

School-to-school support directory

We know that sharing and working together to improve outcomes for children in our schools is a fulfilling and effective way of ensuring that no child and no school gets left behind. The Loughborough Learning Alliance offers a range of school-to-school support, drawing on the strengths, talents and experience of Alliance members, including:

- National Leaders of Education (NLE) – we have two NLEs in our Alliance, experienced in creating strategies to help drive whole-school improvement and performance
- National Leader of Governance (NLG) – our Alliance has one of only a small number of NLGs specially designated to help build effective governing bodies
- Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE) – our team of SLEs are experts in their subject areas and offer a wealth of experience to help develop practice in your school

All of our school-to-school support services can be tailored to suit individual schools or groups of schools. To discuss your needs, contact jessefans@ashmount.leics.sch.uk

National Leaders of Education



Julie Harvey

Headteacher, Booth Wood Primary School

NLE specialisms: pupil premium reviewer trainer; closing the gap; school health checks; preparing for inspection; supporting schools in challenging circumstances; supporting new Headteachers.

Julie has been the Headteacher at Booth Wood Primary School for seven years. The school was satisfactory when she first took up the post and is now outstanding (Ofsted 2012/2013).

Julie is passionate about every child deserving a high quality education and works tirelessly to achieve this. Her school has a strong team of specialist leaders of education who support other schools to achieve success in literacy, mathematics, SEN and more. Julie's school was featured in a Department for Education report, [*Freedom to lead: a study of outstanding primary school leadership in England \(July 2014\)*](#)



Cal Hurst

Headteacher, St Paul's Church of England Primary School

NLE specialism: Supporting schools to raise attainment and accelerate progress, preparing for inspection under the new framework , behaviour and inclusion , pupil premium , quality assurance and school improvement planning, supporting systems new head teachers and SLTs.

Cal is an experienced Head teacher of two very different but both challenging schools. She is keen to share her wealth of experiences with other schools and colleagues.

Cal's 1st headship was in inner city Nottingham at Greenwood Junior School, large multi-ethnic school amongst the bottom 2% of most deprived schools in England. Cal is now in Woodhouse Eaves and has a complex school filled from out of catchment and with a huge range of abilities and backgrounds and a very demanding school community.

It is Cal's 9th year at St Paul's. When she arrived the school was satisfactory and undersubscribed with serious staffing issues. It is now outstanding (OFSTED 2015/16 and SIAMS 2016), oversubscribed and has an outstanding staff team including an SLE and aspirant SLEs keen to support all aspects of a school but with particular strengths in maths, EYFS , SEND and RE.

Cal has particular experience in leading and managing change and supporting the creation of teams where staff develop and embed the changes themselves.

National Leader of Governance



Jean Lewis

NLG specialism: strategic governance of both maintained and academy schools; special schools; schools requiring improvement; mentoring of new headteachers

Jean has been a chair of governors in both Ashmount and Mountfields Lodge Schools for over 20 years, serving on a range of governing committees. She has been involved in a considerable number of staff appointments, including eight headteacher posts. She has also worked with the Leicestershire Governor Development Service as a mentor for newly appointed headteachers, and has been an additional governor both in schools requiring improvement, and in one undergoing closure.

Jean has been a special school representative and a primary representative (both maintained and academy) on the Leicestershire Schools Funding Forum, and served as the Forum representative on committees looking at special units within primary schools, the funding process for statemented children in special and mainstream schools, and the local authority/ NHS responsibilities regarding personalised budgets for students. Jean has also been an active member of the Association of Leicestershire Governors, serving on its Executive Committee, currently as chair.

Specialist Leaders of Education



Katy Chambers

Director of Learning, De Lisle Catholic Voluntary Academy

SLE specialism: behaviour, ITT and NQT, leadership of CPD

Katy is now in her eighth year of teaching at De Lisle College. Over this time she has held both pastoral and curriculum responsibilities as a both a year progress leader and as Director of Learning, her current post. Katy is also part of the extended leadership team contributing to whole-school initiatives. She leads on behaviour for learning (B4L) across the College and is responsible for monitoring, improving policies and researching new strategies relating to sanctions and praise. She believes students should take responsibility of their learning and B4L should be imbedded into this. Katy is also responsible for ensuring that trainee teachers following initial teacher training programmes experience all aspects of being a teacher while on their placement.



