

# TEACHING SCHOOLS

## What are Teaching Schools?

“Teaching schools are strong schools led by strong leaders that work with others to provide high-quality training, development and support to new and experienced school staff”. (National College definition)

## Teaching School Alliances

Teaching School Alliances are led by a teaching school and include schools that are benefiting from support, as well as strategic partners who lead some aspects of training and development. Strategic partners may include:

- other schools from any phase or sector
- universities
- academy chains
- local authorities
- dioceses
- private sector organisations

A Teaching School Alliance may decide to work with other alliances to share knowledge and resources as a teaching school network.

## Role of Teaching Schools

Teaching schools (TS) have an important role to play in a school-led system and school improvement. Teaching schools will be centres of excellence, taking a more focused role that prioritises:

- co-ordinating and delivering high quality school-based ITT
- providing high quality school-to-school support to spread excellent practice, particularly to schools that need it most
- providing evidence-based professional and leadership development for teachers and leaders across their network

(National College)

## Funding

Teaching schools currently receive an annual grant known as core funding. This is paid directly to the school. It enables schools to build the leadership and administrative capacity to lead an alliance (partners of the TS). At this time funding is allocated as follows:

£60,000 for the first year

£50,000 in year 2

£40,000 in subsequent years

Funding in years 1 and 2 is higher to reflect the additional costs associated with the start-up process and the expectation is that they become sustainable entities. Core funding for teaching schools has been confirmed for the remainder of this parliament. Funding beyond 2019-20 is subject to future spending reviews.

Funding is paid to newly designated teaching school alliances on receipt of signed conditions of designation and grant funding terms and conditions. Payment in subsequent years is made on an annual basis following the completion of an evaluation in the summer term and the return of signed terms and conditions relating to the current financial year. When funding is issued schools will also be sent a grant offer letter.

### **Southampton Position**

5 Teaching Schools:

- Portswood Teaching School Alliance (PTSA) - established 2011 and the first in Southampton
- Bitterne Park Alliance
- Hamwic Teaching Schools Alliance
- Southampton Inclusion Partnership - Special Schools Alliance (Springwell Special School)
- Beechwood - newly designated summer 2017

### **Supporting other schools**

This includes designating and brokering *specialist leaders of education*.

Ts are expected to lead the co-ordination of school-to-school support, including brokerage of national leaders of education (NLE), specialist leaders of education (SLE) and national leaders of governance (NLG) when required. This usually involves working with a school or academy in challenging circumstances to bring about improvement. In Southampton the Local Authority seeks to work in partnership with the Ts wherever possible, and in particular support under-performing schools and academies.

Current changes to funding allocations for school to school support bring about the requirement for Ts to work in a more collaborative way. Priorities for funding are determined by the Regional Schools Commissioner (in discussion with LAs) and bids are considered by regional boards.