

NPQ Alliance Announcement

Many thanks for being part of this new partnership which brings together over 50 organisations which share the belief that every child should have equal opportunities to aspire and achieve.

This toolkit answers the following questions about our National Professional Qualifications (NPQ) Alliance and provides further information:

1. **What is the NPQ Alliance?**
2. **What are the NPQs and who are they for?**
3. **What is Ambition School Leadership?**
4. **Email announcement copy**
5. **Programme information sheets and brand guidance**

1. What is the NPQ Alliance?

What does this Alliance provide?

Exceptional design. Flexible delivery. A unique partnership.

Ambition School Leadership has formed a national alliance of over 50 multi-academy trusts (MATs), teaching school alliances (TSAs) and teaching schools to enable the delivery of the highest-quality NPQs for school leaders across the country.

This Alliance brings together many of the largest and most successful MATs – including Ark, Outwood Grange and Oasis Community Learning – with regional school groups from across the country. Partners will deliver the NPQs through the Alliance’s experienced facilitators, tailoring programme content to meet local challenges and each leader’s development needs.

The Alliance offers:

- **Scale** – With over 50 partners nationwide, encompassing more than 1,200 schools, the Alliance will draw on the extensive skills, experience and best practice of its members to design and deliver programmes that have real impact.
- **Local adaptation** – Our flexible approach to partnership means that content and delivery will be tailored to local contexts and the needs of every school. Programmes align with school improvement plans and leaders’ strengths and development areas, as well as partners’ capacity to deliver and customise programmes in-house.
- **A clear pathway to leadership** – NPQs now stretch from middle leadership to a brand new qualification for executive leaders of multiple schools. Drawing on expertise and experience across the full spectrum of leadership, the Alliance can help partners to build sustainable pipelines of talent, offering school leaders a clear pathway of expert career progression.
- **Strategic partnership** – Ambition School Leadership is committed to supporting school-led delivery and working with partners to understand their system-wide leadership needs to create strategic and sustainable solutions.

Alongside Alliance partner provision, Ambition School Leadership will also provide central delivery for NPQH and the new NPQEL programme for executive leaders. NPQ delivery is subject to National College licensing. We hope to have a response on licensing following the General Election, after which proactive programme recruitment will begin.

Working together to test, learn and innovate, the Alliance will support the education system to do everything it takes to raise the aspirations and attainment of every child, no matter what their background.

2. What are the NPQs and who are they for?

NPQs are for leaders at all levels seeking to achieve nationally recognised evidence of leadership development and professional achievement in educational leadership.

National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML)

Note: The NPQ Alliance will be delivering programmes offering these qualifications.

This programme is suitable for:

- **Teachers who are aspiring to middle leadership** and who meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - Likely to be in a middle leadership role in the next 12-18 months
 - Have completed at least one year of full-time teaching

- **Those currently in middle leadership roles who fit within the guidance below:**
 - In secondary schools, middle leaders will have roles such as head of department, head of year or a whole-school lead role (such as SEN), or second in charge of a department or pastoral area
 - In primary schools, middle leaders will have roles such as phase leaders; key stage leaders or a whole-school lead role (for example, literacy)
 - If the middle leader is aspiring to senior leadership, or currently serves on the senior leadership team, this person may be more suited to the National Professional Qualification for Senior Leaders

For both aspiring and serving middle leaders to receive their qualification, they will need to be able to complete the project element of this qualification successfully. This is to lead an improvement project in their team, lasting at least two terms, aimed at improving pupil progress and attainment and the capability of their team. It is essential that the school understands this element of the programme, and the support that will be required of them, when they are placing participants on the programme.

National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL)

Note: The NPQ Alliance will be delivering programmes offering these qualifications.

