

Dear Colleague

**Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs)**

The West Country Teaching School Alliance is currently offering outstanding middle and senior leaders the chance to become an SLE. This is a great opportunity to become part of a network of outstanding leaders who are committed to improving outcomes for all children.

**What is an SLE?**

SLEs are outstanding middle and senior leaders in positions below the headteacher, with at least two years’ leadership experience. They have a particular area of expertise and a successful track record of school improvement. The role of an SLE is to support leaders in other schools. As an SLE you will equip these leaders with the skills and knowledge they need to lead their own teams and improve practice in their own schools. This can be done through a variety of activities and could involve one-to-one peer coaching, joint action planning or support with data analysis.

**What are the expectations?**

As an SLE you will be required to deliver outreach support. You must therefore have the support of your headteacher. Please check prior to application that your school has the capacity to release you for a minimum of ten days per academic year to work with other schools.

In addition to providing school-to-school support SLEs may be required to:

* Design and deliver CPD both within and across schools
* Lead subject networks
* Support the delivery of ITT
* Act as a coach for NQTs or RQTs
* Engage in research projects

**What are the benefits?**

SLEs encapsulate the principle of a teaching school alliance –sharing knowledge and best practice so other teachers and schools improve. There are many benefits to becoming an SLE, including:

* The opportunity to engage in research to develop your own knowledge and skills.
* The chance to be part of a school-led system of improving education through sharing your expertise.
* The opportunity to network and learn from effective practice in other schools.
* The chance to deepen your own leadership skills through developing your own coaching and facilitation skills.
* Excellent experience, including working across a range of schools, to support your own career development.

For schools this is a great opportunity to retain outstanding professionals by providing them with a new and exciting opportunity to work with colleagues in a range of different contexts and in a variety of ways. They will also develop skills and knowledge that can benefit their own school.

**Funding**

SLEs are unsalaried roles. Schools requesting SLE support will be charged for the service to cover the costs incurred by the SLE’s school. Schools releasing SLEs will be paid either a daily rate of £300 or an agreed fee for longer deployments.

**Phase 1 Recruitment**

In the first instance the WCTSA is looking to recruit a minimum of eight SLEs. Our aim is to provide a general teaching and learning coach, which can be for either primary or secondary, as well as be able to provide support for pupil achievement in one or more specialist areas: English, Mathematics, Science and MFL. Please note that we would be open to discussing potential SLEs for other subjects / areas of leadership. Please contact us to discuss options.

**Timeline for Recruitment, Designation and Training**

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| --- | --- |
| What | When |
| Deadline for applications | 5pm Thursday 27 April 2017 |
| Shortlisting | Friday 28 April 2017 |
| Assessment day | TBC |
| Deployment | From June 2017 |

**Key Documents and Further Information**

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| --- | --- |
| Document | Where to find this |
| SLE Application Guidance | Enclosed |
| SLE Application and Reference | Enclosed |
| Online Guide for Potential Applicants | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/specialist-leaders-of-education-a-guide-for-potential-applicants> |

If you have any further enquiries please contact me by email: sarajacobs@wctsa.org or on 01884 842908/07816480738.

Yours faithfully,

Sara Jacobs

Director, West Country Teaching School Alliance