

NEWSLETTER

| Edition No. 1

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THE UNIVERSAL RISE EAST MIDLANDS NEWSLETTER

Across the East Midlands, schools and trusts are working tirelessly to meet the needs of their communities, often in very different contexts but with a shared ambition: **to ensure every child has the best possible chance to succeed.**

This newsletter has been created to support that work by **bringing together opportunities, resources and updates** from across the Universal RISE Offer in one clear and accessible place.

In the East Midlands region there is a **wealth of expertise available to schools through excellent DFE-funded and subsidised programmes** offered by curriculum and Teaching School Hubs. To build on this further, the DFE has now funded **some additional projects to complement this provision**, enabling schools to access even more support to aid their improvement planning.

The newly funded Universal RISE Offer projects encompass four commissioned focus areas – **literacy, SEND and inclusion, early years development and infrastructure and coordination for the Universal RISE Offer across the East Midlands.** Over the coming months, this newsletter will keep you informed about **upcoming events, professional learning opportunities, practical tools and resources, and emerging learning** from these focus areas, helping you to engage in ways that best meet the needs of your school or trust.



OUR AIM

Our aim is to make it easier for schools and leaders to access support, connect with colleagues across the region, and share what is working in practice. Whether you are looking for targeted professional development, high-quality resources, or opportunities to collaborate, this newsletter will signpost you to what is available and how to get involved.

IN THIS EDITION

- **An overview of the commissioned focus areas for the East Midlands**
- **Events coming up in February and March**
- **RISE East Midlands Directory**

An introduction to our focus areas



The Universal RISE Offer in the East Midlands is built around four connected areas of focus, each led by an experienced regional partner.

Universal RISE SEND Offer East Midlands



Strengthening Inclusion - Building Capacity - Improving Outcomes

The Universal RISE SEND Offer provides a tiered regional programme that strengthens inclusive practice and improves outcomes for pupils with SEND. Delivered through a coherent East Midlands partnership and led by the Community Inclusive Trust, it supports mainstream schools, Enhanced Provision bases, and Alternative Provision settings with consistent, high-quality SEND practice.

What Settings Gain

- SEND Reviews for selected schools, plus Action Planning Days and follow-up visits to embed improvements.
- Virtual SEND CPD accessible to all East Midlands schools hosted digitally.
- Enhanced Provision Base training for schools exploring or preparing to open a resource base.
- SEND & AP Regional Network for collaboration and resource sharing.



Why Engage?

Designed for settings who want to:

- Strengthen inclusive teaching, behaviour, and curriculum access
- Improve confidence with statutory requirements (Engagement Model, Pre-Key Stage Standards)
- Build sustainable in-house SEND expertise
- Connect with MATs, LAs, and schools to share practice
- Access quality-assured CPD and reviews



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for Education



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An introduction to our focus areas



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East Midlands Universal RISE Literacy Offer



Working in partnership from Early Years to KS4.



Following the overwhelming success of the Priority Literacy Programme in Nottingham and Derby, we have secured funding to extend this exceptional provision to the whole of the East Midlands.

Schools throughout the East Midlands can access this fully funded provision

For a limited time only, we are able to offer all schools the Universal Literacy Offer that delivered incredible outcomes for our participating schools.

Provision covers all phases from Early Years through to KS4 and a blended offer of in-person training, online webinars, a resource bank and Podcasts to ensure development and consolidation is ongoing throughout.

Provision is available to schools across the East Midlands. All provision has been devised and will be delivered by leading practitioners. The Universal Offer Reading provision, complements the region's **English Hub** offer and is a comprehensive high quality programme.



IN PERSON
TRAINING /EVENTS



WEBINARS



RESOURCE BANK



PODCASTS



CASE STUDIES &
TESTIMONIALS

[Click to view our
brochure >](#)

Early engagement has been strong, with over 150 CPL bookings and more than 70 schools already signed up!

Project Partners & Literacy Experts



Carl Pattison

Literacy Excellence Centre &
Flying High English Hub



Amy Ford

Derby Research
School



Working in partnership to ensure every child becomes a life-long, passionate reader



Amanda Griffiths

LEAD English Hub

Project Management & Key Contacts



Sarah Heesom
Project Lead



Becky Smith
Project Management



rebecca.smith@sdsa.net

www.priorityliteracy.org.uk

An introduction to our focus areas

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 inspiring|leaders

Connecting schools, leaders and opportunities across the East Midlands

Founded in 2012, Inspiring Leaders is a not-for-profit, sector-led partnership of multi-academy trusts in the East Midlands, committed to addressing all challenges facing the education sector so all leaders, educators and students can thrive.

