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5 Questions Every School Should Be Asking After the

Every Child Achieving & Thriving White Paper

A leadership guide for responding to the challenges of inclusion, engagement and teacher workload.



Responding to the White Paper

The Government's Every Child Achieving & Thriving White Paper raises important questions for school leaders across the UK. From inclusion and adaptive teaching to engagement, family empowerment and teacher workload, schools are being asked to rethink how learning is delivered and supported.

For many leaders, the challenge isn't recognising that these things matter, it's knowing where to start, and how to make meaningful change without adding to staff workload.

This guide explores five leadership questions every school should be asking in response to the White Paper. For each question, we look at the challenge schools face, approaches that are beginning to make a difference, and what this can look like in practice.

The goal isn't to prescribe a single approach, it's to help school leaders think clearly about what responsive, inclusive, sustainable practice actually looks like, and to show that schools are already finding ways forward.



01. How Are You Making Inclusion Real in the Classroom?

The Challenge

The gap between inclusive policy and inclusive practice.

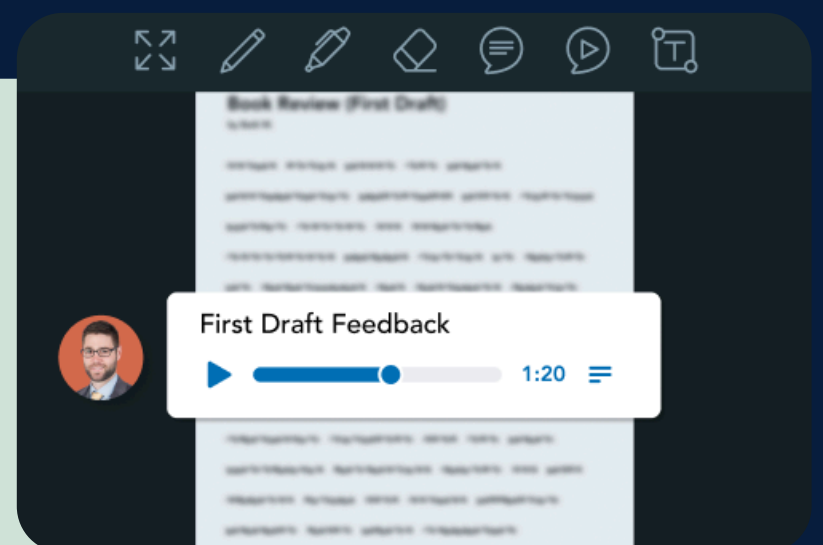
Most schools have inclusion policies, but it can be difficult to find consistent, practical ways to embed inclusive practice into everyday classroom life. The White Paper raises the bar, inclusion can't just be a commitment on paper, it needs to be evidenced in how lessons are designed, how feedback is given, and how every learner is supported to participate and succeed.

Approaches That Are Making a Difference

- ✓ **Accessible feedback** — offering feedback in written, verbal and visual formats so every learner can engage with it in the way that suits them best.
- ✓ **Flexible learning formats** — giving pupils multiple ways to demonstrate understanding, from written work to voice recordings.
- ✓ **Updating resources within a single lesson** — adapting tasks for different needs without creating an entirely separate workflow for each pupil.
- ✓ **Digital tools with built-in accessibility configurations** — supporting learners with additional needs without singling them out.
- ✓ **Sharing scaffolds and extension materials individually** — providing extra support or challenge discreetly, without drawing attention to individual pupils.
- ✓ **Multimedia explanations** — using video, audio and visual resources alongside written instructions to reach learners in different ways.

With Showbie

Showbie's voice and annotation tools, flexible file formats and adaptive instruction tools help teachers build inclusive practice into lessons. Teachers can re-teach through voice notes and modelling videos, provide scaffolds and worked examples to individual pupils discreetly, and capture evidence for every learner.



02. How Adaptive Is Your Teaching?

The Challenge

Adaptive teaching remains one of the hardest things to do consistently well.

The White Paper signals a clear expectation that teaching should respond to the needs of individual learners in real time. Yet most teachers are managing classes of 30 or more pupils, often with limited time to assess each pupil's progress and adjust accordingly. The result is that adaptive teaching, despite being a recognised priority, remains inconsistent in many classrooms.

