawrence OBE – Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Special Schools

MAT SUMMIT

10:00–10:30

Consistency vs Innovation: Are Operating Models Stifling Agency?

- Charlotte Harding – Director of Professional Development, National Governance Association
- Samira Sadeghi – Director of Trust Governance, Confederation of School Trusts
- Meg Powell-Chandler – Director, New Schools Network

12:15–12:45

Ofsted MAT Inspection – An Update

- Jeremy Spencer SHMI – Senior His Majesty's Inspector, MAT Inspection, Ofsted

15:30–16:00

Sector Consolidation: What Can This Look Like?

- Mark McCourt – Chief Executive Officer, Academy Transformation Trust

BUSINESS & FINANCE THEATRE

10:00–10:45

A Play Book for When It All Goes Wrong

- Gary Smart – Trust Head of Capital & Compliance, Matrix Academy Trust
- Rob Peters – Director of Marketing and Communications, National Governance Association
- Jessica Shepherd – Founder, Sparrowhawk Communications
- Hannah Stolten – Chief Executive Officer, Boards for Education

12:45–13:15

Compliance Burden or Strategic Opportunity? Estate Management Under the DfE's New Standards

- Mand Beckett – Associate Director, Product Management, IRIS Software Group

15:30–16:00

Changes to Maternity and Paternity Law Which Could Cost You Dearly

- Alistair Wood – Chief Executive Officer, Edapt

ESTATES THEATRE

10:50–11:10

Cutting Costs, Not Corners: Smarter Energy Strategies

- Rosie Hendry-Day – Head of Commercial Operations, Good Energy

11:30–12:00

The Unintended Consequences of Joining a Trust and Trust Growth on Your Estate

- Darren Knox – Estate Manager, Lingfield Education Trust

14:05–14:35

What Goes on Behind the Bike Sheds?

- Christina Jones – Chief Executive Officer, River Tees Multi Academy Trust
- Matt Hall – Head of Estates, Avanti Schools Trust

SEND CONFERENCE

10:00–10:30

Working With Inspection, Not For It

- Adam Sproston – Senior HMI for SEND, AP and Inclusion, Ofsted

11:40–12:10

Inclusion Isn't Just Placement. It's System Design

- Amanda Goldthorpe-Hall – School Business Leader, Philip Southcote School

14:25–14:55

Legal Rights and Duties for Children and Young People with SEND

- Alex Stafford – Senior Solicitor, IPSEA
- Audrey Dorival – SEND Mediator and Conflict Resolution Facilitator

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT THEATRE

10:00–10:30

Enrichment as a Tool for Engagement

- Richard Bernard MBE – Executive Headteacher, The NSB Trust
- Matt Rodger – Deputy Headteacher, Northampton School for Boys

11:30–12:00

Improving Transition Between Year Groups and Across Key Stages

- Clara Seery – Director of Education, Ivy Learning Trust
- Nicki Jaeggi – Executive Headteacher, Ivy Learning Trust

13:00–13:20

Making Educational Visits Inclusive for Every Young Person

- Gemma Roberson – Head of Safeguarding and SEND, PGL Travel

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Day Two highlights

Use the second day to test strategic choices, compare political perspectives and explore what inclusion, governance and digital change demand next.

MAIN STAGE

11:25–11:55

The Conservative Vision for Education

- The Rt Hon. Laura Trott MP – Shadow Secretary of State for Education, The Conservative Party

12:15–12:45

Reform's Answers for Education

- The Rt. Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP – Spokesman for Education, Skills & Equalities, Reform UK

13:00–13:30

What the Green Party Will Do for Education

- Rachel Millward – Deputy Leader, The Green Party of England and Wales

MAT SUMMIT

10:00–10:30

Branch Managers or Autonomous Actors: The Changing Nature of Headship in MATs

- Dr Mary Mihovilovic – Professor of Leadership in Catholic Education, St Mary's University

11:30–12:00

Local Authorities Don't Bite: How Can Trusts Work in Better Harmony With LAs?

