



Newsletter
July 2026

Special Partnership Trust



A Message from our



We are at the end of another busy year, I don't know about you, but the last few months appears to 'flown by'!

I just wanted to take a moment to say a huge thank you, whether you work directly with children and young people, support our schools behind the scenes, lead teams, provide specialist services or keep our Trust running day to day, your commitment, care and hard work make an enormous difference. The positive impact you have on the lives of our pupils and families is something we should all be proud of.

I hope you are able to take some time over the summer to rest, recharge and enjoy a well-earned break. Fingers crossed the good weather continues!

Whether you're heading away, spending time with family and friends, tackling a project at home, or simply enjoying a slower pace for a few weeks, I hope you have a fantastic summer.

If you get a few spare minutes, **you might like to take a look at the Trust 10 year vision.**



Thank you again for all you have done this year. Enjoy the summer, take care of yourselves and I look forward to seeing everyone again in September

"Every setting has the potential to contribute to a strong, united Trust."

"Every staff member deserves to thrive professionally."

"Every learner deserves the best possible support."

CEO, Guy Chappell

TRUST 10 YEAR VISION

The Special Partnership Trust is setting its sights on 2036 with an ambitious goal: **to be a nationally recognised leader in inclusive specialist education, empowering every child with special educational needs to thrive academically, socially, physically and emotionally.** Our mission is to deliver outstanding specialist education through a partnership of schools that champion equity, innovation and collaboration, ensuring every learner reaches their full potential and is well prepared for adulthood and life in their community.

We believe special education should be a valued and integral part of the education system. We see every day the difference that the right support, in the right place, at the right time can make to a child's life. Our work is driven by a commitment to creating opportunities, building confidence and helping young people achieve what may once have seemed impossible.

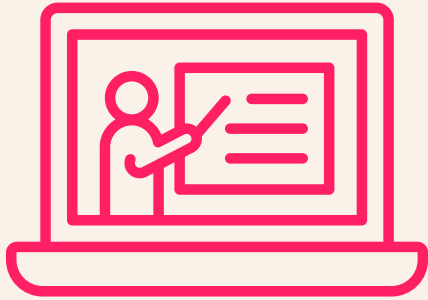
Over the next ten years, we will expand specialist capacity across the Trust, develop locality-based SEND hubs, and strengthen outreach services that support mainstream schools to become more inclusive. We will invest in our workforce through high-quality professional development, specialist therapeutic services, and recruitment and retention strategies that ensure children and young people have access to the expertise they need.

Partnership and advocacy will remain at the heart of our approach. By working closely with schools, local authorities, health services and other stakeholders, we will help shape a more inclusive education system and improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

This vision will take time, perseverance and collaboration, but by 2036 we aim not only to have transformed our own schools and services, but also to have contributed to a wider national conversation about SEND and inclusion—demonstrating that, with the right support, **every child can thrive.**



The Key - New Trust-wide E-Learning Platform



All Statutory
E-Learning

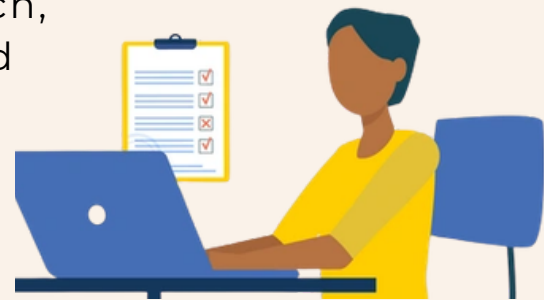


School Resources
available



Central
Training Record

The Trust has selected The Key as our new online training provider following extensive research, as it offers the best solution for a centralised training dashboard across our schools. Their training hub has recently launched but is still in development, we are excited about what's to come.



The Key provides all **statutory** and **mandatory** training, with additional courses being added over time. The Key are industry leaders in education and also provide extensive education resources, they have been great at acting on shared development ideas, suggested by schools across the Trust.

We look forward to fully utilising the new platform for all of our training across the INSET days in September.