Tom Coleman

Assistant Headteacher, Elizabeth Woodville Primary School

SLE Specialism: Primary maths

Tom is a specialist leader in education for primary mathematics and is currently the Deputy Headteacher at Elizabeth Woodville Primary School. Throughout his career, Tom has always lead mathematics within the three primary schools he has worked in; having a great impact on the children and staff he works with.

In his previous job he led the Forest Way Alliance Maths Network training subject leaders in key elements of maths teaching such as; active maths, mathematical resilience and developing a mathematical ethos in schools. Tom currently leads the Maths network for the Loughborough Learning Alliance. Tom is also a self-published author of children's picture books.



Peter Connor

De Lisle Catholic Voluntary Academy

SLE specialism: PE, closing the gap/pupil premium, ITT and NQT

Peter has taught PE for eight years at De Lisle College where he has worked as Assistant Post-16 Progress Leader, Subject Leader of Learning in PE and Pupil Premium Champion. Peter's PE department teaches across all Key Stages, including GCSE and A level PE and Level 3 BTEC Sport.

Ofsted has commented positively on the department's assessment, feedback and progress in recent reports.

Peter is responsible for developing his school's self-review process at middle leadership level and his most recent appointment has seen him working with a team to 'narrow the gap' between disadvantaged students and their peers.



Alison Dawes

Deputy Headteacher, Booth Wood Primary School

SLE specialism: raising standards in literacy, tracking pupil progress, developing effective teaching and learning, assessment

Alison has worked at Booth Wood Primary School in Loughborough for eight years. As well as being the Deputy, she is also a Year 6 teacher and lead for assessment, the new curriculum and English.

She has been involved in the implementation of a range of initiatives that contributed to the school being awarded 'outstanding' in all categories by Ofsted in December 2012. She is passionate in her belief that no child should be left behind. With this in mind, she has used school data to set interventions, challenge and highlight progress and has also trained leaders, both in her own setting and in other schools, to implement change.



David Deacon

Headteacher, Ashmount School

SLE specialism: Assessment, leadership of continuing professional development (CPD) and curriculum, closing the gap, special educational needs (SEN), initial teacher training (ITT) and newly qualified teachers (NQT) development

David is Headteacher of Ashmount School. He is highly skilled in: curriculum development; assessing, recording and reporting on pupil progress and achievement; and leading continuing professional development programmes for large staff teams.

Ashmount School was awarded the National Pupil Premium Award for Special Educational Needs in 2014, and were named as the Pupil Premium Champions for the East Midlands in 2016. David has conducted more than 25 Pupil Premium reviews at a number of primary and secondary schools across the county.

Prior to this, David taught as an English and a SEN teacher and has held curriculum and pastoral leadership roles within a range of secondary and special schools.



Kate Henson

Deputy Headteacher, Thorpe Acre Infant School

SLE specialism: primary mathematics – EYFS to Year 6

Kate has a passion for primary mathematics and qualified as a Professional Development Lead through the NCETM in 2012. She has also taken part in the NCETM suite of videos supporting teachers with the implementation of the new national curriculum.

Kate has been a mathematics SLE since 2013 and has completed several successful deployments in schools across Leicestershire, supporting teachers and senior leaders from EYFS to Year 6. She has delivered workshops at the East Midlands Maths

Conference for the last two years and leads the Maths SKE (Subject Knowledge Enhancement) project with three other SLEs, supporting the professional development of primary teachers. She co-wrote the new Calculation Policy used by all Affinity Teaching School Alliance schools and produced a scheme of work used by schools across the Discovery Schools Academy Trust.



Vicky Robinson

Assistant Headteacher, Elizabeth Woodville Primary School

SLE Specialism: Writing moderation, new teacher assessment frameworks.

