



Executive Summary: Primary Subject Leader Network Report 2025/26

July 2026

Overview

The 2025/26 academic year saw the successful delivery of 13 Primary Subject Leader networks across three terms. These networks remain a cornerstone of professional development within the Hounslow Education Partnership (HEP), supported by high-quality subject specialists from both HEP and the London West Alliance (LWA). This year was defined by two significant operational enhancements that streamlined administration and improved participant access: the launch of a centralised Subject Leader database and the adoption of the Padlet dashboard.

Key operational developments

- **Database Implementation:** The new database allows Headteachers to update subject leader registers in real-time, enabling HEP to maintain accurate contact lists and attendance records. This shift has significantly reduced administrative overhead, allowing facilitators to dedicate more time to session delivery.
- **Padlet Integration:** The introduction of the Padlet dashboard provided a centralised, interactive communication platform. All 13 subjects utilised this space to host meeting links, agendas and shared resources. Feedback confirms the platform's success in making session materials accessible, even to those unable to attend meetings, though there is a clear demand for further training on its navigation.

Attendance and participation analysis

Data analysis from the 2025/26 period shows a divergence between registered delegates and actual attendance. While the database has increased the number of registered contacts by roughly 50%, attendance numbers have remained consistent with previous years.

- 60% of Subject Leaders attended all three sessions, while 32% attended two.
- Primary challenges for non-attendance include high workloads, school-based commitments (trips, parents' evenings, INSET days) and logistical issues such as illness.
- While attendance numbers are stable, facilitators noted that technical barriers (such as school devices lacking functioning cameras/microphones) hampered live interaction, leading to a dynamic where a small, active group dominated verbal discussions while others remained passive.



Impact and evaluative feedback

Evaluation from 193 delegates indicates high levels of satisfaction, with the networks consistently delivering on collaboration and professional growth.

- 86% of delegates reported success in sharing practice and gathering ideas from peers and facilitators, effectively reducing professional isolation.
- 78% felt their confidence as subject leaders increased and 73% felt better equipped to support teacher planning and delivery.
- 90% of delegates felt the quality of subject specialists met their expectations.
- 80% of delegates found the Padlet platform useful for accessing network materials and 83% reported that communication regarding the tool was clear.

Strategic Reflections and Future Directions

The 2025/26 report highlights a clear path for continuous improvement as HEP prepares for the 2026/27 cycle.

Key areas for development:

- Future sessions will prioritise assessment, moderation and progress monitoring; SEND and adaptive teaching; and Ofsted/statutory update preparedness.
- Delegates expressed a strong desire for more opportunities to showcase work, arrange school visits and engage in deeper, less lecture-heavy breakout discussions.
- To improve quality, facilitators suggest establishing clearer protocols regarding delegate attendance (e.g. camera/microphone readiness) and increasing the frequency of face-to-face, practical sessions.

Outlook for 2026/27

HEP will continue to host 13 networks in the upcoming year. Partnerships with St Mary's University, Twickenham, are strengthening, with new leadership for the Computing network, ensuring continuity and expertise. HEP remains committed to evolving the network format to balance information delivery with the interactive, collaborative environment that Subject Leaders value most.