This programme is suitable for:

- **Middle leaders who are aspiring to senior leadership** and meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - Likely to be in a senior leadership role in the next 12-18 months
 - Have completed at least one year at a middle leadership level
 - May have served on an extended SLT

- **Those currently in senior leadership roles who fit within the guidance below:**
 - Senior leaders should have responsibility for the results of a team, and line-manage at least one middle leader
 - Will serve on the senior leadership of the school, and attend SLT meetings
 - In secondary schools, senior leaders will have roles such as assistant headteacher or assistant/vice-principal
 - In large secondary schools, heads of large departments and faculties, leaders may have responsibility commensurate with that of senior leaders
 - In primary schools, senior leaders will have roles such as assistant/associate headteacher or assistant/vice-principals as well as substantive whole-school responsibilities
 - If the senior leader is aspiring to headship, or is a deputy headteacher in secondary / deputy or assistant headteacher in primary, this person may be more suited to National Professional Qualification for Headship.

For both aspiring and serving senior leaders to receive their qualification, they will need to complete the project element of this qualification successfully. This is to lead an improvement project across their school, lasting at least two terms, to reduce variation in pupil progress and attainment and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of teaching. Therefore it is essential that this is something that the school understands and will support when they are placing participants on the programme.

National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)

Note: *The NPQ Alliance will be delivering programmes offering this qualification and Ambition School Leadership will be running its Headship Programme (with NPQH).*

This programme is suitable for:

- **Deputy heads who are aspiring to headship** and meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - Likely to be in a headship role in the next 12-18 months
 - Have completed at least one year at a deputy head level
 - As this programme is for those whose next step is headship, eligibility is limited to deputy and associate headteachers in secondary settings, and deputy, associate and assistant heads in primary. Assistant heads in secondary whose role is commensurate to that of a deputy head are also eligible
 - You will have evidence of having made substantial positive impact on a school

- **Those currently in headship roles**

In order for both aspiring and serving headteachers to receive their qualification, they will need to complete the project element of this qualification successfully. This is in two parts:

- Lead a change programme at whole-school level, lasting at least two terms, to improve pupil progress and attainment. They will need to present the plan to their governing board prior to implementation, and gather their feedback
- Undertake a placement in a contrasting school (for example, by performance, pupil profile, geography), lasting at least nine working days

Therefore it is essential that the school understands the level of support they will need to put in place when they are placing participants on the programme.

National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership (NPQEL)

Information on this programme will be available in due course.

3. What is Ambition School Leadership?

About Ambition School Leadership

- Ambition School Leadership is a national education charity working to build a network of exceptional leaders at all levels in schools in challenging contexts
- It launched in November 2016 as the result of a merger of Teaching Leaders and The Future Leaders Trust which, together, have worked in leadership development in the education sector for more than 18 years. They have a joint network of more than 4,000 leaders and over 1,500 school partners
- Ambition School Leadership is unique because it develops school leaders at all levels – **from middle leaders to CEOs. This means they can create pathways that support people to master their current role and/or to progress onto the next role, throughout their careers**
- **Ambition School Leadership aims to change how leadership development is seen in schools.** Because more people are getting the development they need, they believe it will encourage more people to progress and stay in the education system

What does Ambition School Leadership do?

- It delivers outstanding leadership development programmes to ambitious school leaders, to help them improve outcomes for the most disadvantaged pupils and schools
- They offer a clear development pathway for leaders at every stage of their career. Ambition School Leadership will create a progression pathway for teachers and leaders enabling them to build a fulfilling career delivering long-term impact
- They work closely with partner organisations to support their work to improve schools. They work strategically with large organisations to meet their development needs and increase impact by developing more and more leaders

4. Email announcement copy

We are proud to announce that we are part of the new National Professional Qualification (NPQ) Alliance, led by Ambition School Leadership.

This is a national alliance that brings together over 50 multi-academy trusts, teaching school alliances and teaching schools – including Ark, Outwood Grange and Oasis Community Learning – with regional school groups from across the country. We will deliver the NPQs through the Alliance’s experienced facilitators, tailoring programme content to meet local challenges and each leader’s development needs.

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- **Strategic partnership** – Ambition School Leadership is committed to supporting school-led delivery and working with partners to understand their system-wide leadership needs to create strategic and sustainable solutions

Working together to test, to learn, to innovate – the Alliance will support the education system to do everything it takes to raise the aspirations and attainment of every child, no matter what their background.

