



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Teaching Schools and System Leadership

January 2017

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Summary

This is the third in a series of publications to track the expansion of the network of system leaders. It presents the numbers of system leaders (NLEs, teaching schools and NLGs) designated by the National College for Teaching and Leadership as at 1 January 2017. Readers should be aware that that the figures in this publication may differ from the numbers derived from the [school to school support directory](#) which is intended to be used as a live tool to find a teaching school or system leader.

Expiry or review date

This information is published on a monthly basis reflecting the latest data at the start of the month. The next update is due in February 2017.

Who is this publication for?

This publication is for:

- School leaders, school staff and governing bodies in all maintained schools, academies and free schools

Main points

As at 1 January 2017, across England there were:

- 598 teaching school alliances, the same number as in December 2016
- 765 teaching schools, equal to the number in December 2016
- 1,241 national leaders of education, 5 more than in December 2016
- 503 national leaders of governance, a decrease of 1 from the previous month

Introduction

The Education Excellence Everywhere White Paper published in March 2016 states that the Department for Education will significantly expand the number of teaching schools and national leaders of education – with a targeted approach focused on areas where they are most needed in order to create a comprehensive national network of school-led support for leaders to draw on as they choose. The paper also states a commitment to ensure all schools in all areas can access support, collaboration and best practice by ensuring full coverage of system leaders across the country, with up to 300 more teaching schools and 800 more NLEs targeted where most needed. In addition, the 2015 Conservative Manifesto committed to expand the National Leaders of Education programme.

Teaching Schools and Teaching School Alliances (TSAs)

Teaching schools¹ are currently outstanding schools that work with others to provide high-quality training and development to new and experienced school staff. They are part of the plan to give schools a central role in raising standards by developing educational excellence everywhere. Teaching School Alliances (TSAs) are a group of schools, led by a Teaching School that work together to bring about improvements across the schools, focussing on initial teacher training, school to school support and professional development.

As at 1 January 2017 there were 598 teaching school alliances across England and 765 teaching schools. Both numbers were the same as in December 2016. The majority of TSAs had one teaching school although some had as many as 5 or 6. Teaching schools were present in all nine English regions and in 149 out of 150 local authorities (LAs)². The Isle of Wight is the only LA not to have a teaching school although it should be noted that teaching schools and teaching school alliances can work across local authority boundaries. The South East had the highest number of teaching schools with a total of 114 (14.9%). The North East had the lowest number of teaching schools with 46 (6.0%).

¹ Further information available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/system-leaders-who-they-are-and-what-they-do>

² City of London and Isles of Scilly are excluded from the analysis as they only have one school.

Region	Number of Teaching Schools	% of all Teaching Schools
North East	46	6.0
North West	106	13.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	86	11.2
East Midlands	53	6.9
West Midlands	88	11.5
East of England	84	11.0
London	112	14.6
South East	114	14.9
South West	76	9.9
Grand Total	765	100.0

Table 1: Number of Teaching Schools by Region

Source: NCTL Management Information

National Leaders of Education (NLEs)

National Leaders of Education³ are excellent head teachers who, together with the staff from their National Support Schools (NSS), provide direct support to other schools, particularly those in challenging circumstances to help them improve by providing additional leadership capacity and expertise.

As at 1 January 2017 there were 1,241 national leaders of education, an increase of 5 from the previous month. The vast majority of NLEs belong to different schools and only 35 schools have 2 or more NLEs. NLEs were present in 149 out of 150 LAs⁴. The Isle of Wight is the only LAs to not have a NLE although NLEs can work across local authority boundaries. NLEs were present in all regions. The North West has acquired 5 additional NLEs since December 2016 to overtake the South East as the region with the highest number of NLEs at 180 (14.5%) compared to 177 (14.3%) in the South East, a decrease of 2 since December 2016. The North East the lowest number of NLEs at 76 (6.1%), the same number as the previous month.

³ Further information available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/system-leaders-who-they-are-and-what-they-do>

⁴ City of London and Isles of Scilly are excluded from the analysis as they only have one school.

Region	Number of NLEs	% of all NLEs	Change in NLEs from December 2016
North East	76	6.1	0
North West	180	14.5	5
Yorkshire and the Humber	145	11.7	-1
East Midlands	110	8.9	4
West Midlands	131	10.6	3
East of England	113	9.1	0
London	178	14.3	3
South East	177	14.3	-2
South West	123	9.9	0
Not Applicable	8	0.6	-7
Grand Total	1,241	100.0	5

Table 2: Number of NLEs by Region

Source: NCTL Management Information

National Leaders of Governance (NLGs)

National Leaders of Governance⁵ are highly effective chairs of governors who use their skills and experience to provide coaching and mentoring support to another chair of governors to improve school and academy performance. In some cases, they work in partnership with a National Leader of Education.

There were 503 national leaders of governance as at 1 January 2017, a decrease of 1 from the previous month. 134 LAs had at least one NLG. NLGs were present in every region. Yorkshire and the Humber had the highest number of NLGs at 84 (16.7%) and the North East the lowest at 28 (5.6%).

⁵ Further information available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/system-leaders-who-they-are-and-what-they-do>

Region	Number of NLGs	% of all NLGs
North East	28	5.6
North West	75	14.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	84	16.7
East Midlands	43	8.5
West Midlands	35	7.0
East of England	55	10.9
London	65	12.9
South East	71	14.1
South West	45	8.9
Not Applicable	2	0.4
Grand Total	503	100.0

Table 1: Number of NLGs by Region

Source: NCTL Management Information



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