

Frances Akinde – SEN Inspector/Adviser



Frances joined HIAS as a Special Needs Inspector/Adviser in 2023. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, having held a variety of leadership positions over the past twenty years both across primary, secondary and special/alternative provision, as well as within a local authority. Her experience ranges from Art & Design Technology teacher to SLCN advisory teacher, qualified SENCO and headteacher of a Secondary Special School (11-19) for learners with Autism and associated difficulties.

Over two decades of experience in education has enabled Frances to:

- develop a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by students with special needs
- develop a passion for ensuring inclusion and success
- foster an inclusive and supportive environment, where every student has opportunity to thrive.

In her HIAS role, Frances will utilise her expertise to:

- provide guidance and support to schools and educators
- work closely with school leaders and teachers to develop effective strategies that meet the diverse needs of their students.

Frances' commitment to promoting inclusivity and addressing educational inequities extends beyond HIAS. Her passion for advocacy has led her to actively participate in national campaigns, including on intersectionality, specifically the intersection of race and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In January 2023, Frances co-launched the BAMEed SEND hub as part of the BAMEed Network; a dynamic network that strives to foster diversity and tackle racial disparities in the field of education.

Frances also dedicates her efforts to promoting awareness and understanding of neurodiversity. She actively engages with organisations and initiatives that emphasise embracing the unique strengths and perspectives of individuals with neurodivergent traits, fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates and supports diverse needs and abilities.