**SLE- Cohort 7 (May 2018)**

**Overview**

If you are an experienced middle or senior leader who is interested in supporting leaders in other schools, you might want to apply to be a specialist leader of education.

Teaching schools are responsible for the selection and placement of specialist leaders of education. This is one part of the government’s plan to give schools a central role in developing a self-improving and sustainable school-led system.

**Who can apply**

To become a specialist leader of education, you need to have been in a leadership role below the headteacher for at least 2 years. Your headteacher will be asked to confirm that you are in an appropriate role. Higher level teaching assistants are not eligible to apply.

You can be from any type or phase of school.

You do not need to be in an outstanding school or a school that is part of a [teaching school alliance](https://www.gov.uk/teaching-schools-a-guide-for-potential-applicants), as long as your school has the capacity to release you to work in other schools. You must have at least one specialism from our areas of expertise, which are based on the 4 areas of focus for Ofsted.

| **Ofsted focus** | **Areas of expertise** |
| --- | --- |
| Leadership and management | Academies and academy transition; assessment; leadership of continuing professional development; school business management and financial management; leadership of curriculum |
| Pupil achievement | Art; closing the gap; drama; design and technology; early years; English; geography; history; information and communication technology; maths; modern foreign languages; music; phonics; physical education; personal, social and health education; religious education; science; special educational needs; support for the most able pupils |
| Quality of teaching | Initial teacher training and newly qualified teacher development |
| Behaviour and safety | Behaviour and discipline; attendance |

**To be successful in your application, you should have**:

* a successful track record of working effectively within your own school and/or across a group of schools, or working with a range of leaders within a single school
* evidence of successfully using coaching and/or facilitation skills to bring about sustainable improvements
* excellent communication and interpersonal skills
* an understanding of what constitutes ‘outstanding’ in your field of expertise and the ability and confidence to communicate this
* an understanding of how your specialism and skills can contribute to wider school improvement goals
* an analytical approach in identifying and prioritising needs
* the ability to set and establish new and innovative working practices
* the ability to grow leadership capacity in others

**You can also provide supporting evidence gained from completing leadership development opportunities such as:**

* the [National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership](https://www.gov.uk/national-professional-qualification-for-senior-leadership-npqsl)
* the [National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership](https://www.gov.uk/national-professional-qualification-for-middle-leadership-npqml)
* the [SSAT lead practitioner accreditation](http://www.ssatuk.co.uk/ssat/support/accreditation/lp-accreditation/)

There is no cost to apply. Successful applicants will be entitled to some training at no cost to their school. However, the school will have to pay for associated travel or supply cover.

**Apply**

**The application round is open now until Friday 22nd June 2018.**

**Before applying**

* Read our [SLE application guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294252/sle-application-guidance-applicants.pdf) (PDF, 285KB, 8 pages) .
* Complete the application form attached and return it directly to the St Helens teaching school alliance.
* Make sure your referee has read the [SLE guidance for referees](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294253/sle-application-guidance-referees.pdf) (PDF, 222KB, 2 pages) .

**Dates for the new application round**

| **Activity** | **Date** |
| --- | --- |
| Application round opens | Now |
| Application round closes | 22nd June 2018 |
| Interviews will take place on | 2nd July 2018 |
| Submission of recommendations and validation | W/B: 9th July 2018 |
| Notification of outcome | W/B: 9th July 2018 |
| Training | Autumn Term 2018 |

**Appeals**

There are two situations where you have the right to appeal:

* if your initial application is not successful
* if you become an SLE and, when reviewed, are judged to no longer meet the criteria

To make an appeal you should:

* read the [SLE appeals procedure](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294251/sle-appeals-procedure.pdf) (PDF, 219KB, 3 pages)
* request an appeals form from the relevant teaching school
* submit the form to the teaching school within 10 working days of receiving the outcome you are appealing (if the outcome is received at the end of term, this period will transfer to the following term)

We encourage you to try to reach an informal resolution with the teaching school before making a formal appeal.

**What an SLE does**

Specialist leaders of education focus on developing leadership capacity. While other roles (for example, advanced skills teachers) focused on developing classroom expertise, this role is about developing other leaders so that they have the skills to lead their own teams and improve practice in their own schools.

This may be done through one-to-one or group support and could involve a variety of activities, such as:

* data analysis
* coaching
* facilitating and training
* joint action planning

If selected, you will be expected to provide evidence that your work has had a positive impact on outcomes for children and young people by developing leadership capacity in other schools.

**Time commitment**

The role lasts for 4 years, at which time there will be a review. The types of placements will vary. For example, one might be a 2 day diagnostic exercise, while another might require a 3 month, full time support role. Time may be taken as a block of consecutive days or spread over a longer period.

There is no minimum or maximum time commitment. You and your school will need to think carefully about capacity and negotiate your availability together.

**Payment**

There may be payment for specific placements, either from schools receiving support or from other organisations using your services, to help reimburse your school or pay for supply cover. Any payment will be agreed and managed by the headteachers and governors of the schools concerned, in line with statutory guidance.

**Contact us**

**The St Helens Teaching School Alliance (St Mary and St Thomas CE Primary School)**

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