



Dear Greater Manchester Reception Class Teachers,

We wrote to you last September about an exciting new programme being offered to all reception classes across Greater Manchester (GM). Fully funded by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the NHS Mental Health in Education Programme, the Think Equal programme has been developed to support our youngest learners with social, cognitive and wellbeing skills, whilst simultaneously alleviating additional workload and stress for members of staff.

GM is the first UK city-region to take up this award-winning, evidence-based early years programme and there are **already 596 Reception classes across GM signed up to deliver Think Equal**. That means, almost **16,000 children are already benefiting** from this powerful programme and learning to be more resilient, emotionally regulated and mentally healthy for the future.

Think Equal is being fully funded for delivery in every single reception class across GM and so we are writing to you once again to see if your reception class would like to be included in a second rollout so that you can begin delivering the Think Equal programme in your classroom in the 23/24 academic year.

ABOUT THINK EQUAL

Think Equal is a global social and emotional learning (SEL) programme which offers a foundation in social justice and mental health between the ages of three and six in order to ensure increased positive life outcomes. The programme is fully aligned with the EYFS curriculum and teaches 25 skills and competencies to help children through their Early Childhood Education. These skills lay the prosocial foundations within the developing brain which leads to successful futures, both for the individual child and wider community.

Children learn, for example, to:

- Manage their own emotions and impulsive behaviours.
- Build their confidence and self-esteem.
- Have empathy and show consideration for others.
- Solve problems effectively and learn to resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Build critical thinking skills and make responsible decisions.
- Maintain healthy relationships and learn to collaborate.

Designed by global experts in the fields of education, human rights, neuroscience and psychology, the Think Equal programme is evidence-based, holistic, easy to use and impactful - designed to support educators by providing the training and tangible tools to bridge the gap between objectives

and practice within a classroom environment. Think Equal offers a narrative based approach and is delivered flexibly through a collection of picture books with accompanying teachers notes and lesson plans. Link to the schools programme section of the website for the more information:

<https://thinkequal.org/>

As you know, increasing scientific testing and evaluation has been done of SEL generally, proving that acquiring SEL skills in childhood leads to monumental success:

- Better academic prospects. Studies prove a rise in academic marks between 11% and 17% in children who learn these SEL skills in early childhood.
- Having improved social and emotional intelligence means children are more connected at school and likely to do well, and are less likely to be left out or bullied
- Improved attitudes and behaviours as well as school climates, with improved relationships between students and teachers
- Decreases in anxiety, anger, aggression, and increases in positive behaviours and social competence

Feedback from teachers across GM delivering the Think Equal Programme	
<i>"The books and planning are straightforward to follow."</i>	Oldham Teacher - 2023
<i>"Great resources, good size text to show to the class, suitable length for concentration and excellent choice of story. The skin tone activity was really good for challenging the misconceptions around "black / white / brown."</i>	Manchester Teacher - 2022
<i>"We started Marvellous Me this week and it was well received by children. They enjoyed reading the book and relating it to their own classmates. The resources were also great for the children to use in provision."</i>	Rochdale Teacher - 2022
<i>"The books are fantastic, and they are definitely making the children think about things in a different way."</i>	Salford Teacher - 2023
<i>"The books are beautiful and inclusive. As an accredited school of sanctuary this project will provide a positive start for our youngest children."</i>	Salford Teacher - 2022

MORE INFORMATION EVENTS

We are offering this **fully funded programme to every reception class across Greater Manchester**, as we believe it is the right of every child to grow up with these skills, particularly during a time in which the need for social and emotional learning has never been more critical.

We have scheduled a number of online information sessions which you are invited, to learn more about the Think Equal programme. To join one of these sessions, please click on one of the links below to register your attendance:

- [Monday 20th March – 07:45 – 08:45](#)
- [Monday 20th March – 16:00 – 17:00](#)
- [Wednesday 22nd March – 16:00 – 17:00](#)
- [Monday 27th March – 16:00 – 17:00](#)
- [Tuesday 28th March – 16:00 – 17:00](#)

If you are not available to join, the events will be recorded and forwarded onto all schools afterwards.

SIGN UP TO DELIVER THINK EQUAL IN YOUR RECEPTION CLASS

If Think Equal sounds like a programme you would like to deliver to your reception class in the 23/24 academic year, you can sign up via the link below. **Sign up closes on Friday 30th June** so if you need more information about the programme before you sign up, make sure you join one of the information events outlined above.

Please note, sign up is on a per classroom basis. If your school has more than one reception class, please complete separate forms for each class. [Sign up now using this link](#)

Signed,



LESLEE UDWIN
Founder and Chair of THINK EQUAL