National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL)

Qualification Specification

NPQ accredited by

Department for Education

About NPQSL

The National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL) is accredited by the UK Department for Education (DfE). The qualification is delivered by Best Practice Network, a provider of UK accredited qualifications for education professionals worldwide, with a mission to help every child access an excellent education.

NPQSL provides recognition of leadership development and professional achievement for senior leaders who are looking for further professional development but not yet aspiring to headship.

Entry requirements

NPQSL is for those who are, or are aspiring to become, a senior leader with cross-school responsibilities such as an experienced middle leader, a deputy headteacher, a SEN coordinator, an assistant headteacher, or other senior staff.

In order to be accepted onto the qualification candidates must have their application endorsed by their Headteacher via a signed Headteacher declaration that is uploaded as part of the candidate's application.

Benefits for candidates

- Improve outcomes for pupils across the school
- Increased capability and capacity to take on leadership across a school – having the skills, knowledge and understanding to do the job more effectively
- Transferable qualification for leaders relocating to UK schools
- Contextualised to the needs of the international schools workforce and underpinned by robust evidence and expertise
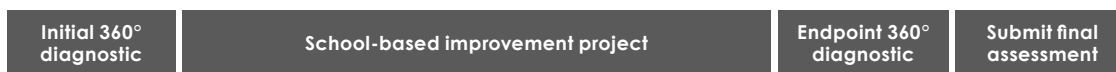- Masters credits towards an MA in Educational Leadership

Benefits for schools

- Staff retention and succession
- Support succession of school leaders and build a cohesive, impact-focused school leadership team
- Evidence-based sustainable school improvement undertaken to reduce variation in pupil progress and attainment and to improve teaching
- A professionally aware and informed leader who can make evidence-based decisions and approach new challenges in an effective and efficient manner
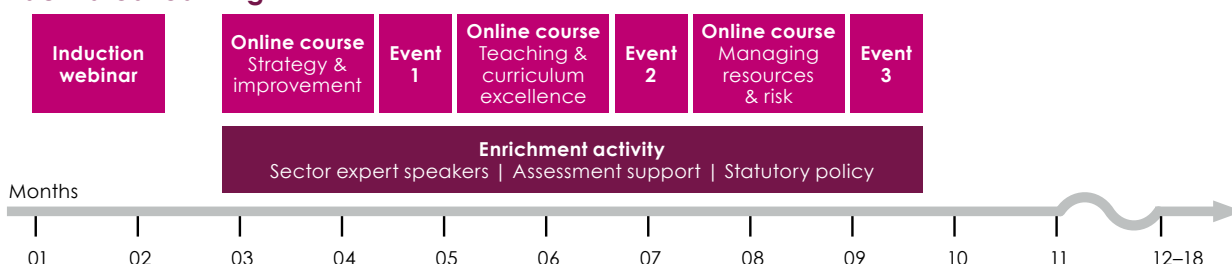
Qualification components

Component	Overview	Guided Learning Hours
360° leadership diagnostic	Work-based peer feedback at the start and end of the qualification, aligned to content requirements, providing 360° feedback on candidate strengths and areas for development.	2
Events	3 events consisting of tailored practice tasks, group networking and self-managed learning interaction supporting powerful dialogue and leadership training.	24
Online courses	3 facilitated online courses each consisting of 4 modules covering: Strategy & Improvement, Teaching & Curriculum Excellence, and Managing Resources & Risk.	60
Online briefings	A series of online briefings providing key qualification information, support, guidance and assessment insight.	6
	Total	**92**

Qualification schedule

Self-directed learning

Initial 360° diagnostic	School-based improvement project	Endpoint 360° diagnostic	Submit final assessment

Facilitated learning

Induction webinar	Online course Strategy & improvement	Event 1	Online course Teaching & curriculum excellence	Event 2	Online course Managing resources & risk	Event 3

Enrichment activity
Sector expert speakers | Assessment support | Statutory policy

Months

| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12–18 |

Qualification content

The qualification covers 6 content areas which set out what a leader should know or should be able to do, and 7 leadership behaviours which set out how the best leaders operate. The content areas have been embedded within 3 online courses, with the leadership behaviours explored during the training events.

