



Research Newsletter

Spring 2026

Issue 10

Compiled By Jenny Davis

For further information about research projects and Research Board Meetings please contact:
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Research News from PLASN-R



Podcasts to support the best current practice in Autism teaching

PLASN-R are producing Podcasts to highlight developments in autism practice and the latest research that supports our understanding of how to help students to meet the challenges they face.

Daniel & Brian on movement confidence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNsoif-HOAU>

Brian was joined by Daniel Williams, a PhD researcher and assistant head teacher at Eagle Park School. They discuss Daniel's research on sensory processing in autistic children, focusing on how sensory data is processed and learned behaviors are developed. Daniel shares how his research influences classroom practices, encouraging more engaging and holistic teaching methods.

UCL Research Project at Springhallow:

Our collaboration with Researchers from UCL into **Movement and its impact on communication and learning** continues. Oak and Maple classes have welcomed Lucy (a research student from UCL). This research is part of the work that Brian and Daniel discuss in their podcast above. We look forward to working with Lucy throughout the summer term.

Louie & Brian on Appreciative Enquiry

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ozim_252ags

Brian and Louie make a primer for the upcoming PLASN-r meeting where they'll explore the topic of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers in autism education. They highlight the limitations of current CPD practices, emphasizing the need for a more practical and collaborative approach. The conversation introduces the concept of Appreciative Inquiry, a strengths-based model aimed at improving teaching practices by building on what already rocks! Brian might also go off on one to critique the framing of SEND as a crisis.

Appreciative Enquiry Shared with PLASN

I was able to share the practice of Enquiry that we have developed at Springhallow School, with other school leaders and practitioners from the PLASN-R Group. Many schools have adopted similar models but feedback suggested we had gone the furthest in moving away from the "deficit model" of teachers CPD. I believe we can be very proud of the work we have done over the past few years to develop such a high degree of collaboration and trust.

Jenny Davis

Springhallow Appreciative Enquiries 2026

Our teachers continue their research into how teaching can be improved for our students – they are currently collaborating in this year's Enquiry.

Our focus this year is enquiries into:

Delivering lessons and adapting our teaching in non core subjects i.e. NOT ENGLISH and MATHS to enable students to practice skills and develop independent learning across the whole curriculum.

We look forward to sharing our findings in the summer term.

Research Board

The role of our Research Board is to decide what the key issues are for Springhallow School.

Our Research Board welcomes participation from Senior Leadership, Teaching and Therapy Staff, Parents, Governors and very importantly, Pupils.

The next meeting of the Springhallow Research Board will be Wednesday 22/04/2026 15:30 - 16:30.

If you are interested in contributing to the work of the Research Board please /contact Jenny Davis (Research Co-Ordinator)