

## **Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

There are two parts to the FAQs in this document.

Part 1 is taken from the DFE website and answers questions relating to the National Teaching School Programme. Part 2 answers questions directly relating to the Leading Learning Forward TSA.

#### **1. National Teaching School Programme FAQs (from DFE website)**

<http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/index/support-for-schools/teachingschools/teachingschools-frequently-asked-questions.htm>

#### **Questions**

1. What are teaching schools and what do they do?
2. Where has the idea come from?
3. Who can become a teaching school?
4. Does my school need to be a national support school in order to become a teaching school?
5. How can my school become a teaching school?
6. When is the next opportunity to apply?
7. Can we make a joint application with another school?
8. Can there be more than one teaching school in an area?
9. What if my school doesn't quite meet the criteria?
10. How long does teaching school designation last?
11. What is the process for review and de-designation?
12. Is there an appeals process for designation or de-designation decisions?
13. What is a teaching school alliance?
14. Can a school be involved in more than one alliance?
15. What is a strategic partner and who can become one?
16. What does this new approach mean for schools that do not plan to become teaching schools themselves?

## Answers

### 1. What are teaching schools and what do they do?

A teaching school is an outstanding school that has a strong track record of collaborative working, and has been designated by us to play a key role in the leadership of a teaching school alliance. This new designation gives outstanding schools the role of leading the training and professional development of teachers, support staff and headteachers as well as contributing to the raising of standards through school-to-school support. Teaching schools will bring together provision for training and development from initial teacher training (ITT) through to headship under a single school designation.

### 2. Where has the idea come from?

In 2009, following consultation with schools, we drew up proposals for a new single designation for schools with the Teaching Agency for Schools. Subsequently, the Schools White Paper (December 2010) outlined the government's plans to raise standards and improve the quality of teachers and school leadership through school-to-school support, and peer-to-peer learning. As part of these plans we have been asked to develop and quality assure the designation of teaching schools. The first year of the programme (until September 2012) will be considered a design and development year. More information on the background and vision for teaching schools can be found on the [vision and background page](#).

### 3. Who can become a teaching school?

We believe it is important that schools of all types have the opportunity to share their skills, expertise and knowledge to support the wider school system, provided they meet the criteria. We are looking for outstanding schools, with a strong track record of collaborative working. Please see the [eligibility criteria](#) for full details.

### 4. Does my school need to be a national support school in order to become a teaching school?

No. You do not need to be a [national leader of education \(NLE\)/national support school \(NSS\)](#) in order to become a teaching school. However, national support schools may find that the school-to-school support experience they gain will help them with a future teaching school application. This year we are offering schools the option to apply for both the NLE/NSS programme and teaching schools designation using a single application form. If you apply through this route we will assess your eligibility for both programmes.

### 5. How can my school become a teaching school?

Applications are made online via our website. We have published some [application guidance](#) which provides information on the application process and also explains how applications will be assessed, including gathering anonymous feedback on applicants' suitability to become teaching schools. Any school that applies may also be subject to a visit to explore and verify information provided in the application form. Please see the [apply page](#) for more information.

### 6. When is the next opportunity to apply?

The [apply page](#) has information about the next application round.

### **7. Can we make a joint application with another school?**

In the first application round, we gave schools the option of making a job-share application together with one other school. However, in response to feedback from schools, we have decided to remove the cap on the number of teaching schools that can be designated in any one alliance. Rather than offer the job-share option where only two schools could be designated, we will now allow any number of teaching schools to be designated within one alliance. Each teaching school designated in this way will still need to demonstrate that it meets all of the eligibility criteria. We hope this change will make the model even more flexible, without lowering the quality of the teaching schools we designate.

In submitting an application where more than one school is applying to become designated as a teaching school, the alliance will need to decide which school makes the application on its behalf. This school will also be the school that is held accountable, in the first instance, for any funding that is granted to the alliance. In the event that one of the teaching school applicants is not designated, the unsuccessful school will still be able to work as a strategic partner within the alliance.

