



Independent
Association of
Prep Schools

S17: SEND: Neurodiversity and executive function in mainstream schools

Date Monday 17 March 2025
Venue Leonardo London Tower Bridge, E1 8GP
Cost IAPS members - £229 (non-IAPS members - £329)

A day to study neurodivergent profiles such as autism and ADHD, executive function skills and general SENCO practice within the independent sector.

Objective This full day course will allow participants to increase their knowledge and understanding of how best to support pupils with neurodivergent profiles in school by creating neuro-inclusive classrooms. Delegates will explore five high-quality teaching principles to enhance executive functions, crucial for all students especially those with diverse neurodevelopmental profiles. During the afternoon we will explore how to work effectively in partnership with parents, including how to manage challenging conversations sensitively and positively. There will also be time for professional networking focused on SEND provision, reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act, EHCPs and general SENCO practice within the independent school sector.

Audience SENCOs, Heads of Learning Support, Specialist Teachers

Course Director Dr Katharine Sharpe, Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Head of Learning Support, Caterham Prep School

Presenter(s) Victoria Bagnall, Managing Director, Connections in Mind
Dr Katharine Sharpe, Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Head of Learning Support, Caterham Prep School

Katharine is a Chartered Educational Psychologist and experienced teacher who works in a Prep School as Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Head of Learning Support. After graduating with a Psychology degree, she started her career as a primary teacher before completing post-graduate training to qualify as an Educational Psychologist. Katharine spent 15 years working for a large local authority Psychology Service before becoming Head of Learning Support at Caterham Prep School. Her Doctoral research at UCL examined the impact of mindset on the literacy attainments of Key Stage 3 pupils. Katharine maintains a private psychology practice alongside her teaching role. She is the IAPS SEND Subject Advisor and sits on the ISC Cross-Association SEND Advisory Group.



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Victoria is a Cambridge-educated, neurodivergent educator and published author. She co-founded Connections in Mind in 2016 to pioneer executive function coaching in the UK. Victoria collaborates with schools and organisations worldwide, including Cheltenham Ladies College, UC Berkeley, Ernst and Young, and the NHS, to create neuroinclusive environments where all community members can thrive. Through her work in schools, she provides teachers with practical tools to support students' executive function development whilst applying universal design principles to ensure that every child's needs are met in mainstream classrooms.

Programme

Time	Activity - Speaker
0915	Registration
0945	Executive functions in the classroom and beyond – <i>Victoria Bagnall</i>
1045	Morning refreshments
1115	Executive functions: a 5-step pedagogy for high quality neuro-inclusive teaching – <i>Victoria Bagnall</i>
1230	Lunch
1315	Neurodiversity and SEND: Working in partnership with parents – <i>Katharine Sharpe</i>
1430	Afternoon refreshments
1445	SEND in mainstream independent schools – general update and Q&A – <i>Katharine Sharpe</i>
1600	Closing remarks





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