

Essex Primary Headteachers' meetings Autumn Term 2026 AGENDA

**NORTH EAST: Wednesday 11th November 2026
Colchester Football Stadium, Colchester, CO4 5UP**

Welcome from Nick Hutchings (North East Area Chair) and Clare Kershaw (Director of Education)	9.00 – 9.05 am
Local Authority Education Team Director's update – Clare Kershaw • Data Outcomes • LGR • Essex Education Priorities • SEND Reform and Improvement • Essex Political Priorities and National Priorities for 2026/2027 • Essex Directory for School Improvement	9.05 – 9.35 am
Education Access Team update Sharon Bryan and Diane Kirsh will give an update on support from the EAT and explain proposed data collection changes.	9.35 – 9.50 am
MSC Update With Kierran Pierce	9.50 – 10.05 am
STAY update With STAY team member	10.05 – 10.15 am
Social Care update Including FFPP and Ofsted outcomes With Lee Bailey and Alison Baker	10.15 – 10.40 am
Headteacher support – EPHA discussions	10.40 – 10.50 am
Coffee break	10.50 - 11.10 am
Primary Science Teaching Trust Tom Holloway, Director of School and Regional Engagement, will explain what the PSTT can offer schools this year. This section will include a hands-on science experiment!	11.10 – 11.20 am
Mercury Theatre opportunities Lisa Warnock, Education Director for the Mercury Theatre, will share their offer for schools.	11.20 – 11.30 am
What's working in our primary schools? Practical solutions to shared challenges This workshop will give headteachers a chance to share their ideas on improving attendance, inclusion and pupil engagement without adding to staff workload. These are interconnected challenges for primary schools, and this headteacher meeting is an ideal opportunity to share approaches that are already working rather than simply discuss the problems. By the end of the session, headteachers will have: • Shared practical approaches that have made a difference in their	11.30 – 12.00 noon

schools. • Identified why some strategies work in one context but not another. • Explored ways to improve outcomes without creating unnecessary workload. • Agreed one action to trial and one area where schools could work together.	
EPHA Area Meeting – Nick Hutchings, NEEPHA Chair Follow up from the workshop, and an update on the EPHA priorities for 2026/27.	12.00 – 12.15 pm
Kendall Primary Outdoor Learning Provision - Dr Lewis Barrett-Rodger, Deputy Headteacher Lewis will share Kendall's journey in making outdoor learning sustainable and its impact on pupils' achievement, attendance, personal development and wellbeing. Discover opportunities for Essex schools, including Outdoor Adventure Days, Wild Wellbeing for families and accredited professional development for staff, and explore how Kendall's experience, expertise and facilities can enrich local provision. https://kendallprimary.co.uk/olp	12.15 – 12.30 pm
Close of EPHA meeting Lunch	12.30 pm
Safeguarding forum In the afternoon Jo Barclay will run the termly safeguarding forum meeting – headteachers are very welcome to stay on and attend, and other DSLs from schools across the area will join the meeting. <i>NB There is no need to book your place at the in-person safeguarding forum, but please make sure that you sign the register when you attend.</i> There is an alternative online option, taking place on Tuesday 17th November 2026, from 3.30 – 5.00 pm. Please book a place via Education Essex. https://educationessex.essex.gov.uk/Event/248944	1.30 – 4.00 pm