KCSIE 2026 – Key Updates

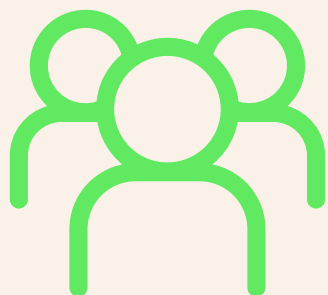
KCSIE has now been updated for 2026/27. The Key Support summary of changes is available here:

[Keeping Children Safe in Education \(KCSIE\) updated for 2026/27 | The Key Leaders](#)

DE UPDATES



Trust-Wide Staff Engagement Wellbeing Survey



464
Respondants



10 Schools



52% Response
rate

Whats working well

- Strong colleague support & relationships
- Staff feel valued and supported across teams
- Wellbeing scores above national special school benchmarks

Our priorities

- Career development
- Trust-wide engagement and communication
- Workload

'Most colleagues say they rarely or never consider leaving their role, with leavers also saying they enjoyed working at the Trust.'

'Wellbeing scores remain above national SEN school benchmarks.'

'Central Team engagement is stronger than last year.'

Governance Update

Across the Special Partnership Trust, governance continues to develop positively with strong interest in governor roles, with ballots happening where applications have exceeded available vacancies. We are excited to see some new governors starting in the autumn term including **Lisa Adams** and **Andrew Webster** as Parent Governors and **Dan Burbridge** as a Co-opted Governor at Pencalenick.

In addition, we welcome **Vikki Amiss, Farah Khan and Barbara Matthews** as new co-opted governors at Brunel. We would also like to thank and say goodbye to two of our long-standing Chairs of Governors: **Helen Campbell**, Chair of Governors at Doubletrees, and **Wendy Randle**, Chair of Governors at Curnow. Both have served as governance volunteers for many years, and we are extremely grateful for their advice, guidance, and dedicated support. We wish them both all the very best for the future.

The Trust is pleased to welcome **Joanna Abecassis** as a new Trustee next term. Joanna brings extensive governance experience, including 14 years in a single academy trust and leadership roles across primary and special schools, including serving as Chair. With a strong background in SEND governance across Devon and Wiltshire, she brings valuable expertise to the Trust Board.

Introducing Lucy Herring

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new SIT Manager, working in partnership with Devon schools to develop and strengthen the support offer within the framework of the SIT model. Bringing experience from both school leadership and Local Authority inclusion work, I look forward to using this to support the development of a Devon-based SIT model.

While my working base will be Orchard Manor, I am very much looking forward to being a regular presence in schools across Devon. Building positive, collaborative relationships will be central to my role, both within our newly established SIT team, with our Trust schools as well as wider SPT colleagues. I am excited to work alongside you all to ensure that our shared vision of inclusive, high-quality support for children and young people continues to grow and flourish.



Safeguarding Children

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR STAFF

Safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility, staff should always:

Be Alert to Concerns and Changes

Notice changes in behaviour, attendance, wellbeing or presentation. Concerns may build over time and not always be immediately obvious.

Act Early and Share Concerns Promptly

Do not wait for concerns to escalate. Share any worries with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) as soon as possible so support can be considered early.

Record Clearly and Professionally

Record concerns factually and objectively, following Trust safeguarding procedures. Clear records support effective decision-making and multi-agency working.

Be Professionally Curious

Ask questions, share concerns, and use safeguarding systems in place. This helps the DSL team consider patterns over time and understand the child's lived experience.

Work Collaboratively

Safeguarding relies on strong partnership working. Share relevant information appropriately and contribute to joined-up support for children and families.

Practice Inclusively

Be aware that safeguarding concerns may present differently for children with SEND, disabilities, or those affected by trauma, culture, poverty or discrimination.

Speak Up and Seek Advice

If something doesn't feel right, or you are unsure, speak to your DSL. You will always be supported for raising safeguarding concerns in good faith.

If you have any questions or concerns about Safeguarding – or feel you would like more support or information - please contact your Safeguarding Lead.

INSIDE THE

Meet Kristy Jose
HR Coordinator

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR ROLE AND WHAT A TYPICAL DAY INVOLVED?

I support HR administration across the Trust, supporting with recruitment, onboarding, policy reviews, personnel records, employee-relations support and wider staff lifecycle processes. My day can be varied, it can be supporting colleagues with HR queries, attending meetings, working on projects, exploring systems, interviewing, attending events. There's lots to do and no two days are the same!



