

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
**FOUNDATION FOR  
EDUCATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP**

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# National Secondary Leadership Network (NSLN)



The Church of England Foundation for Educational Leadership was set up in September 2016, and has run a range of Programmes, Networks and Research in relation to its mission

“To develop inspirational leaders who are **called, connected** and **committed** to delivering the Church of England’s vision for education”

## Context

The Foundation’s Peer Support Network is built around groups of school leaders coming together to work on shared leadership development priorities, involving 66 schools in 2016/17, rising to 171 schools in 2017/18. The network continues to grow into 2018/19 with over 400 schools now involved, with particular new streams of work around Rural Schools, MAT Leadership and Leadership of Governance.

There are just over 200 Church of England secondary schools nationally (compared to around 4500 primary schools). By implication in most Dioceses, there are relatively few secondary schools. To respond to this, and to further build leadership capacity nationally, the Foundation is committed to providing a bespoke national networking opportunity for secondary school leaders. This network, the **National Secondary Leadership Network (NSLN)**, will form part of the wider Peer Support Network, with leaders working nationally in groups of between 12-15 schools to support and catalyse their leadership development.

## Aims

Therefore, the Foundation aims:

**To build a sustainable national network of secondary schools who will work together on a range of shared leadership development priorities within the Peer Support Network at a national level**

Focusing on for example:



### Vision/Ethos

Embedding and sustaining ethos that enhances outcomes at KS4 and KS5, transition from primary to secondary, social justice/PP spend, working with the new SIAMS schedule

### Teaching & Learning/ Curriculum Design

Impact of vision on pedagogy, curriculum design, setting, assessment and examinations

### Chaplaincy/Faith Development

School/church/family partnership, chaplaincy, youth leadership development, worship/prayer resources



## Launch and Sign Up

The NSLN will be launched on 15 November 2018 at Church House in London, an event to which, for the first time, all Church of England secondary schools nationally have been invited, along with all DDEs. This launch event is generously sponsored by Allchurches Trust, and is shaped around the Foundation's 3 core leadership concepts: Called, Connected and Committed and features keynote presentations from:

- Dr Eve Poole (Third Church Estates Commissioner, speaking on 'Called'),
- Alex Peace-Gadsby (Chief Commissioner for Scouts UK, speaking on 'Connected')
- Geoff Barton (General Secretary for ASCL, speaking on 'Committed')

Along with a range of networking activities led by Andy Wolfe and the steering group for the event. This will be followed by a celebration dinner and the opportunity for schools to sign up to be part of the network for the next 2 academic years.

It is also key to the Foundation's offer that, grounded in the Church of England Vision for Education, the network is fully open to community and independent schools, alongside church schools.



## Networking Activities (January 2019–August 2020)

Schools will receive 4 x 0.5 days facilitated input in 2018-19 and 5 x 0.5 days input in 2019-20, across the range of networking foci. These meetings will be in groups of 12-15 secondary schools, hosted on each occasion by a school and facilitated by a national leader in secondary education, supported by a range of expert inputs from a range of partners including for example – Apple Education, Chartered College of Teaching, Relational Schools etc. Each networking event will include professional development input, school visits and coaching, alongside planning of co-constructed partnership work – for example focusing on Curriculum Design, or Removing Disadvantage, drawing on the Foundation's Ethos Enhancing Outcomes approach. In addition, there will be a range of expert webinars for secondary leaders to partake in throughout the initial programme, and some specific training and development around the new SIAMS schedule for secondary leaders.

As the network grows, we expect to be able to further develop:

- Peer Review/Evaluation activities
- A bespoke national secondary cohort for the CofEPQH (commencing 2019-20)



## Cost

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### Peer Support Network

£1 per pupil

Capped at  
£750<sup>+VAT</sup>  
per school

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Owing to the November launch date, schools joining in 2018 will receive a 'founding membership discount' when joining for 2 academic years, totalling £1250+VAT in total across the two years, running to August 2020. Schools may choose to be invoiced in one or two payments over 2 years as necessary.

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Through the support of Allchurches Trust, the Dioceses of London and Southwark are able to subsidise 50% of the membership costs for 15 schools in 2018/19, who should speak to their Diocese Education Team to confirm their interest and commitment.

## Logistics

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Schools will be asked to identify particular areas of leadership development work (e.g. Vision/Ethos, Curriculum Design etc.) on joining. Networking events will commence in January 2019, and the Foundation is particularly keen to hear from schools would feel able to host the initial gatherings.

The network will be overseen by Andy Wolfe, Deputy Chief Education Officer (Leadership Development) and a steering group made up of current secondary school leaders and Diocesan advisers. There are opportunities available for secondary leaders to support the facilitation of the networking, with bespoke professional development available to support this. Attendance at networking meetings is open to Headteachers, Deputy and Assistant Heads.

## Relationship with Anglican Academies and Secondary School Heads (AASSH)

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The Anglican Academies and Secondary School Heads association provides an opportunity for secondary headteachers to come together with an annual conference for spiritual development, learning and sharing ideas to be equipped for their role in leadership. The Church of England Education Office works in close partnership with AASSH and welcomes the longstanding expertise and vision of AASSH in relation to fellowship and support for current headteachers of Church of England secondary schools. We will be continuing to prioritise that partnership to ensure the offers are complementary. We expect there to be significant overlap in membership of the NSLN with some heads who attend the AASSH conference also choosing to enrol their school in the NSLN, and we will be working with AASSH to determine the most effective way to enable this to happen.