

ACAMIS PD Advisory Forum

Insights from the Innaugral Forum, held on the 3rd September 2026.

The ACAMIS PD Advisory Forum met for the first time in September, bringing together 13 colleagues involved in leading and coordinating professional learning across ACAMIS member schools.

The Forum was established to provide an additional channel for member insight to inform ACAMIS professional learning beyond the annual conferences. It also creates a regular opportunity to share practice, identify emerging needs and strengthen connections across the network.

As an initial conversation with a small group of member schools, the discussion should not be taken as representative of professional learning across the wider ACAMIS membership. Rather, the themes below offer an early indication of some of the questions and priorities currently occupying colleagues responsible for professional learning.

Greater intentionality in professional learning

Participants described efforts to connect professional learning more deliberately to school priorities and longer-term development. This included greater attention to the purpose of professional learning, how opportunities are selected and how individual learning connects to wider school goals. There was also concern about isolated or 'one and done' experiences that are not supported beyond the initial activity.

Sustaining learning beyond the initial experience

The discussion highlighted the importance of what happens after professional learning takes place. Participants shared approaches including inquiry, PLCs and other collaborative structures intended to support implementation and continued learning over time. Questions about impact were also raised, including what evidence schools can reasonably use to understand whether professional learning has influenced practice.

Decisions about where expertise comes from

Schools are drawing on different combinations of internal and external expertise. Participants discussed decisions about when to develop capacity internally and when an external facilitator, specialist or programme can add value to a particular priority.

The discussion also highlighted the potential value of greater visibility across the network. ACAMIS schools collectively have considerable experience of working with external facilitators and experts, yet much of that knowledge currently sits within individual schools. Forum members expressed an interest in learning more from one another's experience, sharing successful practice and making useful connections when particular professional learning needs arise.

The next conversation

Forum members will be invited to share experience of external facilitators, speakers and experts they have worked with, are currently working with, or may be considering as part of future professional learning plans. The discussion will also provide an opportunity to identify areas where schools anticipate seeking external expertise in the future.

The intention is to encourage useful exchange between schools and begin to identify where experiences, contacts and future professional learning plans may connect across the network. The discussion will also provide ACAMIS and PeerSphere, as ACAMIS's workshop coordinator, with further insight to inform the curation of future workshops, speakers and themes.

The Forum will meet again on **19 November**, with further relevant insights shared with the wider ACAMIS membership following the discussion.

If you missed the first forum but would like to get involved, please email events@peer-sphere.com

Next Forum:

Thursday 19 November | 4:00–5:00pm