Vicky is a Specialist Leader in Education for Primary English with a particular focus on Writing Moderation. Vicky is Assistant Headteacher at Elizabeth Woodville Primary leading English and is also responsible for teaching English to Years 5 and 6.

Vicky has also worked as a Key Stage Two Writing Moderator for the Local Authority for the past six years. This has involved supporting a wide range of schools in the moderating process and facilitating and leading courses for Key Stage Two teachers. Vicky has gained a wealth of experience having worked in both Key Stages over the past twenty years in both good and outstanding schools. Vicky currently leads the English network for the Loughborough Learning Alliance.



Abi Steady

Deputy Headteacher, Ashmount School

SLE Specialism: SEN (inclusion, communication, ASD, attachment, PDA, MLD, SLD and PMLD), ITT and NQT, EHCP referrals, SENDIAS tribunal support, closing the gap and behaviour (individualised curriculums, education otherwise packages, managed moves)

Abi Steady is Deputy Headteacher and Lead ITT and NQT mentor at Ashmount School. Prior to this, she had been Primary Assistant Head since 2013. Before joining the team at Ashmount, Abi worked for 6 years as an advisory teacher for the authority supporting schools, across the age range, to meet the needs of pupils with autism and related needs.

Throughout her 18 years working within education, Abi has gained a wealth of experience across a variety of mainstream and specialist settings. Abi holds a Post Graduate Diploma in autism from the ACER Institute at Birmingham University. Abi is the Strategic Lead for communication and the model of provision she implemented at Ashmount has been recognised as a model of excellence by SEN Magazine (June 2015).

Abi is an experienced educational trainer and writes and delivers a wide range of training packages related to behaviour and pervasive developmental disorders. Abi is passionate about implementing effective CPD and support packages to enable teachers to raise expectations for all pupils with additional needs. She is also committed to supporting schools to bring through the next generation of teachers who are fully equipped to meet the needs of every child.



Amanda Wells

Booth Wood Primary School

SLE specialism: SEN (dyslexia, attachment, multi-sensory environments), ITT and NQT, behaviour (restorative justice)

Amanda has worked at Booth Wood Primary school for the last 15 years. She has completed the National SENCo Award and a Postgraduate Certificate in Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia). This has enabled Amanda to assess individual children for dyslexia and to plan and deliver appropriate programmes of work for children in schools across Leicestershire.

In addition to dyslexia, other areas of expertise include: supporting newly appointed SENCos; ADHD; attachment disorder; foetal alcohol syndrome and multi-sensory learning environments. Amanda has delivered training and support in these areas in numerous primary and secondary schools with excellent evaluations and feedback.

Other Specialists



Kate Browning

SEN Independent consultant

Specialism: School improvement for SEN and the SENCo role

For 20 years, Kate has been passionately committed to championing the role of the SENCo and supporting schools to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. Over this time, she has worked as a SENCo and Local Authority School Improvement Officer for SEN.

Kate now works as an independent consultant specialising in school improvement for SEN. She also teaches the National Award for SEN Coordination for the University of Northampton and facilitates SENCo Network meetings for schools across Leicestershire and Warwickshire. She is also an Associate Consultant for the National Association of Special Educational Needs (NASEN).

She has a successful track record of working with schools to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. She writes guidance for SENCOs in leading and managing SEN provision and practice and delivers training and coaching for staff within schools, Local Authorities, Teaching School Alliances. She provides Governor training for Leicestershire Governor Development Service. Most recently, she has supported NASEN in writing guidance and delivering national training on the new SEND Code of Practice for SENCOs and School Leaders. She has also presented at educational events across the country.



Lesley Edwards

Educational Psychologist, In Mind Child Psychology

Specialism: Educational psychology and therapeutic services

Lesley has over 30 years' experience working as a Local Authority educational psychologist (EP) across a range of educational settings in the East Midlands. For much of this time she held specialist senior and senior practitioner positions and specialised in emotional barriers to learning and well-being - specifically anxiety and attachment.

Lesley has worked extensively in providing educational psychologist support to schools and early years' settings and so is well acquainted with the diverse range of concerns about children that are raised by parents and teachers.