

New School Improvement Partners for 2026-27

Tom Hart

Specialisms:

- Curriculum design
- Inclusion
- Schools in difficulty
- Preparation for inspection



About

Tom is an experienced education leader with over 20 years in the profession and a deep commitment to inclusion, ambition, and opportunity for all. He currently serves as Director of Primary Education for a multi-academy trust, alongside his work as a School Improvement Adviser and a practising Ofsted Inspector.

Throughout his career, Tom has held a range of senior leadership roles across diverse school contexts. His expertise spans school improvement, strategic leadership, and curriculum design. Tom is passionate about developing leadership at every level. He draws on coaching and mentoring approaches, enabling both staff and pupils to flourish. Tom brings strategic insight, empathy, and a rigorous, evidence-informed approach to supporting schools.

Rose Taunt

Specialisms:

- Schools in difficulty
- Early Years
- Early reading and writing



About

Rose Taunt has 20 years' experience in education and is Head Teacher of a large primary school in Hayes, with nursery and inclusion provision. She has also worked as a trust-level Challenge and Support Partner across 11 primary schools, supporting six Ofsted inspections in six months. Her leadership experience spans secondary special education, EYFS, KS2 and pastoral provision.

Rose is committed to inclusive, child-led education, school improvement, high expectations and expanding pupil opportunity. Her early years expertise remains central to her work, and she facilitates Ambition Institute's NPQEYL course.

Rowen Prigg

Specialisms:

- Setting up an alternative provision & inclusion
- Ofsted/SIAMS preparation
- Leadership coaching



About

Rowen is a serving headteacher with seven years' experience and nearly 30 years in education. She has held Head of School, SENCO and Deputy Head roles, and coaches and mentors ECTs through her teaching school partnerships. She is qualified as a mental health lead and in the practice of Elklan and Numbers Count, as well as holding the NPQH qualification. Her expertise spans leadership, inclusion and trauma-informed practice.

Rowen established an enhanced provision focused on positive relationships, teaching and learning, while developing a culture of internal CPD. She has Ofsted experience and supports schools with inspection preparation, collaboration and school improvement.

Jason Philipsz

Specialisms:

- Preparation for inspection
- Setting up an alternative provision & inclusion
- Mathematics



About

Jason brings his extensive knowledge as an inspector to any deployment with school or academy leaders. He is particularly skilled at combining the inspectorial aspect with advice in a manner that leaders can access easily. Jason also reads extensively and has wide knowledge about pedagogy, school improvement, SEND and leadership. Jason works closely with secondary and primary schools with a particular expertise in Mathematics and Sixth form oversight. Jason regularly leads Quality Assurance Review for Challenge Partners in Secondary and SEND schools. Jason also has expertise in performance management at a schoolwide and trust level.

He is well versed in making impartial, evidence-based recommendations to Trust CEO and CFOs that meet the rigorous requirements of appraisal criteria. This also includes being part of Head Teacher performance reviews.

Astrid Schon, MBE

Specialisms:

- Inclusive leadership
- Alternative Provision
- School Improvement
- Leadership coaching



About

Astrid Schon, MBE, is an expert practitioner in mainstream and alternative provision education. As Headteacher of London East Alternative Provision, she led the school to an Outstanding Ofsted rating in all areas in June 2024, one of very few AP schools to achieve this under the new framework.

She specialises in inclusion, alternative provision, school improvement and leadership development, with experience across primary, secondary and post-16 settings. Astrid supports vulnerable learners, including those with SEND, SEMH and complex needs, through high expectations, strong relationships and tailored support.

As a school improvement partner and consultant, she works with schools, local authorities and national organisations to promote best practice and improve outcomes for disadvantaged children. Astrid was awarded an MBE for services to education in alternative provision in 2025.

Shirleyann Jones

Specialisms:

- Schools in difficulty and rapid improvement
- Senior leadership development
- Coaching heads and senior leaders



About

Shirleyann is an education leader with over 30 years' experience across British primary and international schools. She works with leaders to strengthen leadership capacity, using coaching and personality, behaviour and leadership profiling to support self-awareness, accountability and sustained school improvement.

She turned around a junior school in special measures within nine months; led a 53-class infant phase in Dubai through the move to online learning; and has supported schools through the London Challenge.

Shirleyann holds the NPQH, is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and serves as a governor in two LAs. Her coaching promotes reflection, resilience and self-leadership.



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