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING IN HR WITHIN THE TRUST?

Definitely recruitment, I love meeting new people and it's a privilege to be part of someone's milestones. New jobs can be such an exciting time.

WHAT'S SOMETHING PEOPLE MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT WORKING IN HR?

It's not all contracts and policies. There's a lot of exciting work behind the scenes, and we're always looking for ways to improve every employee's experience. There's always opportunities to develop and grow new initiatives.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT OR ACHIEVEMENT IN YOUR HR ROLE SO FAR?

In this particular role, it would be implementing new ways of working, like MyNewTerm, has been a highlight because it streamlines processes, supports admin teams, and makes what can be a big task feel smoother and more manageable.

ETRUST

Meet Kora Olson

Information Management Systems Officer

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO JOIN THE TRUST AS AN APPRENTICE?

I joined the Trust as a Business Admin Apprentice after having worked as a Pastry Chef and Baker for 7 years. Although this was a huge change, I found a lot of the skills from knowing how to multitask, working methodically and in an organised workspace transferred into my new role, where I was learning brand new skills in a new sector.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING AN APPRENTICESHIP?

It has opened up new opportunities for me and allowed me to learn these new skills in a supportive and friendly environment. Both the staff and my apprenticeship provider have been incredibly supportive in supporting my learning.

IS THERE A WORK MOMENT YOU ARE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?

Within my apprenticeship, I needed to complete an improvement project, and part of that for me was to create a new system to book pool cars for the central Trust team to help reduce admin time. The system is still in use now and especially following growth within the Trust team, it has saved a lot of time and enabled better monitoring of the cars. I'm very proud to have created a system that had such a positive impact.

WHAT'S BEEN THE BIGGEST LEARNING CURVE?

Going from working in hospitality to education! In a SEN setting there is so much specialist information to learn and understand. I'm still constantly learning new acronyms, systems, or processes!



SCHOOLS

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR BRUNEL HEADTEACHER



Brunel's Headteacher has been awarded Fellowship of IFIP (FIFIP) – the International Forums of Inclusion Practitioners.

The prestigious fellowship recognises leaders who have made a significant contribution to inclusive practice and who champion opportunity, belonging and positive outcomes for children and young people.

The award reflects the inclusive ethos at the heart of Brunel, where relationships, wellbeing and ambitious support for pupils underpin all aspects of school life.

From safeguarding and pastoral care to curriculum development and family engagement, inclusion remains central to the school's approach.

Recognition from an international organisation such as IFIP highlights the important work taking place across the Brunel community and acknowledges the school's commitment to ensuring every pupil feels valued, supported and able to thrive.

The fellowship also connects Brunel to a wider network of inclusive practitioners, creating opportunities to share best practice and continue influencing inclusive education beyond the school community.

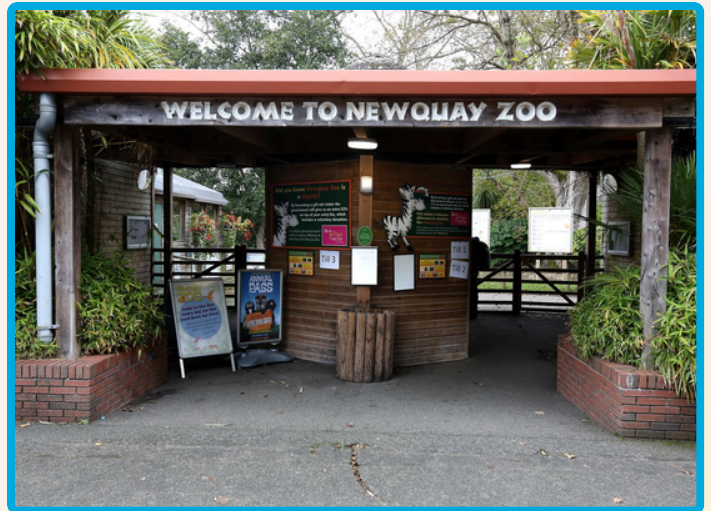
Everyone across the Trust is incredibly proud of this well-deserved achievement.



**International Forums of
Inclusion Practitioners**

POTLIGHT

NANCEALVERNE VISIT NEWQUAY ZOO



Many of Nancealverne's classes recently enjoyed an exciting trip to Newquay Zoo. It was a fantastic day filled with learning, exploration, and lots of fun as the children discovered a variety of animals from around the world.