Approaches That Are Making a Difference

- ✓ **Real-time assessment tools** — surfacing who needs support during a lesson, so teachers can act in the moment rather than after the fact.
- ✓ **Personalised feedback** — providing each pupil with specific, actionable guidance on their work rather than generic whole-class comments.
- ✓ **Student Portfolios** — building a living record of feedback and progress for individual pupils, making it easier to track and evidence growth over time.
- ✓ **Multimedia explanations** — using video, audio and visual resources alongside written instructions to reach learners in different ways.
- ✓ **Flexible assignment structures** — allowing pupils to submit responses in the format that best demonstrates their thinking.

With Showbie

Showbie's real-time assessment results help teachers identify who needs support in the moment, while Assignment Timelines build a clear picture of each learner's progress over time. Adaptive assessments support in-the-moment adjustments as understanding develops, and AI-assisted feedback helps teachers deliver personalised feedback consistently at scale.

The screenshot shows a 'Live Results' dashboard with a table of student performance. The table has columns for 'NAME', 'SCORE %', and several columns of progress indicators (checkmarks, crosses, and colored bars). A 'Class Total' row at the bottom shows scores of 80%, 60%, and 90%.

NAME ↓	SCORE % ↓				
●	✓ 0	✓	✓	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✗	✗	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✓	✓	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✓	✗	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✓	✓	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✗	✗	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✓	✓	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✓	✓	✓	✓
●	✓ 0	✓	✓	✗	✓
●	✓ 0	✓	✓	✓	✓
0 Class Total		80%	60%	90%	

03. How Do You Know Which Pupils Are Truly Engaged?

The Challenge

Attendance and engagement are not the same thing.

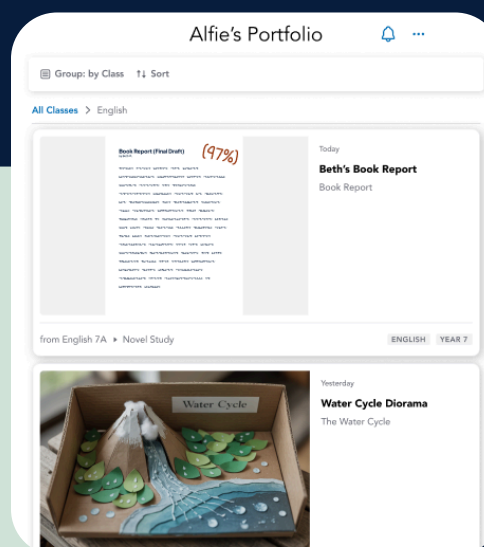
A pupil can be present in a classroom without being connected to the learning. The White Paper asks schools to look more carefully at engagement, not just whether pupils are turning up, but whether they are genuinely participating, building understanding and feeling part of their school community. This is a harder question to answer than it might appear, particularly at scale across a trust.

Approaches That Are Making a Difference

- ✓ **Visible thinking, not just visible activity** — looking beyond task completion to how pupils explain, question and apply their understanding.
- ✓ **Deliberate checks for understanding** — using questioning, mini-assessments and discussion to surface who is thinking deeply.
- ✓ **Feedback that requires a response** — ensuring pupils act on feedback to refine and improve their work.
- ✓ **Low-stakes assessment** — using quick, informal checks to increase participation and surface understanding without pressure.
- ✓ **Opportunities for pupil voice and choice** — allowing pupils to shape how they demonstrate learning and connect it to their experiences.
- ✓ **Learning that feels relevant** — connecting curriculum content to real-world contexts and prior knowledge.
- ✓ **Strong classroom relationships and belonging** — creating environments where pupils feel safe to contribute and participate.

With Showbie

Showbie's Analytics provide insight at class, school and trust level, while tools like Gradebook and assessment reports give visibility into pupil activity, completion and progress across tasks.



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04. Are Families Empowered or Just Informed?

The Challenge

The home-school relationship needs to be more than a one-way channel.

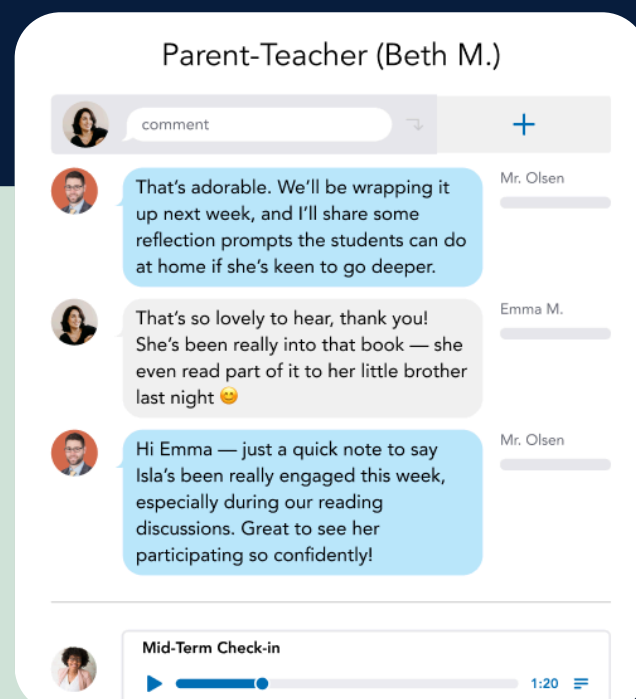
Many schools have improved how they communicate with parents, but communication and partnership are different things. The White Paper highlights the importance of families being genuinely involved in their child's learning. For schools and trusts, this means rethinking what visibility and involvement actually look like in practice.

