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Department for Education

Transparency data

Teaching schools and system leadership: December 2019

Updated 20 December 2019

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1. Overview

The purpose of this publication is to provide updated figures on the number of system leaders currently working within the school system in England. There is variation between reports due to the natural churn of the system, including designation processes, changes to eligibility and staff turnover.

Designation rounds for national leaders of education (NLEs) and teaching schools closed in May 2018, and designation rounds for national leaders of governance (NLGs) closed in May 2017. The department is currently reviewing the current structure of system leadership to ensure the quality of system leadership remains as high as possible. The teaching school hubs test and learn phase, launched in May 2019, builds on the success of the teaching schools programme, and is the first part of the Department for Education (DfE)'s plans to review system leadership.

The number of system leaders who are currently designated is actively managed, and DfE keeps these matters under review.

This information is correct as of 1 December 2019.

As at 1 December 2019, across England there were:

- 618 teaching school alliances - stayed the same from 1 September 2019
- 755 teaching schools - an increase of 1 from 1 September 2019
- 1,065 national leaders of education - a decrease of 22 from 1 September 2019
- 350 national leaders of governance - a decrease of 13 from 1 September 2019

2. Teaching schools and teaching school alliances

As at 1 December 2019, there were 618 teaching school alliances across England and 755 teaching schools. The number of teaching school alliances stayed the same and the number of teaching schools increased by 1 from September 2019. Around 83% of teaching school alliances had one teaching school although a few had as many as 5 or 6.

Teaching schools were present in all 8 English RSC areas, and in 148 out of 150 local authorities: City of London and Isles of Scilly are excluded from the analysis, as each has only one maintained school. Although 2 local education authorities do not have a teaching school, this does not necessarily translate to zero coverage, as teaching schools can work across local authority boundaries.

Lancashire and West Yorkshire had the highest number of teaching schools with 126 (16.7%). The North had the fewest with 63 (8.3%).

3. Number of teaching schools by regional schools commissioner (RSC) area

RSC area	Number of teaching schools	Change from September 2019	Percentage of all teaching schools
East Midlands and Humber	84	-1	11.1%
East of England and North-East London	98	0	13.0%
Lancashire and West Yorkshire	126	0	16.7%
North	63	1	8.3%

South Central and North-West London	95	0	12.6%
South East and South London	113	1	15.0%
South West	82	0	10.9%
West Midlands	94	0	12.4%
Total	755	1	

(Source: DfE management information)

4. National leaders of education (NLEs)

As at 1 December 2019, there were 1,065 NLEs, a decrease of 22 from September 2019.

The majority of NLEs belong to different schools, and only 33 schools have 2 or more NLEs. NLEs were present in 147 of 150 local authorities: City of London and Isles of Scilly are excluded from the analysis, as each has only one maintained school. Although 3 local education authorities do not have an NLE, this does not necessarily translate to zero coverage, as NLEs can work across local authority boundaries.

Lancashire and West Yorkshire have the highest number of NLEs with 196 (18.4%). The North has the fewest with 91 (8.5%).

5. Number of NLEs by RSC area

RSC area	Number of NLEs	Change from June 2019	Percentage of all NLEs
East Midlands and Humber	153	-4	14.4%
East of England and North-East London	94	-5	8.8%
Lancashire and West Yorkshire	196	-2	18.4%
North	91	-3	8.5%
South Central and North-West London	116	-3	10.9%
South East and South London	167	-2	15.7%

South West	103	-2	9.7%
West Midlands	144	-1	13.5%
Not applicable	1	0	0.1%
Total	1065	-22	

(Source: DfE management information)

6. National leaders of governance (NLGs)

There were 350 NLGs as at 1 December 2019. This was a decrease of 13 from September 2019. A total of 123 local authorities had at least one NLG.

Lancashire and West Yorkshire had the highest number of NLGs with 66 (18.9%). The North had the fewest with 27 (7.7%).

7. Number of NLGs by RSC area

RSC area	Number of NLGs	Change from June 2019	Percentage of all NLGs
East Midlands and Humber	62	-2	17.7%
East of England and North-East London	33	1	9.4%
Lancashire and West Yorkshire	66	-3	18.9%
North	27	-4	7.7%
South Central and North West London	44	-2	12.6%
South East and South London	54	-1	15.4%
South West	34	-1	9.7%
West Midlands	30	-1	8.6%
Not applicable	0	0	0.0%
Total	350	-13	

Not applicable refers to NLEs and NLGs who are currently in between schools or, alternatively, have a BFPO address.

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