



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership

# Teaching Schools and System Leadership

February 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 February 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 March 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 February 2017, across England there were:

- 595 teaching school alliances, a decrease of 3 from January 2017.
- 760 teaching schools, a decrease of 5 from January 2017.
- 1,231 national leaders of education, a decrease of 10 from January 2017.
- 497 national leaders of governance, a decrease of 6 from January 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 schools<sup>1</sup> 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 February 2017 there were 595 teaching school alliances across England and 760 teaching schools. Both numbers have fallen slightly since January 2017. 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)<sup>2</sup>. 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 (14.7%). The North East had the lowest number of teaching schools with 46 (6.1%).

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

<sup>2</sup> 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	104	13.7
Yorkshire and The Humber	87	11.4
East Midlands	52	6.8
West Midlands	87	11.4
East of England	83	10.9
London	112	14.7
South East	113	14.9
South West	76	10.0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1: Number of Teaching Schools by Region**

Source: NCTL Management Information

## National Leaders of Education (NLEs)

National Leaders of Education<sup>3</sup> 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 February 2017 there were 1,231 national leaders of education, a decrease of 10 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 LAs<sup>4</sup>. 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 (14.5%), closely followed by London with 177 (14.4%). The North East has the lowest number of NLEs at 74 (6%), a decrease of 2 compared to January 2017.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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	74	6.0	-2
North West	179	14.5	-1
Yorkshire and the Humber	143	11.6	-2
East Midlands	108	8.8	-2
West Midlands	129	10.5	-2
East of England	114	9.3	1
London	177	14.4	-1
South East	176	14.3	-1
South West	124	10.1	1
Not Applicable	7	0.6	-1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-10</b>

Table 2: Number of NLEs by Region

Source: NCTL Management Information

## National Leaders of Governance (NLGs)

National Leaders of Governance<sup>5</sup> 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 497 national leaders of governance as at 1 February 2017, a decrease of 6 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 83 (16.7%) and the North East the lowest at 28 (5.6%).

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<sup>5</sup> 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	74	14.9
Yorkshire and The Humber	83	16.7
East Midlands	43	8.7
West Midlands	34	6.8
East of England	55	11.1
London	64	12.9
South East	71	14.3
South West	44	8.9
Not Applicable	1	0.2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1: Number of NLGs by Region**

Source: NCTL Management Information



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