- Sarah Blakeman – Senior Professional Learning Advisor, Durham County Council

- Louise Lee – Chief Executive Officer, The Howard Partnership Trust

12:20–12:40

From Reactive to Proactive: Changing the Way Your Trust Works

- Jonny Cowlin – General Manager, The Access Group – Education
- Michelle Williams – Chief Finance and Operations Officer, LET Education Trust

BUSINESS & FINANCE THEATRE

13:10–13:40

Ready to Pivot? Building the Foundations for System Change

- Carl Ward – Chair, Foundation for Education Development (FED)

13:55–14:25

Growth Without Strain: Is Your Trust Ready?

- Matt Crawford – Chief Executive Officer, Embark MAT
- Gail Brown – Chief Executive Officer, Ebor Academy Trust
- Lana Stoyles – Executive Director Business Transformation, Nexus MAT

14:45–15:30

Connected by Design: Unlocking Data

- Will Jenkin – CEO Consultant, Centre for Education Operational Excellence
- Rebecca Fowkes – Senior Director, VenturEd Solutions
- Stephen Morales – Chief Executive Officer, CEOE

SEND CONFERENCE

11:30–12:00

Inclusion on a Shoestring

- Zainab Patel – Principal, The Olive Tree Primary School

14:20–14:50

Creating an Effective Inclusion Base for Students with SEND

- Dr Vasilis Strogilos – Associate Professor, University of Southampton

15:00–15:30

Getting Up To Scratch: ECT Skills for Inclusive Behaviour

- Sarah Johnson – Author and Trustee, Bromley Y'

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

11:05–11:35

A Rising Tide: Teaching and Learning Underpins Everything

- Claire McDougall – Director of Studies, Bedford School

11:55–12:25

Building a Curriculum That Breaks Boundaries

- Ben Smith – Acting Head (Academic), Wrekin College

12:45–13:30

Social Media vs School Leaders

- Rhidian McGuire – Head of Boarding, Sherborne Boys
- Ali Cocksworth – Deputy Head Pastoral, Lord Wandsworth College
- Andrew Lewer MBE – Editorial Board, School Management Plus

EDTECH INSIGHTS

10:00–10:30

Making Learning Visible with Intelligent Tools

- Dawn Taylor – Assistant Headteacher, Kingsdale Foundation School
- Sam Clarke – Lecturer of Primary ITE, York St John University

10:50–11:20

Beyond the Rollout: Turning Strategy into Practice

- Georgina Xuereb – Trust Lead for Digital Learning and Innovation, Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust

11:40–12:10

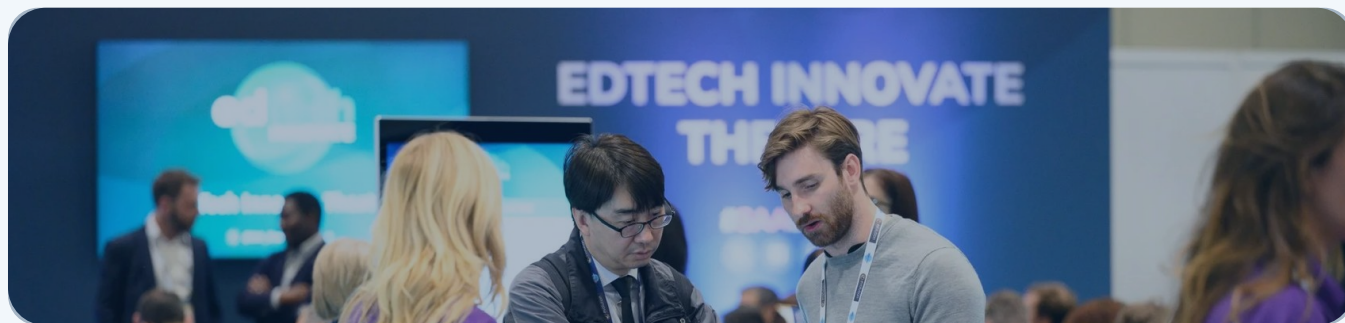
Circuit Break: EdTech Implementation Failure Points

- Kristy Evers – Director, ImpactED Evaluation
- Michael Forshaw – Chief Executive Officer, EdTech Impact

INCLUDED WITH YOUR PASS

Four events. One connected learning experience.

