



# Specialist Leader in Education

## **Application & Assessment Process**

October 2014

# Background to becoming an SLE

- Since 2011, over 4,900 Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE) have been designated (5,000 is the Government's target by 2014-15).

Specialist Leader of Education status is **awarded by NCTL** following an application and assessment process **through the Teaching School** - St Hugh's Communication & Interaction Specialist College - with the Teaching School Alliance, Leading Learning Forward TSA.

# Who can become a Specialist Leader of Education?

- To become a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE), you will need to have been in a leadership role in school below the headteacher for at least two years .
- Meet the eligibility criteria as stated on the GOV.UK website and in the National College for Teaching & Leadership's (NCTL) application and reference form.
- The application and reference form can be downloaded from [www.leadinglearningforward.org.uk](http://www.leadinglearningforward.org.uk) until Friday 24 October 2014.

# Who can become a Specialist Leader of Education?

- You **do not** need to come from an outstanding school or from a school that is part of a teaching school alliance as long as your school has the capacity to release you for outreach work.

You must have **at least one specialism** from our areas of expertise which are based on the four areas of focus for Ofsted (as listed in the table on the next slide).

Ofsted focus	Areas of expertise
<b>Leadership and management</b>	Academies and academy transition; assessment; leadership of continuing professional development; school business management and financial management; leadership of curriculum
<b>Pupil achievement</b>	Art; closing the gap; drama; design and technology; early years; English; geography; history; information and communication technology; maths; modern foreign languages; music; phonics; physical education; personal, social and health education; religious education; science; special educational needs; support for the most able pupils
<b>Quality of teaching</b>	Initial teacher training and newly qualified teacher development
<b>Behaviour and safety</b>	Behaviour and discipline; attendance

## To be successful in your application, you should have:

- a **successful track record** of working effectively within your own school and/or across a group of schools, or working with a range of leaders within a single school
- **evidence** of successfully using coaching and/or facilitation skills to bring about sustainable improvements
- **excellent communication** and interpersonal skills
- an **understanding of what constitutes ‘outstanding’** in your field of expertise and the ability and confidence to communicate this
- an understanding of how your **specialism and skills** can contribute to wider school improvement goals
- an **analytical approach** in identifying and prioritising needs
- the ability to set and establish new and innovative working practices
- the **ability to grow leadership capacity** in others

You can also provide **supporting evidence** gained from completing leadership development opportunities such as:

the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership

the National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership

the SSAT Lead Practitioner accreditation

There is no cost to apply. Successful applicants will be entitled to some training at no cost to their school. However, the school will have to pay for associated travel or supply cover.

## Time commitment

- **SLE role lasts for 4 years**, at which time there will be a review.
- **Types of placements will vary.** For example, one might be a 2 day diagnostic exercise, while another might require a 3 month, full time support role. Time may be taken as a block of consecutive days or spread over a longer period.
- **No minimum or maximum time commitment.** You and your school will need to think carefully about capacity and negotiate your availability together.



# What next?

The application window is open **until Friday 24 October 2014.**

Applications must be accompanied by your headteacher's reference  
Send your completed application and reference to:

[LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk)

**For the attention of:** Tracy Millard

Shortlisting, interview and assessment process takes place in  
November.

Initial regional one day induction training takes place in the Spring  
Term following formal approval of appointment by NCTL.

**For further information** from NCTL, please e-mail:

[SLE.enquiries@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SLE.enquiries@education.gsi.gov.uk)

For an informal conversation or to request assistance with the application process, please e-mail Tracy Millard:

[LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk)

**Good luck!** We look forward to receiving your completed application and reference form **by Friday 24 October 2014.**