Our offer as part of the Universal RISE Offer is designed to make it easier for school leaders and teachers to access high-quality support and resources, connect with colleagues across the region and drive sustainable improvements in teaching and learning.

Digital Universal Offer Hub

A single, easy-to-navigate platform providing access to:

- Continuing Professional Learning (CPL) and CPD opportunities
- School improvement resources and toolkits
- Impact case studies and self-assessment frameworks
- Public and secure-access zones for schools, trusts, and partners

Cross-Programme Coordination

We bring together the work of multiple regional programmes to ensure consistency, clarity, and efficiency. Our coordination ensures schools can access the right support at the right time and share best practice across:

- Literacy
- SEND and inclusion
- Early Years provision
- System leadership

Strategic Partnership Engagement

We work closely with schools, trusts, and local partners to target areas of greatest need, supporting system improvement through leadership forums, needs mapping, and collaborative partnership activity in underserved “cold spot” areas.

We are here to help your school or trust make the most of the Universal RISE Offer, improving outcomes for children and communities across the East Midlands.

An introduction to our focus areas



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Early Learners' Strategy



Learners' Trust is committed to improving Early Years education across the East Midlands, helping schools provide high-quality Reception Year provision and strong foundations for lifelong learning.

The Early Learners' Strategy is research-driven and evidence-informed, supporting schools to strengthen learning environments, curriculum planning, and early language development, with a focus on vulnerable learners.

The programme draws on best practice from national research and DfE guidance to provide practical, scalable solutions for schools and trusts.

Schools will be supported through:

- Evidence-informed audits to review quality of provision.
- Professional learning workshops for Early Years leaders and practitioners.
- Practical tools and guidance to strengthen learning environments and early communication.



www.thelearnertrust.org



lisa.whiteley@learnertrust.org

WHAT'S COMING UP IN FEBRUARY



IMPROVING WRITING OUTCOMES ACROSS YOUR SCHOOL



25 February 2026

9.00am - 4.00pm

This is a writing review session and audit opportunity, guided by a literacy advisor. School leaders can truly reflect on their approach to writing and how it can be further developed.

The completed audit will allow leaders to leave with a clear picture of their school's current writing picture and the areas they need to develop further.

Schools will leave the session with a completed audit and action plan that best aligns their development needs with the LEC CPL offer.

Your facilitator is Carl Pattison.

KS1

SECURING THE FOUNDATIONS IN WRITING



24 February 2026

9.30am - 2.30pm

To ensure that early writers get off to the best start and have the best chance to succeed in writing, research recommends a focus on building the foundations through a sharp focus on oral composition, sentence instruction and early transcription skills. This means keeping things simple and doing them well.

In this training, delegates will explore how to structure the curriculum for early writers transitioning from EYFS into Year 1, so that the teaching approach and assessment strategies used meet the children's needs and support them on their journey to becoming fluent, independent writers.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN MARCH

East Midlands KS2 SATs Support Sessions

 inspiring|leaders

Free regional events for Year 6 teachers and leaders

Join our **free, face-to-face support sessions** designed to strengthen and empower the **Year 6 teaching community** in the final stages of KS2 SATs preparation. These events are open to Year 6 teachers and leaders from schools across the East Midlands.





Session features:

- **Safe and supportive environment** – time and space to reflect, share and learn
- **Expert-led inputs** – guidance on the Writing Framework, Mathematics, and SATs administration
- **Peer learning opportunities** – fostering honest conversations in a professional and respectful space
- **Practical insights into key challenges, including:**
 - SEND considerations, groupings, and compliance
 - Effective styles and approaches to assessment preparation
- **Access to shared resources, including:**
 - A regional Padlet of high-quality tools and materials
 - Recordings of key expert inputs for future reference
- **Ongoing community-building** – these events aim to spark a professional network that continues beyond the sessions to support Year 6 colleagues throughout the year

Book onto the event near you!

Lincolnshire


 Monday 16th March


 1pm - 4:30pm

 The Epic Centre -
Lincolnshire Showground

 [BOOK NOW](#)

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire


 Tuesday 17th March


 1pm - 4:30pm


 Eastwood Hall

 [BOOK NOW](#)

Leicestershire & Northamptonshire

 Thursday 19th March

 1pm - 4:30pm

 Staverton Park Hotel &
Golf Club

 [BOOK NOW](#)

WHAT'S COMING UP IN MARCH



EARLY LEARNERS' CONFERENCE



FRIDAY 13TH MARCH-PRIDE PARK STADIUM, DERBY

Pride Park Stadium-Corolla Suite DE24 8XL

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH-DAVENTRY COURT HOTEL

Daventry Court Hotel NN11 0SG

Target Audience; ALL Primary & Infant HTs and EYFS Teams
Junior & Special staff welcome too

