



HEADTEACHERS

Networking and collaboration

A role for outstanding school leaders and their schools

Why should you become a National
Leader of Education and your school
a National Support School?

“Success for our most vulnerable children and for our most challenging schools will only come when all of us in an educational leadership role regard it as our fundamental moral purpose to ensure that all children and young people experience the very best learning and well-being opportunities, no matter which school they go to. My hope for this initiative is that it will attract our most successful school leaders to demonstrate their leadership in our toughest schools”

Steve Munby, Chief Executive, National College for School Leadership



Being a National Leader of Education (NLE) is about using your skills and those of your staff to make a difference to the educational experience of more children:

- In addition to running their own excellent schools NLEs work with their National Support School (NSS) staff in schools that are facing challenging circumstances.
- They and their team work to increase the leadership capacity in these schools and thus help to raise standards.
- Their fundamental moral purpose is to ensure that there is a good school for every child.

Being an NLE is an opportunity not just for you but for your staff:

- It is an opportunity to move beyond the leadership of one school to a wider role providing leadership to the system.
- It is the natural next step for an outstanding headteacher.
- NSS staff can extend their experience and gain important career development opportunities.
- It can help with succession planning within your own school by providing opportunities for promotion.

“If you feel you can do it take it with both hands it is a wonderful opportunity. To take on helping others is quite an arduous task but if you are up for it, is probably the best job in the world.”

John Steel, NLE, Prince Henry's Grammar

Being an NLE means having a voice to:

- Meet and influence national politicians and other key figures.
- Advise NCSL on future development strategies.
- Network with other NLEs and colleagues from across the profession at a national level.

Only the very best can be designated as an NLE/NSS

Characterised as professional, skilled, creative, innovative and inspirational, NLEs and their NSS must satisfy demanding criteria.

Essential criteria of an NLE:

- A serving headteacher, with successful headship experience in one or more schools for a minimum of three years and normally longer.
- An Ofsted inspection outcome since September 2005 that is outstanding overall, outstanding for leadership and management and for capacity to improve. If one of the three grades is a grade 2, consideration will be given to the application and any issue/s will be further explored through a school visit. Consideration will also be given in exceptional circumstances to applications from headteachers and schools that have been in an Ofsted category of Special Measures or Notice to Improve and have since been judged (in a Section 5 Inspection subsequent to that which removed the category) to be at least good overall and with good capacity to improve. In such circumstances a school visit will also be undertaken.
- Evidence of improved performance and/or sustained high performance and value added scores that exceed local authority and national averages.
- Leading a school with the quality, capacity and experience of staff to provide support to another school.

Essential criteria of an NSS:

- Evidence that senior and middle level leadership within the school is very good or outstanding.
- Evidence that the school has a range of staff at all levels with coaching and mentoring skills.
- Judgement on quality of teaching in most recent Ofsted inspection at least good and with evidence of a significant proportion of outstanding teaching within the school.

Essential criteria of an NLE and NSS:

- Experience of having provided additional and successful support to at least one other school (eg as a School Improvement Partner, Consultant or Advanced Skilled Teacher)
- Experience of working successfully either in or with a school recognised as facing challenging circumstances
- Ability to work sensitively and collaboratively with a range of partners and stakeholders

NLEs with their NSS are already having an impact:

- Over 30,000 pupils in struggling schools received support during 2007.
- Since November 2006, when the initiative was launched, secondary schools that NLE/NSS have worked with have increased their 5 or more A* to C grades by 3.5 per cent, a relative increase of 9 per cent. NSS results have increased by 3.6 per cent a relative increase of 5.5 per cent. This compares with 2.5 per cent (4.1 per cent relative increase) nationally for all schools.
- In primary schools, there has been a 6.4 per cent increase in the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or better in English SATS results for the schools supported, and a 5 per cent increase in the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or better in Maths SATS results for the schools supported.
- The average turnaround time for secondary schools in special measures with NLE/NSS intervention is 12 months – significantly lower than the national average turnaround time of 22 months.

To find out more about the role go to [**www.ncsl.org/nle**](http://www.ncsl.org/nle).

Publications and resources also available from NCSL:

NCSL programmes for school leaders at all levels. **www.ncsl.org.uk/programmes**

Publications and resources available to download and order. **www.ncsl.org.uk/publications**

The Leadership Network brings together the experience and ideas of school leaders across the country to create a powerful focus for change and development in school leadership. **www.ncsl.org.uk/leadershipnetwork**

The Leadership Library is a free unique resource bringing together some of the best leadership and management thinking from around the world. **www.ncsl.org.uk/leadershiplibrary**

The Learning Gateway is a single access point to all NCSL's online learning tools and resources. It provides access to talk2learn, a vibrant online community of over 120,000 members. **www.ncsl.org.uk/learninggateway**

The Tomorrow's leaders today campaign is about finding, developing and keeping great headteachers. **www.ncsl.org.uk/tomorrowsleaderstoday**

ECM Leadership Direct is an online resource exploring the implications for Every Child Matters for schools and school leaders. **www.ncsl.org.uk/ecmleadershipdirect**

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