Together Notts

For children, young people and families

2026/27

Developing your school inclusion strategy

A one-page guide for school leaders

SEND Partnership

Nottinghamshire County Council

Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum – Championing the voice

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

How to develop your inclusion strategy

Requirement	As a condition of receiving the Inclusion Mainstream Fund (IMF) grant, schools must publish their strategy on their website by 31 December 2026 and review it annually.
Purpose	Use the official DfE template to set out your aims, barriers, priorities, outcomes, evidence, costs and review arrangements.
Useful links	DfE template: Download the Inclusion Strategy Template MAPS Strategy Builder: Open the MAPS Strategy Builder

Step 1: Before you start, gather the following:

Plans and policies	School improvement plan; SEND information report; accessibility, inclusion, behaviour and attendance policies.
Funding and history	Pupil Premium Strategy; other funding commitments; previous Inclusion Strategy.
School data and evidence	Attainment, progress, attendance, suspensions, behaviour, SEND, participation, transitions and enrichment.
Views and observations	Pupil and family voice; staff feedback; observations; work scrutiny; local intelligence.
Practical arrangements	available budget, staffing, named leads, timescales, baseline measures and review dates.

Step 2: Follow the five-step process

1. Identify barriers	Use multiple sources of evidence to identify a small number of priority barriers to learning and participation.
2. Use evidence	choose approaches supported by research, guidance, local intelligence and school evidence. Start with the universal offer.
3. Develop the strategy	Record the barriers, intended change, activity, lead, timescale, cost, evidence, baseline and success measures.
4. Deliver and monitor	clarify responsibilities, prepare staff, check consistency and gather early feedback.
5. Evaluate and sustain	compare impact with the baseline; continue, strengthen, adapt or stop; embed what works.

Step 3: Check against the seven principles

Leadership	**Early support**	**Adaptive teaching**	**Enrichment**
Safe culture	**Family & service partnerships**		**Inclusive environments**

Step 4: Review and publish

Before	During	Termly	Annually
agree baseline, outcomes, measures, lead, cost and date.	check delivery, consistency and access.	review implementation and pupil outcomes.	evaluate, refresh and publish with governors.

Final check

Barrier → Principle →Measurable outcome → Evidence → Cost → Lead → Review date

Measure delivery and pupil impact • Keep a clear evidence trail • Supporting summaries do not replace the official DfE template