



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

National leaders of education

www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/nle

National leaders of education (NLEs) are outstanding headteachers, principals, executive heads or chief executives who use their skills and experience to support other schools in challenging circumstances to develop their leadership capacity and help raise standards. NLEs are designated with their school which becomes a national support school (NSS).

1. The Schools White Paper (2010) announced further expansion of the NLE programme giving the target to designate 1,000 NLEs by 2014. There are currently over 800 NLEs.
2. The performance of schools in challenging circumstances supported by NLEs has improved by four per cent (primary schools) and five per cent (secondary schools) more than similar schools not supported by NLEs. In the vast majority of cases, the schools providing this support have either maintained or improved their high exam performance.
3. To apply, you must have at least three years' experience of leading a successful school, and be an outstanding serving headteacher, principal, executive head or chief executive with previous experience of outreach support and responsibility for a school that meets the programme's criteria.
4. Deployments can be brokered by a number of organisations including local authorities, dioceses, teaching schools and academy chains. NLEs may also directly approach schools or be approached by schools to provide support.
5. NLEs and NSSs typically work with schools and academies in the most challenging circumstances. The types of activities undertaken by a NLE/NSS are a matter of professional judgement agreed between the organisation receiving support, the NLE/NSS providing support, and any separate organisation involved in the commissioning and/or brokering of the support.
6. The length and intensity of NLE/NSS deployments can vary significantly depending on the capacity and context of the NSS and the challenges facing the supported school. It is not uncommon for deployments to involve up to three-to-four days of support per week for two years or more, although there is an expectation that progress and improvements will be evidenced throughout the deployment.
7. All newly designated NLEs are invited to attend an induction workshop and have access to regular system leader network meetings throughout the programme.
8. NLEs who have an interest in challenging themselves even further and broadening their perspective to influence the wider education landscape as system leaders can also become involved in our Fellowship Programme. This programme has been highly influential, contributing to policy on governance and the development of teaching schools.
9. To read the full eligibility criteria, find out more information or to apply, please visit www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/nle.

