

Belong here



NASS

National Association
of Special Schools

We are a membership organisation representing special schools in England and Wales providing support, advice, information, events, training, and a strong voice for non local authority maintained special schools.

Our values

We put NASS members and their learners at the heart of all we do.

We are proactive, outward-facing and collaborative, to continuously improve opportunities and standards for member schools and their learners.



Our vision

Our vision is for all non local authority special schools to be centres of excellence, delivering and evidencing the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Our mission

We **inform and support** our members, enabling them to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

We **represent** our members, influencing policy and practice as the voice of non-maintained special schools.

We **recognise, research and share** approaches that deliver positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Our strategic goals 2020-2025

- 1** To position NASS and its members as powerhouses of sharing 'what works' for children and young people with SEND in light of the SEND Review.
- 2** To develop an evidence base of how member schools improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.
- 3** To grow and broaden membership to include more academies and free schools, to increase NASS reach and influence.
- 4** To demonstrate the value of the non local authority special school sector through conducting research and running projects that strengthen and promote the sector.

What we do

NASS currently has around 400 schools and organisations in membership, making NASS a strong voice for the sector.

✓ Be informed

We update members on issues, policies, and changes affecting the special school sector. Our members receive regular newsletters and have access to events and training on topics vital to delivering excellent special needs provision. In addition, our special interest groups allow specific disciplines to share experiences and best practices.

In autumn each year, our two-day annual conference brings the NASS community together in-person for joint learning, sector updates and valuable networking.

✓ Be recognised

Central to our mission is for special schools to be centres of excellence, delivering and evidencing the best possible outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

We recognise, enable and share excellence from across our membership. This includes helping members develop and become centres of excellence through bespoke leadership programmes for special schools. We also showcase the achievements of our members on our website and social media channels along with celebrating them in the annual NASS Awards.

✓ Be represented

We are recognised by the Department for Education and Ofsted as the key sector body and seek to influence and push for change on behalf of our members. We respond to all key government consultations, ensuring that the views and concerns of our members are not only raised but also heard.

We are represented on all key working groups and forums including the Special Educational Consortium and National SEND Forum.



We know that each of our members finds unique value in being part of our community.

For some, it's the ability to connect with peers and seek advice. We know for others it is benefits such as being kept up-to-date on issues that impact them, having access to expert guidance from the NASS team or tailored training available for their staff.

We want all our members to take full advantage of the value of NASS membership and below is a snapshot of some of the key benefits we offer.



Expert guidance and lobbying influence

We offer guidance and support on issues affecting you. As the key sector body, recognised by the Department for Education and Ofsted, we are a powerful voice and push for change on behalf of you and all our members.



Specialist training

Each year we organise a wide range of tailored training and learning opportunities for special schools, helping your staff learn more about key topics and stay up-to-date on current guidance



Staying informed

Our fortnightly newsletter, NASS News, keeps you and your staff informed on latest guidance, sector news and NASS events. You can add as many of your staff to the distribution list as you like.



Leadership programmes

We help you develop and become centres of excellence through bespoke leadership programmes for special schools. In the last year alone, we supported 30+ leaders through 4 NASS sponsored programmes, including social care leadership and School Improvement Partner training. We are also building a strong network of NASS SIPs that can offer support to other NASS members.



Peer networking

Each term we hold a series of Special Interest Groups that create opportunities for you to network with your peers, discuss challenges, hear from guest speakers, and share experiences and best practices. Our groups include:

- Academies
- Heads, Principals & CEOs
- Heads of Care
- HR
- Finance
- Teaching and Learning
- Speech and Learning Therapy



Piloting innovation

We look for innovative ways to tackle issues that affect you by collaborating with industry experts. We give you the opportunity to be part of this research. For example, our recent staff wellbeing pilot project involved 12 of our member schools.



Bringing the NASS community together

Our annual conference each autumn brings you together with as many of our members as possible for joint learning, sector updates and valuable networking. The event sells out fast and in October 2024 we will be holding our event in Leeds.



