

S36 – NACE: Removing barriers to learning for all students – what are the different barriers to learning and what strategies can be used to overcome them?

Date Thursday 16 October 2025
Venue Online
Cost IAPS members - £99 (non-IAPS members - £125)

Students today face so many barriers to learning so how can schools identify these barriers and seek to remove them. Whilst poverty is often a key barrier to learning our NACE research has identified other barriers.

This session will consider barriers such as: Perfectionism, Parental pressure, peer pressure, Mental health, English as an additional language and Multiple Exceptionality (the last two also being a great plus!).

The course will consider each in turn and share practical strategies from schools who have tackled these issues successfully. Time will be given for attendees to discuss these themes and share their own approaches. Previous NACE courses delivered in this style have received excellent feedback.

Audience School leaders and teachers at all Prep school phases, including Headteachers, Heads of Academic/ Standards and Heads of Pastoral.
Course Director & Presenter Dr. Keith Watson, NACE Curriculum Development Director

Programme: Thursday 16 October 2025

Time	Activity - Speaker
0900	Welcome
0905	Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the different barriers that learners face - Alongside poverty, what are the different barriers that learners face? The following barriers will be considered: Perfectionism, Parental pressure, Peer pressure, Mental health, English as an additional language, Multiple Exceptionality (the last two also being a great plus!) Attendees will hear about what research in these areas tells us and share the barriers that they face in their setting. To consider strategies used to overcome different barriers - For each of these areas ideas and practical strategies will be shared based upon what Award-winning NACE schools have implemented.
1030	Coffee break



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1045	Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To reflect upon practical examples of removing barriers are how it might work in your own setting.• Further ideas and strategies will be shared, and time will be given for colleagues to discuss these and share how they have also tackled these challenges.• Practical examples will include the importance of oracy, how pupil voice can be harnessed and pastoral care can play a key role.
1150	Reflection and questions Time will be given in the last ten minutes for attendees to decide upon the actions they will take and have the opportunity to ask questions.
1200	End of course

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