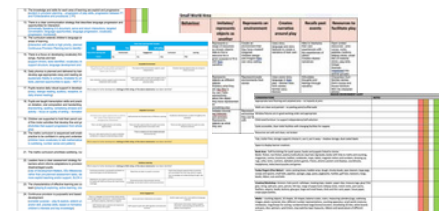
Guest speakers include;

Sarah Carey - School
Improvement Lead at Early
Excellence Outstanding Early
Years Leaders

*An opportunity to consider
high quality provision,
curriculum planning and
interactions that can be
tailored to your setting*

THE DAY WILL FOCUS ON:

- Accessible Environments
- Adaptable Curriculums
- Ambitious Learning
- Active Engagement



RESOURCES INCLUDE;
SELF EVALUATION AUDITS
PLAY PROGRESSIONS
ENVIRONMENT AUDITS
LEARNING WALK TOOLS



SIGN UP NOW: [EARLY LEARNERS' CONFERENCE - DERBY](#)

SIGN UP NOW: [EARLY LEARNERS' CONFERENCE - DAVENTRY](#)

WHAT'S COMING UP IN MARCH

KS2

inclusion in the mainstream

PRE-KEY-STAGE STANDARDS IN WRITING

2 March 2026

9.30am - 2.30pm

BOOKING



Some children may find it more difficult than others to make progress in writing and teachers should consider how to adapt their practice and provide the support these children may need.

In this training, delegates will explore the pre-key stage standards for KS2 in writing by reviewing strategies and teaching approaches to support children who are engaged in subject-specific study and are working below the overall standard of the national curriculum standards.

As part of the training, delegates will also be given the opportunity to work with colleagues from different schools to review writing for children working at the pre-key stage standards.

GUIDED CONVERSATION - A SEQUENCE FOR TEACHING WRITING

17 March 2026

9.00am - 12.00pm

BOOKING



Join us online for this interactive session with Teresa Heathcote, programme creator of The Teaching Sequence for Writing.

During the session, we will consider the picture for the teaching of writing in your school and develop strategies to develop pupils as confident and engaged writers.

Your facilitator is Teresa Heathcote.



Teresa Heathcote

Teresa has established herself as the go to expert for teaching Primary Writing. She has worked nationally for nearly twenty years, helping schools improve their teaching of writing.

Universal RISE SEND Offer

Discover the online units available to all schools across the East Midlands, created as part of the Universal RISE Offer and designed to support high-quality, inclusive SEND practice.

Units available:

- High Quality Teaching - The Inclusive Teacher
- Scaffolding
- Communication and Interaction Needs Toolkit
- Physical and Sensory Needs Toolkit
- Cognition and Learning Needs Toolkit
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs Toolkit
- Distributed Leadership
- Building Effective Relationships with Parents
- Role of Teaching Assistants Working with Pupils with SEND
- Delivering Effective Intervention Programmes
- Calm and Ready to Learn
- Behaviour as a Form of Communication
- Emotion Coaching
- Pupil Interaction - Questioning and Scaffolding
- Trauma-informed Practice
- De - escalation

Enhanced Provision Base Training:

- From National Context to Local Design
- Belonging as the Anchor
- Design That Works
- People, Practice and Professional Expertise
- Policy, Processes and Partnerships
- Knowing It's Working

How to access online training modules

Simply register your interest and we'll do the rest!



Literacy Offer

The Universal RISE Literacy online Resource Bank is now available!

The resource bank combines the best resource from the previous Priority Literacy project with new materials from this RISE offer.



How to access the resource bank

All our resources can be accessed by clicking the link below!



EAST MIDLANDS ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR HUBS

Attendance and behaviour remain pressing priorities for schools across the country, as leaders continue to respond to rising levels of absence and increasingly complex behaviour needs. Ensuring pupils are in school, engaged in learning and supported to succeed is central to improving outcomes and wellbeing for children and young people.

The regional improvement for standards and excellence (RISE) attendance and behaviour hubs programme is a national initiative designed to support schools in improving pupil attendance and behaviour.

THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE PROGRAMME

Joining the programme offers schools an exciting opportunity to engage with attendance and behaviour hubs to improve their practice and become partner schools.

