



How to inspire true professionalism to transform your school

through SSAT Lead Practitioner Accreditation

Do you believe that the greatest drivers of professionalism in your school are the practitioners who always aspire to improve, nurture and lead colleagues, and develop the next generation?

Lead Practitioner Accreditation will help empower and develop your best practitioners, to reward and inspire them to make a difference where it really counts - in the classroom.

Lead Practitioner – our founding principles

Traditionally, teaching hasn't benefited from the universal development milestones and standards that underpin other professions.

Yet we all know what professionalism looks like. It's about striving for great teaching and learning, not just quick fixes. It requires practitioners who are constantly learning and who use research to challenge and develop their own practice. It means embracing a leadership of learning role, sharing evidence and expertise with colleagues across schools and networks.

Back in 2007, SSAT consulted with leaders, teachers and support staff in schools, as well as academics, to create a definitive way of embedding these principles across the school system. Today the Lead Practitioner programme has thousands of alumni and is now an engine for driving outstanding teaching and learning consistently across the nation's schools.

Here's how it works.

At the Leigh Academies Trust we have created a cross federation model for the SSAT Lead Practitioner programme to drive forward teaching and learning. Our approach has enabled us to harness the skills and expertise of our very best practitioners to develop staff across all our schools.... It is exciting to see new pedagogy evolve through the research element of the programme, and then to watch the LPs share this so enthusiastically with colleagues through a variety of training activities and reflect on and evidence the impact of their work.

The Leigh Academies Trust

What is the Lead Practitioner programme?

The Lead Practitioner programme is made up of a framework of professional standards and a process of accreditation that has been designed by the profession, for the profession. It recognises the skills, experience and qualities of school staff at every level, serving to embed and extend teaching and learning that impacts positively on learners.

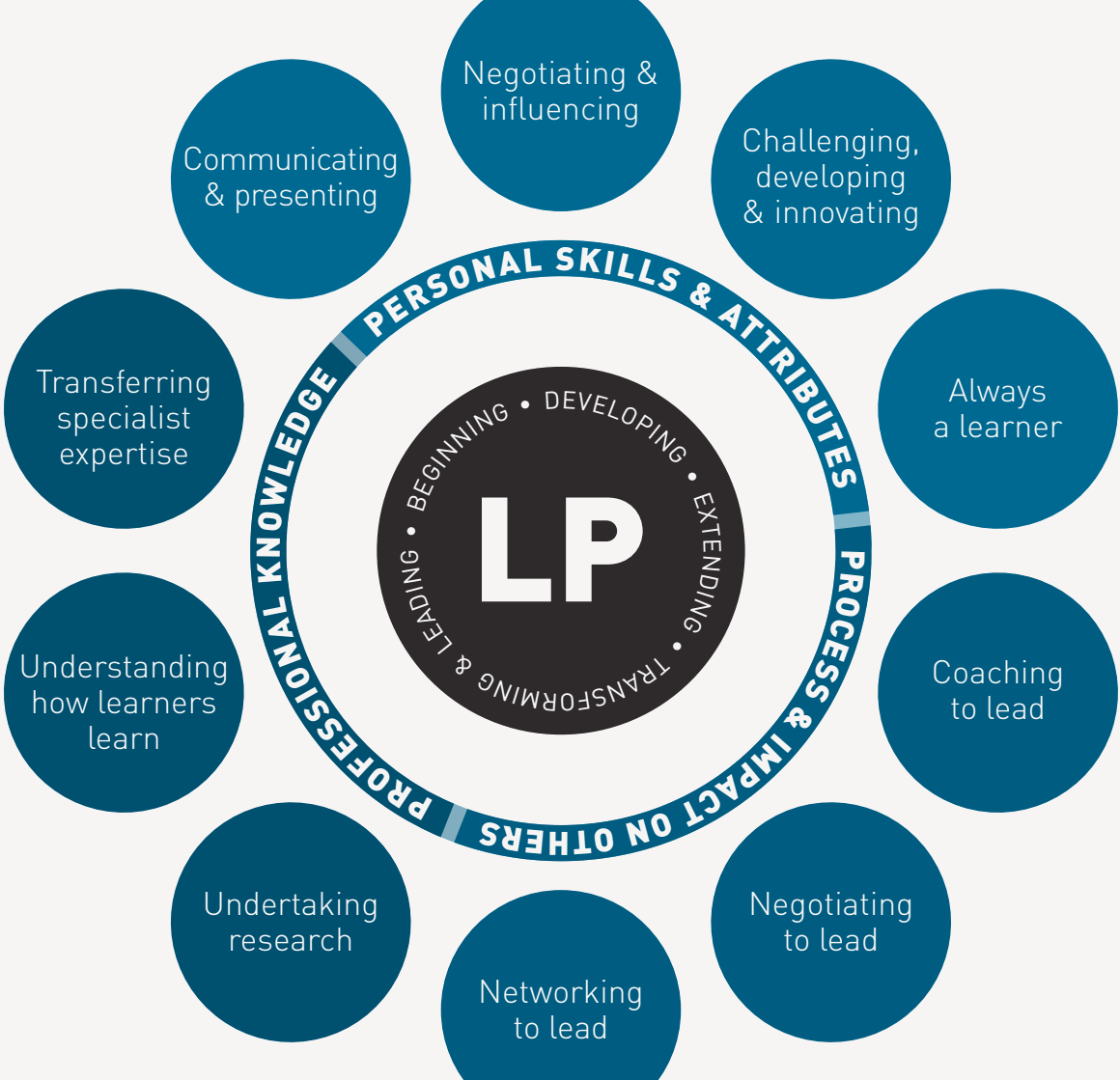
The accreditation programme starts with a rigorous - but not onerous - process of self-assessment against the criteria. This involves online accreditation, supported by moderation and guidance from SSAT experts and experienced Lead Practitioners (LPs). During accreditation teachers reflect on the impact of their practice on learners and understand how it can be shared and developed

