

Press release

Thursday 21st July 2022
For immediate use

On Monday 18th July, various media outlets and publications stated that *'Southwark schools agree not to exclude students'*. Southwark Association of Secondary Headteachers (SASH) believe that this is a misrepresentation of our members' position and the contents of Southwark Local Authority's (LA) 'Inclusion Charter'.

Firstly, SASH members, in collaboration with other services that support children and their families such as Social Services, have been actively engaged in the process of drafting the Inclusion Charter during the past few months. Although there is a lot to commend in the Charter in its current form, SASH members are yet to be full signatories. We continue to work with LA representatives to ensure that the wording accurately reflects both the aspiration and the practice locally.

Secondly, it is important to note that that the Inclusion Charter does not advocate for a 'non-exclusion' policy. The Charter explicitly states that there are *'rare instances where exclusion is unavoidable to safeguard children'*. SASH members agree with this position but would like to amend this aspect of the Charter to include *'where the safety and well-being of staff is put at risk'*. This approach is in line with the Department for Education's guidance on exclusions which comes into force from 1st September 2022.

SASH members are committed to inclusive education and have worked collaboratively as a group of schools to significantly reduce the number of permanent exclusions. We are proud of the education provided by our schools and continue to work positively and pro-actively with all relevant agencies to ensure that children in Southwark receive a first-class education.

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CONTACT:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The membership of SASH consists of:

School	Name
Ark All Saints	Lucy Frame
Ark Globe Academy	Matt Jones (chair)
Ark Walworth Academy	Jessica West
Bacon's College	James Wilson
Compass School Southwark	Marcus Huntley
Haberdashers' Aske's Borough Academy	Declan Jones
Harris Academy Bermondsey	Rebecca Isles-Smith
Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich	Peter Groves
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	Carrie Senior
Highshore School	Eileen Olieuz
Kingsdale Foundation School	Steve Morrison
Newlands Academy	Gareth Howells
Notre Dame RC Girls' School	Sr. Anne-Marie Niblock
SILS	Yomi Adewoye
Southwark College	Annette Cast
Spa School (SEND)	Simon Eccles
St Michael's Catholic College	Felicity Corcoran
St Saviours & St Olave's	Catherine May
The Charter School East Dulwich	Christian Hicks
The Charter School North Dulwich	Christian Hicks
The City of London Academy	Mike Baxter
South Bank University Academy	John Taylor

- Matt Jones, Chair of SASH, was awarded an OBE for Services to Education in the 2022 New Year's Honours list.