Event content

Each event is facilitated by experienced serving school leaders.

Event 1: Strategy & Improvement	• Outcomes of the 360° diagnostic: Where am I now and where do I want to be? • School improvement project planning • Analysing school data and identifying strategies for improvement • Establishing a vision and strategy in partnership • Making change happen to improve the culture
Event 2: Teaching & Curriculum Excellence	• Checking in on leadership learning and practice • Establishing criteria for teaching and learning and communicating to others • Evidencing the impact of teaching, learning and curriculum, and identifying strategies to reduce variation and improve • Maximising the quality of teaching through the effective deployment and development of teachers and teaching assistants • Reflecting on learning and its application in your context
Event 3: Managing Resources & Risk	• Team effectiveness: Motivating and influencing across the school • Establishing partnerships that build capacity and improve performance • Analysing leadership and management performance improvement strategies • Exploiting opportunities to develop and grow the school curriculum • Analysing value for money and designing a business case for improvement

Online course content

	Strategy & Improvement	Teaching & Curriculum Excellence	Managing Resources & Risk
Module 1	Context for change & strategic development	Context for change - teaching & learning reality	Financial efficiency & effectiveness
Module 2	Creating the vision & strategic improvement environment	Creating the learning culture for effective teaching and learning and curriculum opportunity	Accountability & governance School-led partnership and impact
Module 3	Establishing credible relationships & effective collaboration	Growing talent and quality momentum	Staffing recruitment, retention and performance
Module 4	Transforming the culture for improvement and impact	Transforming lives and opportunities for improvement and impact	Transforming schools through school-led partnership and impact

Content has been contextualised to the needs of the international schools workforce and underpinned by robust evidence and expertise

Qualification delivery

Distance learning

Candidates for whom time away from school or access to local delivery is not available have the opportunity to complete the qualification via a distance learning model. With distance learning, the three event days are each delivered flexibly over the course of two weeks through a combination of online briefings and candidate activity. Distance learning candidates benefit from additional support from their personal tutor, and their live events are scheduled according to time zone.

Whole-school training

If a school, or schools cluster, have a number of staff wishing to access training then the qualification can be delivered in-house saving release costs and delivering content tailored to meet local context and scheduled according to local requirement.

Regional Training Centres

We have a number of school-led training centres located across the globe. Candidates located within a convenient distance can access the qualifications delivered face-to-face at any of these centres.

Assessment

Leading a whole school improvement project (5,000 words)

Candidates must lead an improvement project across their school, lasting at least two terms, to a) reduce variation in pupil progress and attainment and b) improve the efficiency and effectiveness of teaching. A written account of the project covering the design, implementation and evaluation must then be submitted for assessment.

Project scripts and supporting evidence are assessed in accordance with a mark scheme provided by the DfE and are subject to national moderation.

In order to achieve NPQSL candidates must:

- complete 3 online courses and associated core tasks
- engage with practice-based events
- pass final assessment within 18 months of starting the qualification

What's next?

Candidates who successfully complete NPQSL may choose to continue their professional development through the completion of a master's degree in educational leadership or, if they deem themselves to be within three years of applying for headship roles, by competing the National Professional Qualification for Headship. Professionally, NPQSL graduates may choose to apply for senior leadership or system leadership roles.

Masters accreditation

The qualification has been developed in collaboration with Chester University to be delivered at Masters Level 7. Candidates successful in achieving the qualification have the opportunity to accrue credits towards an MA in Educational Leadership with Chester University.

Course intakes

We have two intakes per year; a January start and a September start. For further information and for application deadlines please see our website **www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/npqsl**

Further information

For further information regarding our qualification offer please contact the team via **cpd@bestpracticenet.co.uk** or call us on **+44 (0) 117 920 9200**.

Contact us

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