

# Secondary SEND Online Conference: Early Identification & Effective Support

Wednesday

**25 March 2026 (1pm-4pm)**

**Online National Conference**

Code: C0017

## CONFERENCE AIMS

This brand-new online national conference explores the latest evidence and strategies around Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in secondary schools. Drawing on DfE research priorities, it provides teachers and leaders with practical approaches for early identification, targeted intervention, and effective whole-school support.

With a strong focus on inclusion, the conference goes beyond compliance to share innovative practices that enable students with SEND to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

## BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

- Gain up-to-date insight into DfE priorities on SEND in secondary education
- Learn evidence-based strategies for earlier identification and intervention
- Explore best practice for classroom inclusion, curriculum access, and wellbeing
- Leave with practical tools to strengthen whole school SEND provision

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Deputy and Assistant Heads with responsibility for SEND
- Curriculum and Teaching & Learning Leads
- Heads of Department
- SENCOs and Inclusion Leads
- Pastoral Leaders and Heads of Year
- Secondary school teachers and teaching assistants

## SPEAKERS



Sam Garner

Mental Health & Inclusion Consultant

Sam Garner is a renowned speaker, trainer and author specialising in mental health and SEN. She has been a SENCo in a secondary school and is a qualified Cognitive Behaviour Therapist and Child and Adolescent Counsellor. She set up a company providing mental health CBT programmes for schools. She is in high demand to speak at conferences and provides in-house training for schools and companies. Lauded for her humour and 'telling it like it is' approach to mental health, her book *Mental Health in Education* was published by Routledge, and she regularly writes for several publications, with more books planned.



Amanda Ross-Scott

SEND Education Consultant, Coach & Mentor

Amanda Ross-Scott is an experienced trainer and conference speaker delivering masterclasses and workshops focused on SEND, including neuro-inclusive practices, teaching approaches supporting neurodivergent traits and mental health impacts. She visits schools across the UK and Europe offering bespoke INSET training. An Education Consultant with over 15 years' experience leading SEND & Inclusion in Independent schools as Assistant Head Teacher, Head of Learning Support and Wellbeing Lead, she understands integrating SEND support within whole-school contexts. She is also an Executive Function coach and mentor, working with young people and adults with Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and mental health challenges to rebuild self-esteem, confidence and skills.

1.05pm **Welcome & Introduction**  
*Steve Smith - Director of Professional Development, Keynote Educational*

1.10pm **Whole-School SEND Leadership**  
*Sam Garner - Mental Health & Inclusion Consultant*

- Building a school-wide SEND strategy aligned with DfE expectations
- Using data to track progress, interventions, and outcomes
- Training and supporting staff to deliver inclusive practice consistently
- Leading cultural change for genuine inclusion and high expectations

1.50pm **Identifying Needs Early: Practical Approaches for Teachers**  
*Sam Garner - Mental Health & Inclusion Consultant*

- Understanding the latest research on SEND identification in secondary schools
- Key classroom indicators for cognitive, communication, and social-emotional needs
- Using screening tools, teacher observations, and assessment data effectively
- Building proactive referral and escalation processes

2.30pm **Break**

2.40pm **Inclusive Classrooms: Strategies for Everyday Practice**  
*Amanda Ross-Scott SEND Education Consultant, Coach & Mentor*

- Scaffolding techniques that don't increase teacher workload
- Practical adaptations for literacy, numeracy, and independent work
- Strategies that contribute to classroom cultures where all learners feel supported
- Collaborative approaches between teachers, TAs, Pastoral Leads and SENCOs

3.20pm **Designing Effective Interventions That Work**  
*Amanda Ross-Scott SEND Education Consultant, Coach & Mentor*

- Matching interventions to individual needs: academic, behavioural, and wellbeing
- Embedding support across the curriculum rather than in isolation
- Monitoring and evaluating impact for both progress and engagement
- Case studies of high-impact interventions in secondary schools

4.00pm **Conference Ends**

## DELEGATE RATES

First Delegate Rate

£175  
+ VAT

Additional Delegate Rate

£140  
+ VAT



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