Approaches That Are Making a Difference

- ✓ **Giving families meaningful visibility into their child's learning** — not just grades or attendance reports, but actual work, feedback and progress over time.
- ✓ **Sharing feedback in real time** — so parents see the same picture teachers do, closing the gap between school and home.
- ✓ **Removing barriers to engagement** — ensuring families can access and understand their child's learning without needing technical knowledge or specific devices.
- ✓ **Building a shared language around learning** — helping parents understand how to support their child at home based on what's happening in school.
- ✓ **Student portfolios that show growth over time** — helping families see progress, not just outcomes, and supporting more meaningful conversations at home.

With Showbie

Showbie's Parent Access accounts give families visibility into their child's learning. Where access is enabled, parents can view assignments, due dates, grades, student work and teacher feedback, giving them clearer insight into how learning is being supported.



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05. How Are You Protecting Teacher Workload?

The Challenge

Inclusion asks more of teachers, that has to be managed carefully.

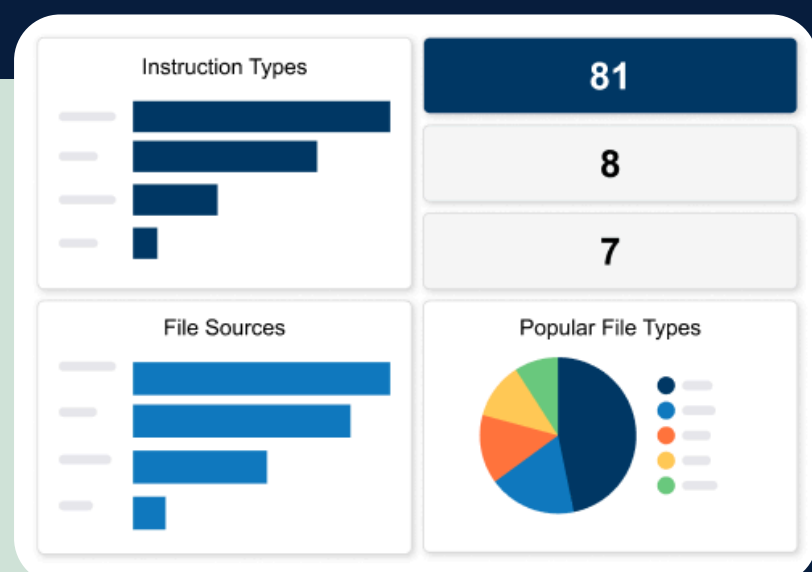
The White Paper sets out a vision for every child to achieve and thrive, but delivering that vision places real demands on teachers. Without careful attention to workload, the risk is that well-intentioned initiatives simply add to an already unsustainable burden. The schools getting this right are finding ways to embed new practices into existing workflows, rather than layering them on top.

Approaches That Are Making a Difference

- ✓ **Voice feedback** — enabling teachers to give richer, more personal feedback in less time than written marking requires, while also modelling oracy for pupils.
- ✓ **Reusable resources** — building a shared library of high-quality materials that colleagues can adapt and deploy, rather than each teacher starting from scratch.
- ✓ **AI-assisted feedback tools** — helping teachers maintain consistency and quality in feedback across large volumes of work.
- ✓ **Streamlined workflows** — reducing the administrative friction around setting, collecting and returning work.
- ✓ **Quality assurance without adding to leadership load** — enabling school and trust-level oversight without creating additional monitoring tasks.
- ✓ **Built-in assessments** — creating, managing and grading quizzes in one place.

With Showbie

Showbie's Shared Libraries support consistent practice across teams, while built-in Assessments provide real-time results and highlight areas for improvement with AI-powered insights. Auditor Accounts give leaders visibility across classes, and quick marking tools are designed to give teachers time back.



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