



5 REFLECTION POINTS FOR SENCOS

Writing your inclusion strategy

Due 31 December 2026

Make it a **strategy** for your community, not just another form.

1 Know your intent

Compliance is only part of the reason for writing your strategy. Decide **what you** want the strategy to do, **why** this instead of something else, and **how** you'll know it makes a difference.

Ask: what do we want inclusion to mean here?

2 Inclusion is more than SEND

Inclusion is about participation and belonging for everyone. Build flexibility and adaptability into your systems so you can respond to every learner's strengths and needs.

3 Understand the barriers to learning & participation

Start with the evidence and ask why this might be the case. What barriers are impacting on attendance, anxiety, attainment, communication, safety and belonging? Look for whole-school barriers, not just within-child ones.

4 Connect it to your SIDP

Don't let the inclusion strategy become just another document on your website. Link your inclusion strategy to your School Improvement and Development Plan so the two work together. Evaluate your universal offer and SEND provision.

5 A strategy, not just a form

The **process** matters even more than the product. Open a conversation about inclusion with staff, learners and families: put question boards in the staff room, in classrooms and ask families to contribute to your community inclusion conversation. Adopt or adapt a template, then implement it and evaluate its impact. Create a **strategy for inclusion**, not just complete a form.

"Inclusion is about **increasing participation for all** children and adults. It is about supporting schools to become **more responsive** to the diversity of children's backgrounds, interests, experience, knowledge and skills."

Booth & Ainscow (2011), *Index for Inclusion*, p.9

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