### **8. Can there be more than one teaching school in an area?**

Yes. However it is worth bearing in mind that if, in any application round, the number of applications that meet the eligibility criteria exceeds the number of places available, a prioritisation process will be used. This fair and transparent process will take into consideration geographic coverage and representation of rural and urban contexts, as well as the representation of different types and phases of school, and the need to reflect the broad socio-economic mix of schools nationally.

### **9. What if my school doesn't quite meet the criteria?**

The criteria have been agreed by the Secretary of State and although at some point in the future we may be able to recommend that ministers review the criteria again, for the time being they are fixed. If you do not meet the criteria you may wish to consider becoming a [strategic partner](#) for another teaching school, which means you will still be able to take a lead role as part of a teaching school alliance. There are some other [options for schools that do not meet the criteria](#), including requesting an additional Ofsted inspection or applying for funding to help you build your capacity. Above all, it is important to remember that the model is not about one school doing it all. We very much see the model being about the establishment of strong teaching school alliances, with schools working together to deliver high quality training and development.

### **10. How long does teaching school designation last?**

Designation will usually be for four years, subject to teaching schools continuing to meet the criteria and carrying out the role effectively. The term is also dependent upon continuation of government funding. In order to ensure momentum in a teaching school's work (for example initial teacher training), the timing of re-assessment and re-designation, where appropriate, will be carefully managed.

If the headteacher of a teaching school leaves, the teaching school will not automatically lose its designation, however we will undertake an assessment to evaluate the capacity of the school to continue to support the work of the alliance.

### **11. What is the process for review and de-designation?**

Further information about the review of designation process, including the policy and teaching schools de-designation criteria can be found on our [review of designation page](#).

## **12. Is there an appeals process for designation or de-designation decisions?**

Yes. A process is already in place for making an appeal against judgements made by the teaching schools designation panel. There is also a process in place for making an appeal against judgements made by the teaching schools de-designation panel. Details on both these processes can be found in the [teaching schools designation appeals procedure](#).

## **13. What is a teaching school alliance?**

An alliance is a group of schools and other partners that commit to working collaboratively, supported by one or more teaching schools. It includes all those schools that benefit from the alliance by receiving support, as well as teaching schools and strategic partners that offer support. Alliances may be cross phase and cross sector, work across local authorities and may include different types of organisations. As [specialist leaders of education \(SLEs\)](#) can come from any school, we anticipate that over time most schools will be receiving and offering support to an alliance in one form or another.

## **14. Can a school be involved in more than one alliance?**

Yes. There are no rules around this and it is for schools themselves to agree. A school can belong to more than one teaching school alliance. A school could even be a strategic partner for more than one teaching school. If they wish, a school could decide at any point to leave one alliance and join another. Finally, a school that is part of an alliance could apply to become a teaching school themselves at a later date.

## **15. What is a strategic partner and who can become one?**

Strategic partners are schools, universities and others (that could include the academy chains, private sector, diocese or local authorities) that deliver particular aspects of the alliance's activity such as ITT, continuing professional development (CPD), leadership development or school-to-school support. The school making the teaching school application will be asked to name any strategic partners working with them to deliver aspects of their proposed teaching schools provision.

It is therefore important that they make you aware of what is involved before you agree to join their alliance on this basis. We will not play a role in this part of the process. The onus is on the teaching school applicant to organise their proposed alliance, including details of their proposed strategic partners, prior to submitting their application.

Teaching schools may have any number of strategic partners – there are no upper or lower limits - this is down to the individual teaching school applicant to decide, depending on their capacity to deliver.

## **16. What does this new approach mean for schools that do not plan to become teaching schools themselves?**

Overall, the teaching schools vision is about working collaboratively to ensure improvement across the system. We think that potentially every school can benefit from this new approach. If this approach is a success, teaching school alliances will help to:

- provide a strong supply of high quality new teachers
- significantly improve the quality of serving teachers
- develop great leaders and the next generation of headteachers
- support schools in need of support, and particularly have reduced the number of schools in special measures, notice to improve or below floor standard

### **This will lead to:**

- better results for pupils
- fewer poorly performing schools
- more good and outstanding schools
- a self-improving and sustainable system that is recognised as world class