The benefits include:

- access to expert support from experienced lead schools
- access to self-assessment and action-planning tools
- continuing professional development (CPD) tailored to a school's attendance and behaviour priorities
- opportunities to observe effective practice and share learning with others
- being part of the national effort to improve attendance and behaviour

THE SUPPORT SCHOOLS RECEIVE

Regional support

This pathway is for the majority of schools that want light-touch support to help them make changes to their practice. As part of this pathway, partner schools will have access to:

- a structured attendance and behaviour CPD offer
- opportunities to visit the allocated lead school as part of termly open-day events
- opportunities to discuss and share effective practice with other schools in their hub

Enhanced support

This pathway is aimed at partner schools that want and need more concerted support to improve their school's attendance and behaviour. Eligible partner schools will receive 10 days of leadership support over 3 terms from their allocated lead school. This support will be aimed at helping the partner school understand its attendance and behaviour strengths, identify areas for development and develop and implement an improvement plan.

Enhanced support will involve:

- the partner school completing an attendance and behaviour self-assessment
- the lead and partner schools carrying out a full-day attendance and behaviour deep dive exercise to understand the issues
- joint development of an attendance and behaviour action plan
- training and guidance from the lead school to help the partner school implement the plan

LEAD SCHOOLS

The schools leading hubs have been carefully selected through a competitive and rigorous application and interview process. Our lead schools in the East Midlands are:

- Church Lane Primary School & Nursery, Sleaford
- Bluecoat Wollaton Academy, Nottingham
- Hollingwood Primary School, Chesterfield
- Charnwood College, Loughborough
- Keelby Primary Academy, Grimsby
- Granville Academy, Swadlincote
- Sneinton St Stephen's CofE Primary School, Nottingham
- Landau Forte College, Derby
- Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy, Lincoln
- Sir Jonathan North Girls' College, Leicester
- The Newark Academy, Newark

HOW TO JOIN THE PROGRAMME

To join the RISE attendance and behaviour hubs programme and receive support email us at em.abhmailbox@education.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



EAST MIDLANDS RISE DIRECTORY



TEACHING SCHOOL HUBS



L.E.A.D. Teaching School Hub Lincolnshire

Areas: Boston, Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven, East Lindsey, West Lindsey

✉ admin@leadtshub.co.uk

Leicester and Leicestershire Teaching School Hub

Areas: Blaby, Harborough, Leicester, Oadby and Wigston

✉ TSHub@LeLTSH-tmet.uk

Leicestershire and Rutland Teaching School Hub

Areas: Charnwood, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Rutland

✉ contact@Lrtshub.org.uk

Northamptonshire Teaching School Hub

Areas: North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire

✉ hello@northantstshub.org

Potentia Teaching School Hub

Areas: Amber Valley, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, North East Derbyshire

✉ info@potentiatsh.co.uk

Redhill Teaching Hub

Areas: Bassetlaw, Gedling, Newark and Sherwood

✉ enquiries@redhillhub.org.uk

Spencer Teaching School Hub

Areas: Derby, Erewash, South Derbyshire

✉ info@spencerteachingschoolhub.org.uk

Teaching School Hub | Flying High Teaching School Hub

Areas: Ashfield, Broxtowe, Mansfield, Nottingham, Rushcliffe

✉ futures@flyinghightrust.co.uk

EAST MIDLANDS RISE DIRECTORY



ENGLISH HUBS



MUSIC HUBS



Flying High English Hub

Areas: Amber Valley, Ashfield, Bolsover, Broxtowe, Chesterfield, Derby City, Derbyshire Dales, Erewash, Gedling, High Peak, North East Derbyshire, Nottingham, Mansfield, Rushcliffe, South Derbyshire

Learners First English Hub

Areas: Bassetlaw, Doncaster, Derby, Rotherham, South Derbyshire

Road English Hub

Areas: Blaby, Charnwood, Harborough, Hinckley and Bosworth, Leicester, Luton, Melton, North Northamptonshire, North West Leicestershire, Oadby and Wigston, Rutland, West Northamptonshire

St Wilfrid's English Hub

Areas: Bolsover, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Kirklees, High Peak, Sheffield

Witham St Hughes English Hub

Areas: Bassetlaw, Boston, East Lindsey, Newark and Sherwood, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, South Holland, South Kesteven

Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership (Derbyshire County Council)

Areas: Derby and Derbyshire

✉ music.partnership@derbyshire.gov.uk

Leicestershire Schools Music Service (Leicestershire County Council)

Areas: Leicester and Leicestershire

✉ music@leics.gov.uk

Lincolnshire Music Service (Lincolnshire County Council)

Areas: Lincolnshire

✉ musicservice@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust

Areas: North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire and Rutland

✉ office@NMPAT.co.uk

Nottinghamshire Music Hub (Culture, Learning and Libraries (Midlands))

Areas: Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

✉ ask@inspireculture.org.uk