



Memorandum of Understanding between the National Forest Teaching School Alliance Partners

The aims of this agreement is to provide all partners of this alliance with an understanding of the work of the Teaching School and what it means to be a partner in the Alliance. It is anticipated that this agreement will develop over time as the Teaching School alliance evolves.

Aims of the Teaching School

The National Forest Teaching School aims to work inclusively and collaboratively, to secure the best quality of teaching and learning for students in the local area through a sustainable model of developing teachers and leaders.

Objectives

- **To recruit and retain outstanding new entrants to the teaching profession , providing them with the highest quality training**
The National Forest Teaching School became involved in the School Direct Programme last year and currently works in partnership with 3 accrediting providers (Derby, Birmingham City University and the University of Birmingham) We currently have 20 trainees on the programme and propose to increase our numbers year on year in line with government strategy. From September 2015 the John Taylor SCITT will be operational and we intend to offer SCITT accreditation for secondary trainees in English, History, Geography and MFL. Alliance members have formed an ITT operational group and collaboratively designed and are involved in the delivery of the programme. The ITT operational group meets 4 times a year
- **To identify and coordinate expertise from across the alliance , using the best teachers and leaders to provide high quality training and leadership development for staff across the local area in order to support the achievement of excellence in terms of learner outcomes.**
The development of a CPD programme and packages which meet local need have been a focus of the Professional Development Operational Group which is made up of Alliance Partners and meets termly. A twilight programme of training runs throughout the year and Alliance Partners are involved in the delivery of those sessions. In addition we facilitate the Outstanding Teacher Programme and the Improving Teacher Programme. From September 2014 we are an accredited body for NQTs , run an NQT conference and have developed an NQT and RQT programme to build on our Initial Teacher Training offer.
- **To recruit SLEs across a wide spectrum of subjects, phases and areas of expertise**
We encourage skilled middle leaders from our alliance schools, to seek designation as Specialist Leaders of Education and to improve their own leadership development beyond their own schools, as well as supporting the Teaching School in School to School support work. Headteachers will need to support SLEs by agreeing to release them to undertake commissions.
- **To develop capacity and be able to provide high quality support for other schools**
Integral to the concept of Teaching Schools is the belief in system reform and improvement through mutual support and collaboration between practitioners. The National Forest Teaching School aims to

provide a central point of contact for support as may be required by local schools in order to ensure that the overall effectiveness of their organisation is good or better. This may range from the identification of CPD needs to targeted SLE deployment.

- **To engage in action research and development that informs and improves pedagogy and professional development across all phases.**

The National Forest Teaching School is keen to promote practitioner based research and regularly make applications to be involved in National College research projects. These projects involve and are often led by some of our partner schools with funding provided by the National College to create capacity for this work to be carried out, disseminated and the impact evaluated.

- **To ensure that our most talented people are given leadership opportunities which will strengthen schools and create future capacity.**

Talent management and succession planning are key foci of the Teaching School and we aim to retain high quality leaders in our local schools. To this end we offer a range of leadership programmes from the emergent leader programme, through to NPQML and an Aspiring Headteachers programme and hope that alliance schools will support us in the development of future leaders by identifying potential leaders and encouraging them to participate in our programmes.

Structure

The lead school for the National Forest Teaching School is John Taylor High School and the Principal of John Taylor High School together with the Director of the Teaching School are responsible for the strategic outcomes of the Alliance Partnership, setting appropriate targets, formulating an action plan and evaluating Teaching School activities against national key performance indicators. They are supported by the Strategic Board

Strategic Partners

Strategic Partners, whether schools or universities are expected to have the competence, capacity and willingness to make a major contribution to the work of the Teaching School, working proactively to facilitate, support and evaluate the work of the alliance as well as helping to shape the future development of the Teaching School. It is expected that strategic partners will agree a level of responsibility for the strategic work of the Teaching School, attend termly board meetings and promote the Teaching School in the wider community. The ITT and CPD operational boards will include strategic partners.

Alliance Partners

Alliance Partners will have expressed an active interest in the work of the Teaching School but may not have the capacity or desire to contribute significantly to all aspects of the work. Where an Alliance Partner subsequently makes a sustained and significant contribution to the work of the Teaching School they may be invited to become a strategic partner. Our expectation is that alliance partners will work collaboratively and inclusively to achieve the aims and objectives of the Alliance through:

- Making a significant contribution to at least one of the Big 6 as outlined above
- Considering the involvement of the alliance in their own school improvement planning
- Promoting the work of the alliance in the wider community

The National Forest Teaching School – Our Offer to You

Engagement with the NFTS will provide you with:

- High quality trainee teachers, selected by the National Forest Teaching School. As an Alliance member you will have the opportunity to be involved in the recruitment and selection of trainees as well as the design and delivery of the School Direct programme.
- Access to an extensive twilight training programme at no cost
- Access to a range of CPD events and programmes designed to support teachers at every stage of their career, from NQT to aspirant headteacher.
- The opportunity to share good practice and contribute to our CPD offer. Your staff will be invited to become facilitators for the Alliance, thereby generating income for your school, whilst utilising their skills and expertise to support other teachers.
- A range of network meetings across subjects, phases and leadership roles
- Opportunities for staff to actively contribute to system leadership as Specialist Leaders of Education.
- Priority access to the Improving Teacher Programme and the Outstanding Teacher Programme
- Heavily subsidised places for all mentors of NFTS trainees on the OTP programme
- Registration of NQTs with our Appropriate Body
- Opportunities to work collaboratively with colleagues across the Alliance on Research and Development projects.
- Access through the Teaching School to NCTL funding