with colleagues. Action research and evidence underpin every step of the process.

Once accredited, LPs continue their journey by developing as leaders of learning, inspiring others to embrace Lead Practitioner standards and creating communities of learners across the system.

Accredited status is awarded to the individual, but the programme is at its most powerful when headteachers get behind it on a whole-school basis, harnessing the Lead Practitioner standards to their own development priorities both as part of the accreditation process and beyond the award of Lead Practitioner status.

The Lead Practitioner standards



How Lead Practitioner works

DEVELOPING TEACHERS INTO LEADERS OF LEARNING

The Lead Practitioner programme celebrates and motivates great teachers on an individual basis, especially ones who lead others to develop themselves.

A rigorous process of self-reflection and evaluation, Lead Practitioner Accreditation improves the individual's professional skills and expertise.

Typically, practitioners get started by using the Lead Practitioner framework to develop small scale research

projects that impact on students' learning. But the programme takes off when applicants present their evidence beyond their existing teams to colleagues within their school and beyond.

If you have decided that leadership of learning, rather than system leadership, is your chosen career path, the Lead Practitioner Accreditation programme provides a structure that enables you to develop and flourish.

DRIVING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN SCHOOLS, MATS AND WIDER SCHOOL GROUPINGS

Lead Practitioner's greatest value is as a rigorous process for improving teaching and learning right the way across your school or wider school groupings, such as MATs and Teaching School Alliances.

By providing consistent professional development disciplines – rooted in action research and evidence-based teaching and learning – Lead Practitioner Accreditation empowers professionals to improve together, in all settings and phases.

The many senior leaders who have led groups of practitioners point to the powerful effect of underpinning the goals of the school or network with the consistent, tried-and-tested Lead Practitioner standards.

Effectively, Lead Practitioners can turn whole-school priorities into tangible classroom impact.

On a whole-school basis, Lead Practitioner Accreditation helps:

- evaluate impact, and identify strengths and areas to develop
- introduce criteria and associated levels to clarify the progress practitioners are making in leading learning
- support, develop and retain future leaders of learning
- build a culture of effective teaching and learning
- structure your school's professional development plan.

COST

For up-to-date costs of Lead Practitioner Accreditation, visit ssatuk.co.uk/lp.

