

THE BLACK SEND INDEX

Promoting Diverse Voices in the SEND Sector

CONTEXT

Black professional voices are vitally important in the SEND space as they help to pave the way for the voices of Black families living with SEND. We are aware that children/adults from all ethnic groups are under diagnosed and underrepresented when it comes to disabilities. This can lead to a disadvantaged journey for children who are Black with SEND - which can be alleviated by elevating the Black professional voice in this sphere. The aim should be not only to speak on the cultural disparities but to share deep working knowledge and professional insights with peers from all walks of life, enhancing knowledge for all involved: professionals, parents, carers and communities.

The Black SEND Index is about ensuring that the SEND sector truly encompasses the idea of inclusion, where every voice is seen as important and every experience a story to be heard.

We use the term 'Black' to welcome colleagues who identify any part of their heritage as being rooted in Africa and/or the Caribbean.

If you are interested in featuring in the Black SEND Index then please complete the form via the link below:

CONTACT US

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SCROLL DOWN TO MEET OUR PROFESSIONALS

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EMMA PINNOCK (BLACK SEND LIST COORDINATOR)

Emma is the Director of The Essential Education Group Ltd a collective of support for schools, organisations and families who are supporting and living with neurodiverse individuals.



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ABOUT EMMA

As an educator Emma has had a rich and varied career.

She has been a teacher for over 20 years, working in a range of environments such as PRU's, Hospital schools, Specialist schools and Mainstream education.

Emma's passion to support SEND has derived from her professional and personal journey. This has led to her belief in people's abilities to overcome barriers and difficulties.

Emma has also been in a range of senior management roles and her last role in education was as the Head of a specialist provision, focused on the needs and education of autistic children.

MARGUERITE HAYE (BLACK SEND LIST COORDINATOR)

Marguerite is the Founder of Haye Independent Services which was successfully launched in June 2014 as a result of the Children and Families Act 2014.



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ABOUT MARGUERITE

Marguerite uses an intersectional lens when supporting a child. She is an activist and believes that exclusions should be abolished from schools.

Marguerite is the Associate Editor for Special Educational Needs Jungle and will contribute and write articles. She is a volunteer for IPSEA providing legally based advice to families and is a Trustee for the charity Disability Direct as well as Raising Awareness Development Language Disorder (RADLD).

Marguerite is knowledgeable in the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) legislation, and she embraces its ethos at the heart of everything she does, by adopting a child-centred approach to ensure every child receives the right provision. Receiving her own Dyslexia diagnosis at the age of 42, Marguerite has first-hand experience of not being offered the appropriate support.

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FRANCES AKINDE

Former Secondary Special headteacher. 20 years of experience in Education. Neurodivergent.



ABOUT FRANCES

SEND Consultant specialising in leadership and helping schools to adopt a strengths based approach to SEND support.

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YANNICK NYAH

Father & Volunteer



ABOUT YANNICK

Yannick believes from the bottom of his heart that volunteers, mentors, and charities make people, the living environment, and communities stronger. His mission to support, train, advocate, research, amplify and connect.

"I believe in people and worry about children's welfare. I know that if we support those who need a hand, build up the lived experiences of those whose voices go unheard, and bring people together then we build a fairer, more equal, and better society for all and for a sustainable future. I have taught mentorship and integrity principles and recognise the role they play in ensuring good mentorship behaviours. I consider myself skilled at ensuring those duties manifest themselves individually and collectively. I want our collective work in volunteering and mentorship to be something that inspires a new era of trust and credibility. My professional experience as a Stockbroker (equities), helps me mentor across different sectors. At BME Volunteers CIC, my role involves volunteering, governance, project management, equality training, mentorship, community outreach, and engagement work."

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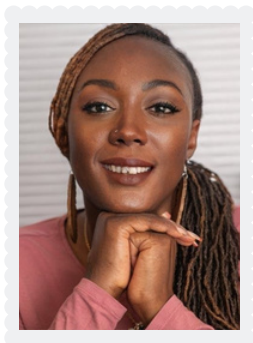
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KARINNA BROWN-WILLIAMS

SEND specialist who has extensive experience with working with the LA special educational needs and disability department working around EHCP, send transport and most things special needs related.



ABOUT KARINNA

"I work with family supporting them through the EHCP process, quality assurance of plans, providing tailored training to both parents and professionals around specific SEND needs. I have also worked with settings to provide SEND training and EHCP requests."

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SUZY ROWLAND

Suzy is an author & poet whose #happyinschool consultancy is rooted in lived-experience. A strong communicator, her training and talks are educational, therapeutic and person-centred. Suzy is IPSEA, Scope-trained, holds a BPS Cert. in CBT and is a Mental Health First-Aider.



ABOUT SUZY

Suzy Founded the happyinschoolproject in 2018 to support parents and use her extensive communication skills to act as an agent of change. She brings warmth and compassion to every interaction with children, families and works proactively with school leadership, local authorities, charities and complex corporations to activate lasting change. She builds capacity through sharing knowledge, nurturing a growth mindset and developing positive narratives about educating and employing neurodivergent thinkers. Suzy's unique gift is her capacity for connection.

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<https://www.happyinschoolproject.com/2022/11/22/autism-girls-a-clip-for-itv/>

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WARDA FARAH

Autistic Social Entrepreneur, Speech and Language Therapist, Lecturer and writer



ABOUT WARDA

"My work sits at the intersection of Race, Language and Disability. My approach is guided by my own experiences as a neurodivergent Black woman and subverts from the traditional medical model of Speech & Language Therapy by centering language as a multimodal emancipatory tool that resists standard language ideologies imposed on minorities. Whilst wearing many hats ultimately my work aims to centre Black Joy."

I work clinically as speech and language therapist who employs culturally and linguistically affirming therapy. I am also an educator, mentor and clinical supervisor to other professionals."

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