

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)



East Berkshire: Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) Briefing Document for School

What is PINS?

PINS is a national programme funded by NHS England, the Department for Education, the Department of Health & Social Care, and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums. Locally, it's led by NHS Frimley, with delivery support from Brighter Futures Together CIC.

We know that many schools are already doing fantastic work to support neurodivergent pupils and are moving towards more inclusive ways of thinking and working. PINS is here to build on that good practice—helping schools reflect, share ideas, and access practical support where it's most needed. It's about strengthening what's already working and supporting schools where further input could make a difference.

Why PINS?

Many schools are experiencing:

- Growing numbers of neurodivergent pupils
- Increasing complexity of need
- Pressure to meet diverse needs with limited resources
- Gaps in training or confidence around inclusive practice

PINS responds to these challenges by:

- Enhancing staff confidence and skills
- Strengthening school–family partnerships
- Supporting inclusive leadership and culture
- Providing practical, tailored support based on need

Where we are now

Phase 2 of PINS has just launched and will run through to March 2026, with support available into Spring 2026. This phase includes primary schools across **Slough, Bracknell, and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead**.

The programme builds on learning from the initial work in Bracknell and RBWM (Phase 1, Sept 2024 – March 2025) and is now expanding to reach more schools across all three areas.



What's involved?

PINS is made up of three core elements. The first two – self-assessment and tailored support – run in sequence. The third, parent carer voice and engagement, runs alongside both and is embedded throughout the programme.

1. Whole-School Self-Assessment

Each participating school completes a structured reflection across six areas:

- Leadership and culture
- Teaching and learning
- Environment and routines
- Transitions and communication
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Working with families

The self-assessment gathers insight from leadership, staff, governors, pupils, and families to highlight what's working well and where support could be valuable.

2. Tailored Support Offer

Following the self-assessment, schools receive a bespoke support package from a funded menu, which may include:

- Specialist training or consultancy
- Leadership coaching
- Parent engagement tools
- Practical resources to improve inclusive and SEND provision

3. Parent Carer Voice & Engagement

This element runs in parallel with the other two and is delivered in partnership with local Parent Carer Forums (PCFs). It ensures that the experiences of families inform and shape each school's approach.

This includes:

- Surveys at the start and end of the programme to understand family experiences
- Participation events to co-produce priorities with families
- Solution-focused feedback meetings with school leadership
- Ongoing termly engagement and communication support

What was on offer in Phase 1

During Phase 1, schools had access to a broad and flexible menu of support options, chosen based on their self-assessment and family feedback. These included a mix of direct input, specialist resources, and professional development opportunities. Examples of what was offered:

- **Owl Centre Speech and Language Audits** – Whole-school reviews to identify communication needs and provide practical, school-wide strategies
- **NHS CAMHS Webinars** – Insightful sessions from mental health, and speech and language professionals on understanding and supporting neurodivergent pupils
- **ADHD Foundation Webinars** – Targeted sessions for staff on executive functioning, classroom strategies, and supporting emotional regulation
- **Umbrella Project Materials** – Visual and creative resources to help schools celebrate and promote neurodiversity
- **E-learning Licences for Schools** – Flexible online training for education covering the breadth of neurodivergence, developed by subject matter expert Prof. Amanda Kirby
- **Specialist Consultancy** – Bespoke in-school support including leadership coaching, SEND provision reviews, and advice from expert practitioners
- **Parent Engagement Tools** – Including resources to help schools run participation events and improve school–family communication

Each school’s support was tailored, ensuring it matched their context and priorities while building sustainable, whole-school inclusion.

Why it matters

PINS is not another new initiative — it's a collaborative, practical way to understand what's working, where more support is needed, and how families, schools, and services can work better together.

Your involvement ensures that support is relevant, effective, and grounded in real experiences. The process also helps inform local NHS commissioning decisions.

No school-level data is made public — responses are used only to shape local support. Anonymised trends may be shared nationally to inform wider learning.

Key dates and next steps

Before Summer 2025

- Sign up via the Expression of Interest (EOI) by Friday 20 June ([click here](#))
- Complete your school self-assessment by Wednesday 2 July (midday)

From September 2025 Onwards

- Engage with your local Parent Carer Forum (PCF) to facilitate surveys and co-design discussions
- Work with your PINS consultant to select and implement support from the funded menu

PINS Website: A shared hub for East Berkshire

For PINS in East Berkshire, we’ve set up a dedicated website to act as a central repository of information—making resources universally available to all schools, whether they’re formally part of the programme yet.



The site includes:

- A growing collection of practical resources and tools
- Recorded webinars from Phase 1 and beyond
- Templates and guidance to support your school's inclusion journey

It's designed to support ongoing learning, collaboration, and easy access to the things that can make a real difference.

[Click here](#) to access resources and webinars from Phase 1

[Click here](#) for key documents for Phase 2 – including a recording of the recent webinar on understanding the PINS process and completing your self-assessment

For information or queries

Email: pins@brighterfuturestogether.org.uk

Sign up via the Expression of Interest form: [click here](#)