



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Teaching Schools and System Leadership

March 2017

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 the latest 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 March 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 April 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 March 2017, across England there were:

- 595 teaching school alliances, no change from February 2017.
- 758 teaching schools, a decrease of 2 from February 2017.
- 1,224 national leaders of education, a decrease of 7 from February 2017.
- 493 national leaders of governance, a decrease of 4 from February 2017.

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 strong 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 March 2017 there were 595 teaching school alliances across England and 758 teaching schools. The number of teaching schools has fallen by 2 since February 2017 though the number of TSAs has remained the same. The majority of TSAs had one teaching school although a few 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 113 (14.9%), closely followed by London with 112 (14.8%). 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	Change from February 2017	% of all Teaching Schools
North East	46	-	6.1
North West	104	-	13.7
Yorkshire and The Humber	86	-1	11.3
East Midlands	52	-	6.9
West Midlands	87	-	11.5
East of England	82	-1	10.8
London	112	-	14.8
South East	113	-	14.9
South West	76	-	10.0
Grand Total	758	-2	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 March 2017 there were 1,224 national leaders of education, a decrease of 7 from the previous month. The vast majority of NLEs belong to different schools and only 32 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 is the region with the highest number of NLEs at 179 (14.6% of all NLE's), closely followed by London with 177 (14.5%). The North East has the lowest number of NLEs at 72 (5.9%), a decrease of 2 compared to February 2017.

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	Change from February 2017	% of all NLEs
North East	72	-2	5.9
North West	179	-	14.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	142	-1	11.6
East Midlands	108	-	8.8
West Midlands	129	-	10.5
East of England	112	-2	9.2
London	177	-	14.5
South East	176	-	14.4
South West	124	-	10.1
Not Applicable ⁵	5	-2	0.4
Grand Total	1224	-7	100.0

Table 2: Number of NLEs by Region

Source: NCTL Management Information

National Leaders of Governance (NLGs)

National Leaders of Governance⁶ 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 493 national leaders of governance as at 1 March 2017, a decrease of 4 from the previous month. 133 LAs had at least one NLG and NLGs were present in every region. Yorkshire and the Humber had the highest number of NLGs at 82 (16.6%) and the North East the lowest at 27 (5.5%).

⁵ Not applicable refers to NLEs who are currently in between schools or alternatively have a BFPO address

⁶ Further information available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/system-leaders-who-they-are-and-what-they-do>

Region	Number of NLGs	Change from February 2017	% of all NLGs
North East	27	-1	5.5
North West	74	-	15.0
Yorkshire and The Humber	82	-1	16.6
East Midlands	43	-	8.7
West Midlands	34	-	6.9
East of England	54	-1	11.0
London	64	-	13.0
South East	70	-1	14.2
South West	44	-	8.9
Not Applicable ⁷	1	-	0.2
Grand Total	493	-4	100.0

Table 3: Number of NLGs by Region

Source: NCTL Management Information

⁷ Not applicable refers to NLGs who are currently in between schools or alternatively have a BFPO address



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