



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Teaching Schools and System Leadership

November 2016

Contents

Summary	3
Expiry or review date	3
Who is this publication for?	3
Main points	3
Introduction	4
Teaching Schools and Teaching School Alliances (TSAs)	4
National Leaders of Education (NLEs)	5
National Leaders of Governance (NLGs)	6

Summary

This is a new publication 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 November 2016. 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

We intend to publish this information on a monthly basis reflecting the latest data at the start of the month. The next update is due in December 2016.

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 November 2016, across England there were:

- 593 teaching school alliances
- 756 teaching schools
- 1,152 national leaders of education
- 509 national leaders of governance

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 November 2016 there were 593 teaching school alliances across England and 756 teaching schools. 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 148 out of 150 local authorities (LAs)². The Isle of Wight and Brighton and Hove were the only LAs not to have a teaching school although it should be noted that teaching schools and teaching school alliances can work across local authority boundaries. London had the highest number of teaching schools with 112 (14.8%), closely followed by the South East and North West with 110 (14.6%) and 107 (14.2%) respectively. The North East had the lowest number of teaching schools with 46 (6.1%).

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	6.1
North West	107	14.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	85	11.2
East Midlands	53	7.0
West Midlands	87	11.5
East of England	82	10.8
London	112	14.8
South East	110	14.6
South West	74	9.8
Grand Total	756	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 a 1 November 2016 there were 1,152 national leaders of education. The vast majority of NLEs belong to different schools and only 28 schools have 2 or more NLEs. NLEs were present in 148 out of 150 LAs⁴. The Isle of Wight and Bracknell Forest were the only LAs to not have a NLE although NLEs can work across local authority boundaries. NLEs were present in all regions with London having the highest number at 176 (15.3%) and the North East the lowest at 67 (5.8%).

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
North East	67	5.8
North West	171	14.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	134	11.6
East Midlands	99	8.6
West Midlands	123	10.7
East of England	104	9.0
London	176	15.3
South East	158	13.7
South West	115	10.0
Not Applicable	5	0.4
Grand Total	1,152	100.0

Table 1: 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 509 national leaders of governance as at 1 November 2016. 134 LAs had at least one NLG. NLGs were present in every region. Yorkshire and the Humber had the highest number of NLGs at 85 (16.7%) and the North East the lowest at 29 (5.7%).

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	29	5.7
North West	77	15.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	85	16.7
East Midlands	43	8.4
West Midlands	35	6.9
East of England	56	11.0
London	66	13.0
South East	73	14.3
South West	45	8.8
Grand Total	509	100.0

Table 1: Number of NLGs by Region

Source: NCTL Management Information



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