

SEND Leaders' Appreciation Day 2020

Teaming up with Hays Education UK, #TeamADL launched this project to celebrate the hard work and dedication of SEND Leaders.

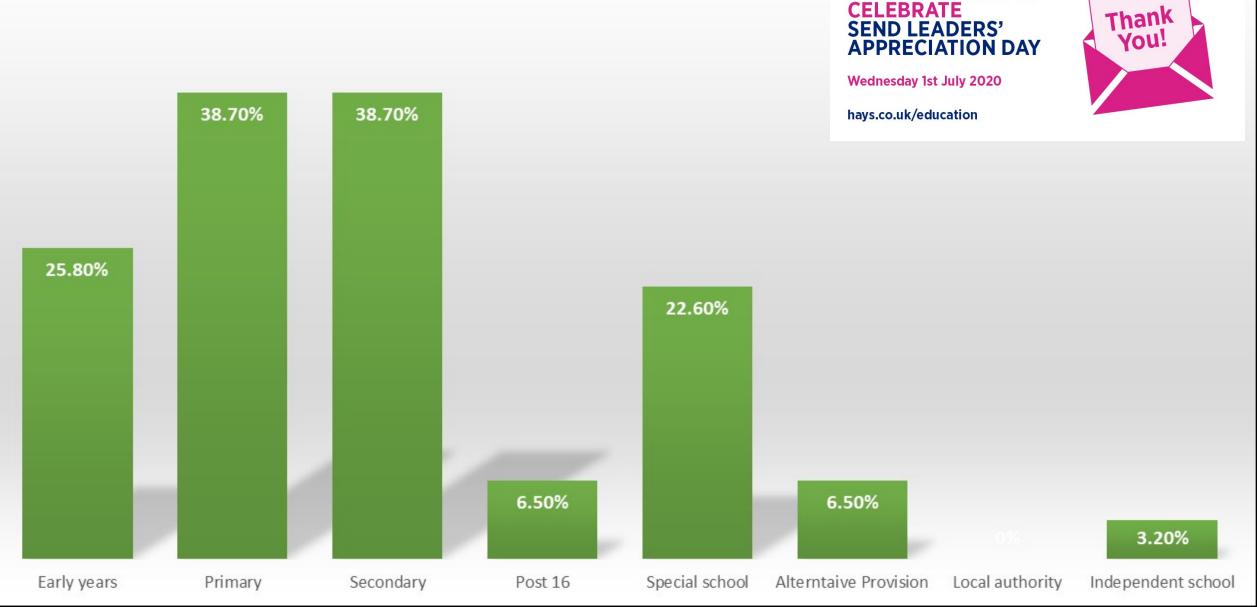
The stories truly are amazing. Here is a collection from this year.

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SEND Leaders Appreciation Day 2020 Engagement by Phase / Sector



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"Janet is due to retire at the end of the Summer term. She has worked at Kingswood House for several years, initially as a Speech and Language Therapist before becoming SENCo. She always strives for improvement and inclusion for our boys and staff, promoting the use of technology and even rapping during a staff meeting! I joined the school 2 years ago, Janet has been an brilliant leader and incredibly supportive throughout, enabling me to develop my role and gain experience. I couldn't have done it without her."

Nominated by a colleague, Epsom

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"Scott is pro-active, hard-working and resilient and works tirelessly to ensure the best for our students. He inspires staff to continually develop their skills and actively celebrates their successes. He is a true role model for both students and staff."

Nominated by Deputy Headteacher, Staffordshire



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"Debbie is an exceptional SEND leader, who always does her best, and is inspirational to work with and encouraging to others at all times, despite the challenges!"

Nominated by Board Member, Derby

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"Dave is one of the most caring individuals I have ever met, who deserves all the recognition in the world for the time he puts into not only his students, but also staff wellbeing. An inspirational SEND leader, and a role model for students and aspiring SEND leaders alike."

Nominated by previous Teaching Assistant colleague, Newcastle

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"Amanda has worked at Wardle Academy for 29 years and is the star of the SEN department; positive, tenacious, hardworking, passionate about inclusion and a determined advocate for every student with SEN. A kind and fair manager of 27 Teaching Assistants, a SEN heroine. Nothing is too much trouble for her if it nurtures a happy and effective SEN department. Her intelligence and integrity deserves to be recognised."

Nominated by a colleague, Lancashire

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"Emma is very child centred in her approaches and always puts the needs of the pupils at Ramsden Hall first. Emma leads her team with rigour and tenacity, she deserves recognition for all of her hard work and commitment in making a real difference in the lives of our pupils. Emma is very much a team player and role models good practice to her team by working directly with pupils on a regular basis and even during Covid-19."