Your Schools & Academies Show pass gives you free access to the SEND Conference, EdTech Summit and Independent Schools Conference – all at the NEC, on the same two days.



SEND Conference

Two days of specialist policy updates, practical strategies and expert discussion for leaders seeking to improve provision for pupils with SEND and additional needs.

Gain strategic insights, practical advice and innovative solutions to strengthen your inclusive practice and enhance outcomes across your setting.

[EXPLORE THE EVENT >](#)



EdTech Summit

Discover the latest technologies, gain practical insights from sector experts, explore the role of AI in education and connect with peers tackling similar challenges.

Visitors leave with the knowledge, ideas and solutions needed to maximise the impact of technology across your organisation.

[EXPLORE THE EVENT >](#)



Independent Schools Conference

The Independent Schools Conference equips Heads, Bursars, Governors and senior leaders with practical insights, fresh thinking and innovative solutions to help navigate the evolving challenges facing independent education.

Discover practical guidance, expert insight and actionable solutions to help you lead with confidence, drive improvement and strengthen your school's long-term success.

[EXPLORE THE EVENT >](#)

Explore solutions against your real priorities

With 250+ education solution providers, the strongest visits begin with a shortlist. These exhibitors represent a cross-section of the technology, finance, procurement and assessment expertise onsite.



STAND G36

Amazon Business

PROCUREMENT

Simplify purchasing across thousands of products with consolidated invoicing and education-focused features tailored to organisational needs.



STAND H14

Bromcom

CLOUD MIS AND FINANCE

A cloud MIS and finance platform used by 5,600+ schools and 390+ MATs to reduce admin, streamline work and remove costly third parties.



STAND C12

AQA

ASSESSMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS

Since 1903, AQA has developed fair, inclusive assessment. The independent education charity delivers around half of GCSE and A-level papers and reinvests income in research and support.



STAND E38

iplicit

CLOUD FINANCE

Award-winning true-cloud finance software offering real-time visibility, instant academy consolidation and automation that gives finance leaders greater control.



STAND F30

IRIS Education

EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

Trusted by 12,000+ schools and 75% of MATs, IRIS connects finance, HR, payroll, compliance, MIS, engagement, catering and recruitment to turn data into action.



STAND J2

VenturEd Solutions

CONNECTED SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY

A market-leading edtech suite spanning communications, payments, analytics, data integration and school marketing – helping reduce costs and free staff time.

MORE SOLUTIONS TO EXPLORE

From workforce technology to safer transport

Use conversations onsite to test implementation, total cost, integration, evidence of impact and support – not just the feature list.


Zellis

STAND K20

HR, PAYROLL AND WORKFORCE

AI-enabled HR, workforce management and pay technology supporting the full employee lifecycle – and one in six people in the UK workforce.

**mcc
digital**

STAND B20

MCC Digital

APPLE IN EDUCATION

An Apple Education Specialist and Authorised Reseller with 40+ years' experience across strategy, deployment, recycling and financially sustainable technology planning.


**ParentPay
Group**

STAND G50

ParentPay Group

PAYMENTS AND ENGAGEMENT

Explore online payments, income and meal management, parent communications and reporting designed for schools and trusts.

 **Rivervale**

STAND F18

Rivervale Minibus

TRANSPORT AND COMPLIANCE

Compare diesel, electric and wheelchair-accessible minibus sales and leasing, plus D1 and MiDAS training, inspections, LOLER and weight checks, app support and Section 19 guidance.

