



National leaders of education and national support schools tranche 16: Eligibility Criteria

Clarification of terms: the terms listed below are used throughout the criteria. The use of terms is solely for ease of readability, and does not in any way imply that our assessment process doesn't take into account the differing contexts of those organisations which are eligible to apply.

- **NCTL:** represents the National College for Teaching and Leadership
- **School:** also represents academy, nursery, sixth-form college¹, University Technical College (UTC), General Further Education Providers and Colleges (GFE) and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
- **Governing body:** also represents the body appointed to be accountable for the management of the school, federation or trust including the board of trustees or equivalent
- **Headteacher:** also represents principal, chief executive or executive headteacher
- **Senior educational professional:**
 - a DCS or second tier officer from your LA
 - a DCS or second tier officer from an LA other than your own (for example: the LA of a school that you have supported)
 - A senior diocese representative
 - Department for Education lead adviser of academy adviser



Eligibility criteria for national leaders of education (NLEs)

Criteria	How this should be demonstrated
To be considered as a NLE, you must:-	
<p>1. Be judged to be an outstanding serving headteacher with at least 3 years headship experience and expect to remain at current school for at least 2 years following designation²</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • headteacher has been a substantive headteacher for 3 years or more (at point of designation) in which time they have been legally responsible for the management of a school and accountable to the governing body, and • headteacher is named on a recent Ofsted inspection where ‘Leadership and Management’ has been judged as ‘Outstanding’ either at current school, or at previous school if the applicant has changed headship within the last 3 years and is yet to receive an inspection at current school, and • Confirmation within the application that the headteacher expects to remain head of applicant school for at least 2 years following designation.
<p>2. Be accountable for 1 or more schools which meet the NSS criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headteacher is accountable for at least 1 school that meets the ‘Eligibility criteria for national support schools’, and • Confirmation in the application that the headteacher has the authority to deploy staff from the proposed national support school and enter into contractual arrangements to undertake national support school activity
<p>3. Have the full support from the school’s Governing Body and DCS/Senior Educational Professional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration within the online application that your chair of governors (or equivalent) supports the application, and • A supportive reference from a DCS/Senior Educational Professional



Eligibility criteria for national support schools (NSS)

Criteria	
To be considered as an NSS, your school must:-	
<p>4. Be judged to be outstanding</p>	<p>Your schools most recent Ofsted inspection³ has judged the school to be:</p> <p>School inspected prior to 2012:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Outstanding’ for ‘overall effectiveness’, ‘leadership and management’ and ‘capacity to improve’ with a judgement of at least good for ‘teaching and learning’ or ‘quality of teaching’, or exceptionally: • Good for ‘overall effectiveness’ with at least 10 outstanding judgements including ‘capacity to improve’ and ‘leadership and management’ if the school has been removed from Ofsted category, or if the school is serving an area of high social deprivation (% of children eligible for free school meals is above average) and in addition be judged at least good for ‘teaching and learning’ or ‘quality of teaching’ <p>School inspected from January 2012 onwards (including pilot inspections):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Outstanding’ for ‘overall effectiveness’ and ‘leadership and management’, or exceptionally⁴: • Good for ‘overall effectiveness’ with outstanding for ‘leadership and management’ if the school has been removed from Ofsted category, or if the school is serving an area of high social deprivation (% of children eligible for free school meals is above average)
<p>5. Show consistently high levels of pupil performance and progress or continued improvement over the last 3 years and be above current floor standards (as evidenced in published Department for Education data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department for Education performance data shows a clear upwards trend, or consistently high levels of attainment and achievement, and • Latest performance data demonstrates that the school is above the current floor standard⁵, and • Taking account of their different starting points, the proportions of pupils making and exceeding expected progress are high compared with national figures, and in addition • Progress and attainment of disadvantaged pupils in comparison to their peers. Please see the application guidance for further details.



6. The proposed national support school has outstanding senior and middle leaders who have demonstrated that they have a strong track record and on-going capacity to:	
6a. Provide successful support to underperforming schools within a school-to-school support (STSS) partnership, federation or chain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear evidence of providing formal support to schools in order to improve outcomes (pupil progress and attainment or Ofsted judgements) over the past 3 years, and that the • support has involved, and has capacity to continue to involve senior leaders in the support of schools in challenging circumstances, and that the • support provided has had a positive impact both in the school supported and your own school; such as impact on pupil performance or improved Ofsted judgements
6b. Be able to commit to the 'minimum time expectation' for NLE/NSS deployment ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability and commitment to provide support to schools in challenging circumstances for a minimum of 1-2 days per week

Eligibility criteria notes

¹ As a sixth from college, you should be able to cite evidence of supporting maintained schools in addition to any support provided to sixth from colleges.

² In exceptional circumstances, applications may be accepted from headteachers who have been in post for less than 3 years or are not named on the current school's Ofsted report, if they can sufficiently demonstrate that they have the relevant experience to take on this role and meet all other eligibility criteria. Applicants applying in this way will be dealt with on a case by case basis and emphasis will be placed on the other eligibility criteria.

³ Ofsted inspections that will be considered are; Section 5, College Inspections and Independent School Inspections. Monitoring inspections will **not** be considered. If your school's latest Ofsted inspection is 3 or more years old and it does not meet **all** areas of the Ofsted criterion as set out above, but you and your school meet all other criteria, emphasis will be placed on your school's performance results and by further exploration through a school assessment visit. Please note leadership and management must be judged outstanding in your latest section 5 inspection for this exceptional criterion to be applied.

⁴ Some areas of the country have significantly lower numbers of schools which meet this criterion, and have a high demand for school to school support. We will therefore consider schools in priority areas, who are judged by Ofsted as Good for 'overall effectiveness' and Good for 'leadership and management', as long as they can demonstrate a **strong** track record of school to school support and sufficient capacity to provide high quality support. Please contact us prior to applying to gain confirmation on whether your locality can be considered under this exception. NCTL will prioritise a maximum of 3 local authorities per round.

⁵ Should the floor standards change during the application round; the new floor standard will be applied.

⁶ The 'minimum time expectation' for NLE deployment is between 1 and 2 days per week, however depending on circumstances and the type of support provided, it is common for the deployment to be much more intense. This could be up to full time for the NLE and/or NSS staff members, for a defined period of time, or permanent if the support leads to federation or academy sponsorship. Applicants will be required to outline their plans for engaging with and supporting other schools and demonstrate an understanding of the need for school to school support in their area.

Notes for independent school applicants

Independent schools must have been judged 'Excellent' by ISI in regards to:

- the quality of the pupils' achievements
- their learning, attitudes and skills
- the quality of leadership and management

Alternatively, if the school is inspected by Ofsted, then they will be required to meet the criteria outlined in the Eligibility criteria for national support schools. In addition independent schools are required to cite evidence and/or show a commitment to supporting maintained schools.