



Evidence shows that CPD helps retain staff and the School Library Association believes that attendance at the SLA weekend course allows for this vital professional development, training and networking.

Please use any of these statements that you think may help influence an argument for you attending the annual weekend course for CPD and networking opportunities. Let us know if a particular argument has worked for you, and may therefore help others.

In terms of professional development library staff should:

- Have the same entitlement to INSET and Continuing Professional Development opportunities as teaching staff
- Be allowed time to network with other school librarians and actively participate in professional groups outside their school
- Be able to keep up to date with current library and educational trends, enabling the school library to subsequently play a full part in school development and act effectively and in a proactive manner to support the developing needs of all curriculum departments within school

Feedback from the previous SLA Weekend Course:

- 100% said they definitely or mostly considered the SLA weekend course good value for money
- Most attendees had attended a SLA weekend course or training a few or multiple times previously, demonstrating their value
- Just over 10% were first time attenders and stated they felt welcome

Comments from delegates at the 2019 Birmingham Aston Weekend Course:

- Wonderful CPD opportunities
- Excellent mix of primary and secondary breakout sessions
- Good networking, lots of inspiring ideas and informative sessions
- Being a lone librarian it's enormously valuable to be able to network/engage with others in person
- These conferences are enriching and inspirational, an essential 'recharging of the batteries' for people who often work solo.
- WOW! I got so many free books for our library!
- Fantastic event - thank you all!

School libraries have been found to positively impact the below, and to do this effectively library staff need access to CPD, networking and book and educational knowledge, all of which is provided at the Weekend Course, making it cost effective and efficient.

- Pupils' general academic attainment
- Reading and writing skills
- Wider learning skills
- Pupils' scores in history, mathematics and science
- Pupils' reading enjoyment, reading behaviour and attitudes towards reading
- Motivation and attitudes
- Personal and interpersonal outcomes, such as self-esteem and the feeling of success and accomplishment

(The National Literacy Trust, 2017)