

The NCETM School Development Lead Programme 2025/26

Information

An essential aim of the Maths Hubs Network is to promote high-quality, collaborative professional and school development for improvement in the teaching of maths. This requires that there are enough people with the skills and capacity to lead, facilitate and support the professional development of school and subject leadership for maths.

The NCETM SDL Programme is designed for participants who are working to develop the leadership of maths in a school or schools other than their own. This programme is needed as part of a coordinated strategy to support the development of local leaders of mathematics education (LLMEs) across the network. It is specifically designed to support LLMEs to develop and enhance leadership capacity in the schools they support through their role. It has evolved from the very successful SLE and PD Lead programmes and it complements the other NCETM LLME development programmes: Mastery Specialists (Primary, Secondary and Post-16), the Professional Development Lead Programmes, and the Maths Hub LLME Community Leads Programme.

The programme

This programme is for colleagues **leading change in schools or groups of schools other than their own** and will benefit both those who have previous experience of developing leadership capacity in schools/groups of schools and those who are new to the role. An ongoing commitment to lead school development of maths in a school or group of schools other than your own is an essential requirement for recruitment to the programme.

The programme consists of a blend of online and face-to-face workshops equivalent to three days. You will be expected to undertake to plan, lead, and evaluate a maths school development initiative for one school (which may not be your own) during the academic year. You will also be required to record your planning, evaluation, and reflections in an Accreditation Evidence Document (AED).

During the programme you will:

- increase your awareness of the skills needed by a mathematics school development lead and have a deeper self-awareness in relation to the role
- develop your knowledge of a range of mathematics school development domains and know why, when and how to work within these effectively
- develop your knowledge and understanding of how to lead the implementation of a maths school development process, with appropriate emphasis on working closely with senior and subject leaders to:
 - explore their setting's needs
 - prepare for and begin (at least) to deliver an evidence-informed approach, designed to address a specified priority and to be sustainable beyond your involvement with the school
 - strengthen your knowledge of the evidence base that underpins school development and change management.

You will be required to:

- collaboratively design and support the leadership of a maths school development initiative that impacts on maths leadership and, subsequently, teaching and learning, and which incorporates models and thinking resulting from reflections on learning and discussions from the programme
- critically reflect on and evaluate the initiative (including, specifically, its impact on school leadership) at all points and make consequent changes to your practice.

Accreditation will be based on your ability to successfully:

- critically evaluate the effectiveness of the mathematics school development initiative you have designed

- reflect on the whole process and critically assess your own learning and practice development as a Mathematics School Development Lead.

Successful completion of the programme and satisfactory completion of all tasks and related documentation will result in you being recognised as an NCETM Accredited School Development Lead.

Funding and support

The School Development Lead Programme is funded by the Maths Hubs Network through your allocated local Maths Hub. You must discuss your intended application with your Maths Hub before applying, as you will need their support to sponsor your place on the programme. If you need support in identifying and contacting your local hub, please contact mathshubs@ncetm.org.uk, with details of your current school/employer or, if you are an independent consultant, the first part (only) of your home address postcode (e.g. SE16).

If you are unable to independently access a school with which to implement a satisfactory initiative (*see key criteria below), you must discuss this with your Maths Hub; if your hub agrees to sponsor you, they will be responsible for providing a project school for you to work with, starting no later than the second half of the autumn term.

*Key criteria for Mathematics School Development Initiatives:

- The SD Lead must be working with the school's senior leadership (i.e. not just subject leaders)
- SD Lead work must go significantly beyond a Maths Hub Work Group programme (i.e. bespoke work that is not a part of the standard offer in, for example, a teaching for mastery programme)
- The SD Lead must not be on the staff at the initiative school (it may be one in their MAT)
- The initiative is focused on just one school and not a group of schools
- The initiative begins with exploring need and capacity; it should not be the rolling out of a pre-determined/agreed programme.

If your application is successful, your Maths Hub will sponsor you for:

- the three face-to-face/online days
- online and email coaching and tutoring from the Cohort Leads throughout the duration of the programme (equivalent to a further one day of funding)
- all administration involved in subsequent accreditation.

Upon successful completion of the School Development Lead Programme, the Maths Hub will offer a grant of £800 (four days of cover funding) to your school/institution.

How to apply

You will need the full support of your headteacher/principal/senior leader to attend face-to-face/online sessions, for which cover is paid as detailed above.

Your school or institution will also need to release you (or you will use your own uncontracted time) to give you appropriate opportunity to design, lead and evaluate your school development initiative, in-person with the leaders of your initiative school. The amount of time required to do so effectively will vary from project to project but should be an absolute minimum of three days. Correspondingly, you and your school/institution will benefit from the subsequent development of your knowledge, skills and experience in school development.

With the support of your headteacher/principal/senior leader, you should complete the online application form and submit it to the NCETM by **5pm on 14 March 2025**.