The SSAT Lead Practitioner programme is in its fifth year at Thomas Tallis – and it has never been more popular or more empowering. We have found the programme really easy to use, yet challenging, because it encourages those who want professional accreditation to reflect on their practice in ways that promote healthy dialogue regarding developments in learning and teaching.... The Lead Practitioner programme has helped mesh different aspects of our work together and allows our staff to gain recognition and accreditation for their valuable work.

Thomas Tallis School

The key elements of the Lead Practitioner programme

Online accreditation

The process of working towards Lead Practitioner Accreditation is just as important as the outcome. You can achieve accredited status on your own, as an individual practitioner, but for maximum impact we recommend starting your own Lead Practitioner programme with a cohort of teachers in your school or network.

You start by identifying research projects linked to school or local priorities. Applicants then use the Lead Practitioner online tool to progress against the 10 standards,

each at differing spheres of influence (beginning, developing, extending, and transforming & leading).

Along the way, the tool provides feedback, recommended next steps and guidance on building a body of evidence through supporting documentation. Moderation is then carried out biannually by expert, school-based moderators. There's no time limit to applications – you only submit when you are ready.

Taking accreditation to the next level

Lead Practitioner Accreditation lasts for three years and is a nationally recognised qualification that opens up a number of compelling opportunities.

LPs can widen their impact by working with SSAT's national and international networks or by taking up exclusive opportunities to collaborate with leading academics and practitioners through our subject and pedagogy research groups.

Being early years based I often find that you have to adapt programmes to match but I was really impressed by how inclusive it was of all aspects of education.

Primary school accredited Lead Practitioner

Accreditation also offers 30 credits APEL'd towards a masters degree in education at Nottingham University – available as a face-to-face or online course.

Lead Practitioner support packages

An online cohort support pack is available free of charge to all schools setting up an in-house Lead Practitioner Accreditation programme. For more detailed assistance, SSAT also offers two enlightening half-day sessions, held at your school or nearest centre:

Launching the programme helps raise the profile of Lead Practitioner within your school, introduces the detail of the programme, identifies ways of tying Lead Practitioner in with

school development priorities and suggests ideas for action research.

Application support takes you through a self-assessment review, including the process of gathering evidence of impact and coaching to develop the next steps in leading learning.

Lead Practitioner Learning Centres

The idea of a self-improving network, where schools collaborate to support each other and especially underperforming schools, is gathering momentum. But the missing ingredient is often the expertise in leading learning and creating collaborative communities of learners.

SSAT's new Lead Practitioner Learning Centres are designed to fill the gap.

The learning centres are schools that are already hubs of accredited Lead Practitioner expertise and are committed to extending

Lead Practitioner's principles and processes to their own networks. They help other schools apply and manage the accreditation process, offering Lead Practitioner training programmes and building wider communities of LPs.

Lead Practitioner Learning Centres help drive forward the profession but they also benefit themselves, opening up professional development routes for their own LPs and developing new sources of revenue.

Since the launch day we have witnessed our aspirant Lead Practitioner colleagues proactively seek out opportunities for leadership, staff volunteering themselves to lead professional learning sessions for the whole school, others who have offered to organise a TeachMeet, and yet more who are spontaneously mentoring other colleagues....

If you have not yet embarked on a Lead Practitioner journey, I would strongly recommend the experience. You will be amazed at the changes that very quickly result.

Bay House School

Next steps



LP IN ACTION

Watch short films about the programme for an individual or cohort lead.



THE IMPACT

Read case studies from schools and individuals who have been through the accreditation process.



GET INVOLVED

Hear about the latest updates and available opportunities and apply for accreditation.



TALK TO US

Email the team on lpaccreditation@ssatuk.co.uk or call them on 020 7802 9003.

These resources are all available at ssatuk.co.uk/lp

The foundation of our future as a profession

Lead Practitioner Accreditation started in a small number of forward-looking schools, but is now widely recognised by teachers, subject and professional teacher bodies and across the school system as the aspirational standard for the profession.

The Lead Practitioner framework is now being offered to the profession as the basis of the national professional standards of the College of Teaching, the next major milestone in strengthening the status and standards of our profession.

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