## **2. Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance FAQs**

### **Questions**

1. What is the Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance?
2. Where is the “Leading Learning Forward TSA” based?
3. What do the letters TSA stand for?
4. Which is the lead teaching school?
5. Who are the strategic partners?
6. Who are the alliance partners?
7. How many partner organisations are there in the TSA?
8. When was the Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance established?
9. What does the TSA do?
10. Where can I find information about the TSA?
11. What is the ITT programme of the TSA?
12. What do the letters ITT stand for?
13. How do I apply for initial teacher training with this TSA?
14. What is the CPD & Leadership programme of the TSA?
15. What do the letters CPD stand for?
16. What school-to-school support is available?
17. How do I apply to become a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE)?
18. What do the letters SLE stand for?
19. What is the TSA’s Succession Planning & Talent Management Programme?
20. How does my organisation become a partner of the Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance?
21. Who should I contact for information about the TSA?

## Answers

### **1. What is Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance?**

Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance is a partnership of organisations approved and funded by the Department for Education (DFE). The Alliance was established in July 2013 and representatives of each partner organisation have signed a statement of commitment within a detailed Memorandum of Understanding. Leading Learning Forward TSA currently consists of over 100 partner and associate organisations of which from across North Lincolnshire and beyond.

### **2. Where is Leading Learning Forward TSA based?**

Leading Learning Forward TSA covers the geographical area of North Lincolnshire and beyond. St Hugh's National Teaching School is in Scunthorpe.

### **3. What do the letters TSA stand for?**

The letters TSA stand for Teaching School Alliance.

### **4. Which is the lead teaching school?**

St Hugh's School in Scunthorpe is the lead Teaching School. The headteacher is Tracy Millard, who chairs the TSA's Strategic Board and Alliance Partnership Group.

### **5. Who are the strategic partners?**

The strategic partners of the Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance are St Hugh's School, as the lead Teaching School, North Lincolnshire Council as the lead strategic partner. The full list of strategic partner organisations is currently as follows:

- *Lead Teaching School:* St Hugh's School
- *Lead Strategic Partner:* North Lincolnshire Council
- *Teaching School Strategic Partner:* The Humber Teaching School
- *Strategic Partner:* Bishop Grosseteste University (Higher Education)
- *Strategic Partner:* Hull University (Higher Education Institution)
- *Strategic Partner:* Huntcliff School (Secondary School)
- *Strategic Partner:* The Axholme Academy (Secondary School)
- *Strategic Partner:* The St Lawrence Academy (Secondary School)
- *Strategic Partner:* Frodingham Infant School (Primary School)
- *Strategic Partner:* Oakfield Primary School (Primary School)
- *Strategic Partner:* St Luke's Primary School (Primary School)
- *TSA Governor:* St Hugh's School

### **6. How many partner organisations are there in the TSA?**

The Leading Learning Forward TSA consists currently of over 100 partner and associate organisations.

## **7. When was Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance established?**

The Teaching School Alliance was established in July 2013.

## **8. Who are the alliance partners?**

The list of alliance partners within the Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance is currently as follows:

- Alkborough Primary School
- Bishop Grosseteste University: **Higher Education Institution (HEI) Partner**
- Brumby Junior School
- Bushfield Road Infant School
- Castledyke Primary School
- Crosby Primary School
- Coritani Academy (formerly YPEC)
- East Halton Primary School
- Fluent Coaching Ltd
- Frodingham Infant School
- Goxhill Primary School
- Huntcliff School
- Hull University (Strategic ITT Partner)
- Lincoln Gardens Primary School
- North Lincolnshire Council: **Lead Strategic Partner**
- North Lincolnshire Museum Service & Normanby Hall
- North Lincolnshire Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
- North Lincolnshire Children's Therapy Service (NHS)
- Oakfield Primary School
- St Barnabas C of E Primary School
- St Martin's Church of England Primary School
- St Hugh's School: **A National Teaching School**
- St Luke's Primary School
- The Axholme Academy
- The Humber Teaching School (**Strategic Teaching School Partner**)
- The St Lawrence Academy
- West Butterwick Church of England Primary School
- Westcliffe Primary School
- York St John University (**Strategic ITT Partner**)

## **9. What does the TSA do?**

Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance roles and responsibilities are outlined in the vision statement of the TSA. It reads as follows:

**Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance (LLF TSA)**, under the leadership of St Hugh's National Teaching School, will work, in partnership with The Humber Teaching School and other key strategic partners, to deliver significant

improvements in teaching, learning, leadership and governance across schools, colleges and academies in North Lincolnshire and beyond.