The trip was a great success, and the children were a credit to the school throughout the day. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff who helped organise and support the visit. Their hard work and dedication made this wonderful experience possible for everyone involved.

FINANCE TEAM

On a learning journey...

Members of the Finance team are continuing to develop their skills and knowledge through AAT qualifications, (Association of Accounting Technicians), demonstrating a strong commitment to both personal and professional growth.

We are delighted to share that our apprentice has successfully passed a Level 2 exam module - an excellent achievement and a great milestone in their learning journey. Meanwhile, our Finance Assistant Manager has recently completed an exam and is currently awaiting results, which we are looking forward to celebrating soon.

Balancing day-to-day responsibilities with study is no small task, and these colleagues continue to show dedication and perseverance in advancing their financial knowledge. Their efforts not only support their own development but also contribute to strengthening and sustaining the Finance function across the Trust.

A very well done to Will and Jasmine!





Special
Partnership
Trust

Ambitious, inspiring
partnership of outstanding
learning



Special
Partnership
Trust

irational
standing

“Our Specialist Outreach offer brings together expertise from across the Trust to support schools and settings with training, mentoring, and practical SEND guidance..”

SPT OUTREACH

DRIVING INCLUSION ACROSS TORBAY AND DEVON

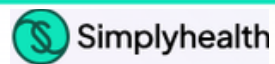
A fantastic day at Devon's Inclusion SEND Conference at Sandy Park, Exeter, where our team had the opportunity to showcase our outreach work in the exhibition area and connect with professionals from across the sector.

We were proud to deliver workshops on Alternative Secondary Pathways and Early Years Transitions, sharing approaches, insights, and practical strategies to support children, young people, and families through key stages of their educational journey.

This work has been commissioned by and delivered in partnership with Devon County Council, reflecting our shared commitment to improving inclusion and creating positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND across Devon.



TRUST BENEFITS



DON'T FORGET: USE YOUR SIMPLYHEALTH ALLOWANCES

Your Simplyhealth allowances reset in September, so now is the perfect time to make the most of your available benefits.



Allowances include:

- Dental Care
- Optical Appointments
- Physiotherapy
- Health Screenings

See the Table of Cover for your available benefits.

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Simply click each logo to find out more!



TRUST RECRUITMENT

The Trust's recruitment activity has had a vibrant summer, with MyNewTerm now fully embedded across all schools and praised for making hiring smoother, more consistent and far less admin-heavy. The Talent Pool continues to grow, helping build a future pipeline of applicants, and internal movement is thriving, with colleagues progressing, transferring and stepping into new opportunities across schools..

Apprenticeships remain a major success story, with new specialist cohorts forming and strong investment in development pathways across roles.

CAREER PATHWAYS ARE COMING:

A TRUST-WIDE FRAMEWORK IS BEING BUILT TO MAKE PROGRESSION ROUTES CLEARER AND MORE VISIBLE FOR EVERYONE.

Remember to join our Talent Pool if you are interesting in vacancies across the Trust - either follow the QR code, or click [here](#) to explore opportunities.





A REMARKABLE YEAR OF EXPANSION AND ACHIEVEMENT

As we reach the end of this summer term, it's impossible not to pause and appreciate just how extraordinary this year has been. With three new schools joining our Trust family, one joining us and two opening their doors for the very first time, we've welcomed so many new faces, new teams, and new stories across our community.

This has been a year of huge change, bold growth, and relentless hard work. Through it all, your resilience, your optimism, and your unwavering commitment have shaped something genuinely special. You've built, adapted, supported, and lifted one another, and the impact is felt in every classroom, every corridor, every conversation.

Thank you for everything you've poured into this year. The difference you make is real, visible, and deeply appreciated.

Wishing you a joyful final week and a summer break that brings rest, pride, and a moment to breathe after all we've achieved together.



If you have a story, achievement, or special moment from this term that you'd like to see in the next edition, we'd love to feature it. Sharing these updates helps us stay connected, highlight the amazing work happening across the Trust, and celebrate the people who make our community so special.

Want to be featured in the next edition?

Email your stories or highlights to HR@specialpartnership.org