Nominated by Senior Leader, Billericay

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"Nathan wants the very best for all our students, and works his socks off to ensure all practise across the school is top standard. He genuinely cares for all the students and staff and goes out of his way to provide support for those in need. Nathan is one of the hardest working people I have ever met, and deserves to be recognised for everything he has dedicated to the school!"

Nominated by Special School colleague, Staffordshire

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"Siobhan is 100% committed to the pupils and staff at Victory Park Academy, she is very child centred in her approaches and has determination to make a difference in the lives of the children and families that she serves. Despite facing personal adversity she has been unwavering in her commitment to the pupils and families, and has gone the extra mile to set up a food bank at the academy for families of pupils who have needed additional support during the global pandemic. Siobhan has exceptional relationships with pupils and their parents/carers; which have really been vital during the period of instability in the Covid-19 pandemic. Siobhan deserves a great deal of recognition for her efforts as she seeks little or no praise ordinarily."

Nominated by Executive Head, Southend-on-Sea

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"Tara demonstrates a huge amount of commitment to the pupils at Ramsden Hall Academy, she is truly dedicated to making a difference. Tara successfully led the recent Residential Ofsted Inspection and a secured a 'Good' judgement for the setting; having being judged requires improvement on the previous inspection. She leads her team with passion and determination to offer the best possible residential experience for our pupils."

Nominated by Executive Head, Billiericay

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"Lindsey is a ray of sunshine at our schools. She is hardworking, committed, resourceful and always focused on achieving the highest standards for all children. Lindsey has a wealth of knowledge about SEND across a range of issues including physical and mental health as well as academic difficulties. She not only cares for the children in the schools but also for every member of staff - whether that be a kind word, a funny joke or a delicious tray of homemade brownies! Lindsey is an absolute asset to our schools and our SEND children are achieving higher academically, socially and emotionally because of the knowledge and support she provides for them."

Nominated by colleague, Milton Keynes

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"Rachel works tirelessly for the needs of the SEN children in our school. As a mainstream primary school with 27 EHCPs and 12 under assessment, the workload is enormous, and yet she does it with a smile on her face, going above and beyond at all times. The school would be completely lost without her support and guidance, her attention to detail and her desire to get things right for the children. She really is one in a million."

Nominated by Headteacher, Milton Keynes

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"Jo works incredibly hard all the time. She is class based, but always puts the needs of the children first. We have had, over the past 2 years some very challenging situations and Jo has worked with staff, keeping up their morale and supporting them and parents. She deserves recognition."

Nominated by line manager, Milton Keynes

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"Mark has demonstrated determination in his leadership particularly during the global pandemic, he has shown decisiveness and rigour and role modelled this to his team at Victory Park Academy. Mark has commitment to his pupils at Victory Park, and has ensured that the most vulnerable have received an exceptional package of care."

Nominated by line manager in AP, Southend-on-Sea

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"During lockdown, our school was completely closed. Kate has spent so much time working from home and contacting parents, social workers, completing CPD, setting up new software for intervention programmes, co-ordinating help for families of SEND and vulnerable children and liaising with CFP workers and other agencies. I am sure I have been in contact with her every day many times as she has sought to do the best for our children and I really appreciate her efforts! Thank you, Kate."

Nominated by Headteacher, Milton Keynes

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"Daniel works tirelessly to always ensure the best interest of the students and staff of the school are put first. He actively encourages the positive attributes of others and inspires everyone to be the best they can be. Dan needs to be celebrated for the hard work and dedication he has given to the school, as he is a true role model of what a fantastic leader for SEND should be!"

Nominated by Special School Headteacher, Staffordshire

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"Mrs Harrowsmith has supported both my children at The Crescent School. An outstanding SENCo who always puts the needs of the children first and works incredibly hard to ensure a completely inclusive school where every child really does matter. Very approachable, extremely knowledgeable and no doubt at all the children are at the heart of everything she does, a very special SENCo and we are so lucky to have her looking out for our son."

Nominated by a parent, Hampshire

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"Aimee works tirelessly to support our SEND students and those in our resource base. She is their champion and fights tooth and nail to ensure that they get their entitlement. Aimee leads a strong team of TAs and teachers who all are very child centred. I'm super proud of them all but especially the work that Aimee does. She is their champion."

Nominated by colleague, Birmingham

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"Alexis is an extremely committed and dedicated member of PLT and leads Sutton House Academy with integrity and determination. She is fully committed to making a difference in the lives of our pupils who all have SEMH additional needs along with some pupils who have more complex needs. Alexis has worked continuously right the way through the Covid-19 pandemic even during school holidays to role model to her team that the pupils come first. She is also a committed mother to Harry who is 4 years old and she raises alone. Alexis is a great SEND leader and deserves much recognition."

