



## **Annual Conference 2026 Learning outcomes**

The SLA annual conference is the only conference of its kind for school librarians, this event brings together leading voices in education, literacy, publishing and library practice. The programme has been designed to inspire, challenge and present practical tools and reading engagement strategies that can be immediately implemented in the school library

The conference is relevant to experienced librarians, those new to school libraries, and other educational staff who contribute to their whole school reading culture, including senior leaders and literacy leads. The two days offer practical and aspirational opportunities and outcomes for everyone involved:

### **Reading Culture & Engagement:**

- Understand the current national reading landscape and its implications for school libraries, through input from leading sector organisations.
- Explore what it means to be a reader, especially in the context of social, cultural, and educational change.
- Recognise the value of graphic novels and comics in promoting reading for pleasure and literacy in schools.
- Obtain awareness and inspiration into the creative process and reader engagement from authors like Dame Jacqueline Wilson and Jamie Smart.

### **Thought Leadership:**

- Apply the “Third Space” approach to media literacy, positioning the school library as a dynamic, interactive learning environment.
- Explore the concept of empathy, understanding how libraries can be a vehicle for empathy in every school community

### **Developing Library Practice:**

- Implement inclusive practices for SEND and wellbeing, using case studies and best practice examples.
- Support your pupils using accessible formats, including audio, braille, tactile books, and sensory storytelling.

- Build reading communities through enrichment activities and partnerships with organisations like the Federation of Children’s Book Groups.
- Use creative writing and storytelling to enhance literacy, confidence, and engagement in the library space.

### **Exploring Issues:**

- Gain strategies to engage more readers, through diverse narratives and fiction that resonates with young people.
- Reflect on censorship and intellectual freedom, with practical insights from the Open Pages project.
- Understand how fiction reflects and responds to real-world issues affecting children and young people today.

Beyond the specific learnings to be gained from the conference there will be opportunities to:

- Expand professional networks and share best practice
- Learn alongside fellow librarians and school staff
- Engage with over 30 exhibitors from the library sector and publishing world
- Discover new resources, tools to foster ideas and build connections for the future

### **Booking Information:**

To find rates and book go to – [Register Now](#)

**Not a member?** Consider joining the SLA for £120 per year(+VAT) your membership will almost offset the additional conference fees. Membership gives you access to our resources, free or discounted training and support for a whole year, for up to 10 members of staff in your school.