 **access**

STAND H42

Access Education

CONNECTED SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

Access Evo brings finance, budgeting, HR, payroll, communications, curriculum and digital learning under one provider, contract and login – with modular choice and predictable pricing.



STAND C44

Community Playthings

FURNITURE AND PLAY

Solid-wood furniture and play equipment, made since 1947 to support imaginative play and child development, backed by a 15-year warranty.

ALSO EXHIBITING:

Arbor Education (G58) | Academy21 (K40) | Oak National Academy (C8) | Ofsted (D34) | Ofqual (D18) | Sage (G40) | Tes (J12) | Turnitin (B14) | White Rose Education (J6) | Widgit (C26) | Xero for Education (G48) | YPO (H30)

WHAT'S ON

Meaningful Networking for Education Leaders

Our interactive show features and partner stages turn advice into practical conversations and demonstrations, empowering visitors with actionable insights to bring back to their school.



Government Education Village

Speak directly with the people shaping education policy

Engage with senior representatives from the Department for Education and key education bodies. Ask questions, clarify upcoming change and understand how national priorities may affect your organisation.



CPC Village

Find smarter ways to save time and stretch budgets

Meet trusted procurement specialists and framework providers. Review contracts, plan projects, reduce costs and improve operational efficiency without compromising quality.



Inclusive Classroom

Explore practical SEND solutions in action

Hosted by Findel Education, this immersive inclusion base shows how thoughtful environments, specialist resources and practical strategies can strengthen access, regulation and engagement.



Meetings Platform

Plan before you arrive

Pre-book meetings, build your agenda and connect with suppliers, speakers and peers whose expertise matches your priorities.

Less time searching, more time in valuable conversations.



FED Stage

Collaboration on education's biggest strategic questions

The Foundation for Education Development hosts panels on the sector's long-term local, regional, national and global challenges.

Long-term thinking grounded in sector experience and debate.



NGA Annual Conference and AGM

Strengthen governance structures

On day two, the NGA shares research, trusted guidance and professional development with governors, trustees and governance professionals.

Stronger board insight, oversight and national connection.

YOUR VISIT STARTS NOW

Download the GovNet app

Begin making connections, booking meetings and building your personal agenda before you arrive at the NEC.



Connect with attendees before the event



Book meetings in advance



Create your personalised event agenda



Access your event pass instantly



Receive important updates and reminders



SCAN TO DOWNLOAD

Open the GovNet app page on your phone, then sign in with the details linked to your registration.

THREE MOVES TO MAKE NOW



Choose the three challenges you most need to move forward.



Save your must-see sessions before diary clashes appear.



Book focused conversations with peers and suppliers.

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

What previous visitors took away

Practical ideas, relevant CPD, stronger supplier relationships and a network that continues beyond the show.



The SAAS, London was a great networking and CPD opportunity, invaluable to my role as School Business Manager.

School Business Manager, John Grant School



The Schools and Academies Show is well worth a visit to source new suppliers and make contact with existing suppliers. It was great to make the connection face to face rather than via email.

SBM, Hatfield Primary School



This was a fabulous conference, one of my favourites. The range and quality of speakers was excellent and very engaging. Great CPD, great event!

Specialist Teacher, Woodbridge Trust



I left with fresh insights, useful contacts, and a clearer sense of next steps. I would highly recommend it for anyone looking to improve outcomes and strengthen their school or trust.

Governor, Broughton Fields Primary School



Great event for finance individuals like myself. Plenty of speakers gave me food for thought and I came away with a new mantra: 'is it a cost or an investment?'

Associate Director Finance, The Futures Trust



A really informative, thought-provoking and enjoyable two days! Great to hear about the fantastic work happening across the sector and how school staff continue to improve learner outcomes.

COO, Pivot Academy

Arrive with priorities. Leave with a plan.

Get ready to make connections, meet hundreds of trusted suppliers and discover actionable insights that will transform pupil outcomes across your organisation.



18th & 19th November 2026

NEC, Birmingham

EXPLORE THE SHOW WEBSITE