

The ‘What are we learning about...?’ series is designed to make public the learning that has emerged from NCSL’s Networked Learning Communities (NLC) programme and other initiatives during the last three years. The aim is to generate useful and usable knowledge for practitioners and policy-makers. We intend to produce readable and practical publications, that enable some of the current learning about networking and collaboration, from both NLCs and the wider knowledge-base, to be shared more widely.

Each edition in the series includes:

- Accounts of practice, written by practitioners, that provide concrete examples of networked learning.
- Articles and think pieces drawn from the public knowledge-base that try to make sense of what is known in order to provoke and inform new thinking.
- Development tools that enable system leaders and network leaders to work with others in order to develop, analyse and reflect on practice.

What are we  
learning about...?

## Facilitation within school networks

In this fifth edition in the series, we outline what we have found to be the characteristics of effective facilitation within school learning networks and describe what they look like in practice.

We also look at how network facilitation involves:

- **The facilitation of network development** – generating a shared focus on pupil learning by drawing network members together around a compelling idea and supporting professional development and leadership learning at all levels.
- **The facilitation of networked learning** – utilising collaborative learning processes which optimise opportunities for learning from, with and on behalf of one another, at the school, network and system levels.
- **The facilitation of networked enquiry** – developing collaborative approaches to enquiry which generate network data intelligence and collective knowledge about professional practice and the leadership of learning.
- **The facilitation of network knowledge creation and transfer** – brokering the blending of knowledge from theory and practice with the creation and communication of new knowledge derived from collaborative work.

These ideas are then illustrated through a series of think pieces, accounts of practice and development tools designed to share the best of what we are learning about network facilitation. We hope that the publication will be of use to you if you are considering setting up a network, are part of a newly formed or established network, or if you are simply interested in finding out more about facilitation within school learning networks and its potential benefits for all.

Networked Learning Communities

learning from each other learning with each other learning on behalf of each other

Networked Learning Communities

Facilitation within school networks

What are we learning about...?

NCSL National College for School Leadership

## What are we learning about...?

The ‘What are we learning about...?’ series is designed to make public the learning that has emerged from NLCs in the last three years.

The first seven titles in the series will focus on:  
**What are we learning about...?**

- LEA involvement in school networks
- Establishing a network of schools
- Community leadership in networks
- ‘*Making mathematics count*’ in school networks
- **Facilitation within school networks**
- Sustaining a network of schools
- Leadership of school networks

To order a copy of this series, please email  
**nlc@ncsl.org.uk** quoting the reference  
**WAWLA/Facilitation within school networks**.  
Alternatively you can download this  
publication at **www.ncsl.org.uk/nlc**

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# Facilitation within school networks

*“Successful network facilitators support organisational structures to connect schools within the network. They act as information brokers and support the development of knowledge and skills that help network members make smart decisions”*

Priscilla Wohlstetter

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