

System leaders

System leaders work beyond their own school or setting, and can be senior or middle leaders in schools or other expert practitioners. Their work might include:

- sharing successful practice with colleagues in other schools
- providing coaching in a specialist area
- a formal deployment to support a school in challenging circumstances

There are a number of system leader roles that are designated by NCTL or teaching schools:

- **national leaders of education (NLE)** - outstanding headteachers who, together with their national support school, work with schools in challenging circumstances
- **national leaders of governance (NLG)** - highly effective chairs of governors who use their skills and experience to support chairs in other schools and improve the quality of governance
- **specialist leaders of education (SLE)** - experienced middle or senior leaders with a specialism, who work to develop other leaders so that they have the skills to lead their own teams and improve practice in their own schools

Increasingly, school-to-school-support is co-ordinated by a teaching school, as they can draw upon a range of system leaders and partners to provide a comprehensive support package individually tailored to the school in need of support. There is usually a cost for system leader support, which is negotiated between the receiver of support and the system leader or their school. There are also specific funds that teaching schools can apply for to help groups of schools or a specific locality, such as the Strategic School Improvement Fund.