LLF TSA, in partnership with The Humber Teaching School and other key strategic partners, will impact positively on the school improvement priorities of these schools, colleges and academies, by providing inspirational leadership and support for:

- **Initial Teaching Training (ITT):** the recruitment, induction, training, assessment & employment of trainees seeking to enter the teaching profession;
- **Professional Learning (PL):** the planning, co-ordination, delivery, assessment and evaluation of continuing professional & leadership development (CPLD) for teachers, teaching assistants, school staff, leaders and governors;
- **Professional Support (PS):** the planning, negotiation, commissioning, coordination, development and evaluation of school-to-school support for teachers, teaching assistants, school staff, leaders and governors by system leaders: - *Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE), Local Leaders of Education (LLE), National Leaders of Education (NLE) and National Leaders of Governance (NLG).*

#### **10. Where can I find information about the TSA?**

For information about Leading Learning Forward TSA, please contact the Teaching School by phone on 01724 842960 or email [LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk) or visit the TSA website home page at [www.leadinglearningforward.org.uk](http://www.leadinglearningforward.org.uk)

#### **11. What is the ITT programme of the TSA?**

Details of the ITT programme offered by LLF TSA partner providers can be found on the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) section of this website.

#### **12. What do the letters ITT stand for?**

The letters ITT stand for Initial Teacher Training.

#### **13. How do I apply for initial teacher training with this TSA?**

Leading Learning Forward TSA provides a comprehensive initial teacher training programme (ITT) within and across the alliance partner schools. For more information about applying for the initial teacher training within this TSA, please contact the LLF Events Office by phone 01724 842960 or email [LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk) or visit the ITT section of the Leading Learning Forward TSA website.

#### **14. What is the Professional Learning programme of the TSA?**

Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance (TSA) provides a comprehensive Continuing Professional & Leadership Development (CPLD) programme within and across the alliance partner schools. The programme consists

of a variety of events, courses, workshops, conferences and in-school support. For more information about the programme, please contact the LLF Events Office by phone 01724 842960 or email [LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk) or visit the Professional Learning section of the Leading Learning Forward TSA website.

**15. What do the letters CPLD stand for?**

The letters CPLD stand for Continuing Professional & Leadership Development.

**16. What school-to-school support is available?**

Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance (TSA) provides a comprehensive programme of bespoke school-to-school support within and beyond alliance partner schools. For more information about the programme and to request an initial visit to discuss your requirements, please contact the LLF Events Office by phone 01724 842960 or email [LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk) or visit the Professional Support section of the Leading Learning Forward TSA website.

**17. How do I apply to become a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE)?**

Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance (TSA) runs an application, interview and training process for potential SLEs. For more information about the application process, please contact the LLF Events Office by phone 01724 842960 or email [LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLFEvents@northlincs.gov.uk) or visit the School-to-School Support section of the Leading Learning Forward TSA website.

**18. What do the letters SLE and LLE stand for?**

The letters SLE stand for Specialist Leader of Education and the letters LLE stand for Local Leader of Education.

**19. How does my organisation become a partner of the Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance?**

Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance (TSA) welcomes applications, requests for information and support from organisations outside the current list of alliance partners. For more information about the applying to become an alliance partner of the Leading Learning Forward TSA or to request an initial visit to discuss your application, please contact the Teaching School by phone on 01724 842960 or email [LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk) or visit the Join Us section of the Leading Learning Forward TSA website.

**20. Who should I contact for information about the TSA?**

For further information about Leading Learning Forward Teaching School Alliance (TSA), please refer to the Leading Learning Forward TSA website contact page. Alternatively, you can contact the Teaching School by phone on 01724 842960 or email [LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:LLF.TSA@northlincs.gov.uk)