Nominated by Senior Leader, Southend-on-Sea

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"Kirsty has been shielding over the past 3 months but has not let a day go by where she hasn't worked to support SEND children and families in her school, through emails, phone calls, resource acquisition, support acquisition, arranging CPD for colleagues. She is a Mental Health First Aider and is aware of putting strain on the teachers at the chalk face. Therefore will do what she can to avoid extra work coming their way."

Nominated by spouse, Leeds

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"I nominate Melissa, for the endless amount of work she does to support the most vulnerable parents and families in our school. Melissa does not realise the huge impact she has in helping to improve the lives of the children in our school community. An amazing SENDCO and a wonderful and generous human being!"

Nominated by colleague, Middlesbrough

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"Ifhit has exceptional leadership and commitment to the pupils during the unprecedented times of COVID19. Making sure all EHCP reviews have been completed virtually and that all transition for Y6 pupils has been completed successfully. As joint-SENCO, Ifhit ensures the very best provision for our most vulnerable pupils during these very difficult times - her work has been truly exceptional."

Nominated by Headteacher, Bedfordshire

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"Nicole has recently taken up the SENDCo role in a growing school and has demonstrated great commitment to our young people. As a Lutonian she understands the context of our pupils and works tirelessly to ensure that they have the best provision and can access the best opportunities leading to a successful life. Her resilience, compassion and dedication is truly commendable."

Nominated by line manager, Luton

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"Jeanette has worked wonders at Parkside School. She has a methodical, analytical, compassionate approach to all students at Parkside School. Jeanette is a visionary, who is passionate about young people with additional needs and their life chances. Jeanette has fought to make the whole school a school of SEND and every leader a leader of SEND. It is her drive for, and belief in inclusivity that defines her. She has shown innovation when she introduced the listening programme and improved the outcomes for young people with additional need, year on year for the last 5 years. SEND is now a strength of Parkside School. She is excellent."

Nominated by line manager, Bradford

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"Donnet is the most child centred professional I have ever worked with. She is totally committed to the young people and their families in her care. She demonstrates a level of empathy that goes beyond the call of duty and put simply wants to do the best job possible for our young people. She is a star."

Nominated by line manager, Bradford

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"Katie has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the pupils during the unprecedented times of COVID19. Making sure all EHCP reviews have been completed virtually and that all transition for Y6 pupils has been completed successfully putting pupils and parents minds at ease. Ensuring the very best provision for our most vulnerable pupils during these very difficult times - the work has been truly exceptional."

Nominated by Senior Leader, Dunstable

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"I am putting Helen forward as she has worked hard to develop the provision for our SEND students both academically and pastorally. Her work was acknowledged in our recent 'Outstanding' Ofsted inspection. She leads a team of teaching assistants and learning mentors who work collaboratively to support the students and include them in all aspects of school life. During the school closure she has worked creatively to support parents of SEND students by creating a Google classroom with bespoke resources to help them work independently at home. Our SEND students flourish in school and during school closure have been very well supported by Helen and her team. Thank you to Helen."

Nominated by Headteacher, Luton

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"Anna has excellent SEND knowledge and skills that enables her to provide a very personalised learning experience to all our 34 EHCP students and she has all the tools and techniques for working in complex situations. She always provides inclusive learning opportunities, challenges stereotypes and raises aspirations to ensure that our students achieve the best they can."

Nominated by line manager, Luton

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"Sarah is amazing! Always puts the children and families needs first, incredibly knowledgeable and so very caring. A little diamond on our school team."

Nominated by Headteacher, Haltwhistle

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"Since taking over the role David has worked hard to promote a more inclusive approach by developing the staff as a whole team to be ready to support our students. He works over 3 sites and with over 200 staff it is not an easy job. He is approachable and informative and has an open door policy."

Nominated by a colleague, Burton on Trent

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"We both started the job shared role as SENCO this year. I couldn't think of a better colleague and friend to share this responsibility with. It's been a tough year with the added uncertainty that the global pandemic has brought. Becky has been an absolute rock - completely unflappable and kept smiling throughout such an unusual first year in post."

Nominated by joint SENCO colleague, Cornwall

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"Kara is an amazing SENDCO. She has an excellent rapport with children, staff and parents alike. Her empathy, compassionate nature and fantastic knowledge equip her to be the best in her role. Kara leaves our school at the end of the year but will thankfully remain in our trust! She is coaching myself and another member of staff on the SENDCO role and I feel equipped and fully updated about the role and expectations. If I can be half the SENDCO that she is, then we will be truly blessed! An inspiration to us all is Kara!"

Nominated by a colleague, Doncaster

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