Developing knowledge

We invest in initiatives that will provide long-term value for you. We recently commissioned a report on the cost and value of meeting need for children and young people with SEND. We also sought legal advice to give members clarity on the setting and payment of fees.



Helping with recruitment

Our School Jobs page is one of the most frequently visited sections on our website, and as a NASS member, we can list your jobs free of charge.



Highlighting and celebrating excellence

We take pride in sharing your excellence and best practice. We do this through recognising your work at our annual NASS Awards and using our social media channels and website to highlight the difference you are making throughout the year.

Annual membership fees 2024/5

NASS operates a rolling membership.

For most of our members, their subscription will auto-renew on 1st April each year. At the end of February, or six weeks prior to your renewal date, we will write and remind members of their NASS subscription and the fees for the year ahead.

Full membership

This is open to all fully registered, Non-Maintained Special Schools, Independent Special Schools, Converter Special Academies and Converter Special Free Schools.

Full membership: Individual schools

To make it fair for our members, we calculate annual membership based on the number of pupils and staff within a school. To find out which size category your school falls into, please speak to our Operations Officer.

School category	Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due
1 and 2	£844.88	£42.24	£887.12
3 and 4	£1,673.81	£83.69	£1,757.50
5,6 and 7	£2,502.73	£125.14	£2,627.87

Full membership: Groups

We calculate annual membership fees for groups and trusts based on the number of schools within your organisation.

Discounted group membership of NASS is open to organisations who have two or more schools eligible to join as full or associate school members. To qualify for this scheme, all of the organisation's schools must become members.

Number of schools in a Trust/Group	Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due
2	£1,995.00	£99.75	£2,094.75
3 to 4	£3,491.25	£174.56	£3,665.81
5 to 6	£4,987.50	£249.38	£5,236.88
7 to 8	£6,483.75	£324.19	£6,807.94
9 to 10	£7,980.00	£399.00	£8,379.00
11 to 15	£9,975.00	£498.75	£10,473.75
16 to 20	£11,970.00	£598.50	£12,568.50
21 to 25	£13,985.00	£699.25	£14,684.25
26 to 30	£16,000.00	£800.00	£16,800.00
31 to 35	£17,000.00	£850.00	£17,850.00
36 to 40	£18,000.00	£900.00	£18,900.00
41 to 45	£19,000.00	£950.00	£19,950.00
46 to 50	£20,000.00	£1,000.00	£21,000.00

Associate membership

Associate membership: Individuals

Open to individuals working in the fields of special education, residential care and disability outside of Independent Special Schools, Non-Maintained Special Schools, Special Academies and Special Free Schools.

Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due
£199.50	£9.98	£209.48

Associate membership: Organisations

Open to organisations working in the field of special education, residential care and disability outside of Independent Special Schools, Non-Maintained Special Schools, Special Academies and Special Free Schools.

Applicants must be able to show a clear connection to children with SEND or demonstrate provision of services to special schools.



Your annual turnover	Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due
Up to £100k	£200.00	£10.00	£210.00
£100k - £250k	£350.00	£17.50	£367.50
£250k - £500k	£500.00	£25	£525.00
£500k - £5m	£850.00	£42.50	£892.50
£5m - £50m	£1,500.00	£75.00	£1,575.00
£50m+	£2,500.00	£125.00	£2,625.00

Associate membership: Schools

Open to newly registered Independent Special Schools, Special Free Schools and Special Academies that have not yet received their first full Ofsted inspection. Associate school members are expected to move to full membership status within one year of their first full Ofsted inspection, on the anniversary of joining date.

	Net	VAT at 5%	Amount Due
Membership	£200.00	£10.00	£210.00
Inclusion on our website	£350.00	£17.50	£367.50

Contact us

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If you have any questions or would like to apply to become a NASS member, please contact Jenny Hayward, NASS Operations Officer.

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