



Lead Practitioner

Accreditation

SSAT Lead Practitioner (LP) Accreditation

Recognising excellent practice in education, inspiring teachers, support staff and leaders to make a difference where it really counts – in the classroom.

Celebrating your best practitioners, the accreditation improves expertise, supports professional development, and embeds a culture of evidence-informed teaching and learning across your school. Once accredited, LPs continue their journey as leaders of learning, inspiring others to embrace LP standards and creating communities of learners across the system.

The greatest value of LP is as a rigorous process for improving teaching and learning across your whole school, local network or multi-academy trust (MAT). By providing consistent professional development disciplines rooted in action research and evidence-based teaching and learning, LP empowers professionals to improve together, in all settings and phases. **Effectively, LPs can turn whole-school priorities into tangible classroom impact.**

Benefits for the individual

- International accreditation that recognises professional expertise in leading learning.
- Recognition within their own organisation.
- Continued professional development through the accreditation process.
- An opportunity to celebrate the impact of their work.
- Membership to the wider SSAT LP community.

How it works

The 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.

SSAT Lead Practitioners start by identifying action research projects linked to school or local priorities. The online assessment tool is then used to assess progress against the ten Lead Practitioner standards. Successful LPs will be able to evidence extending their sphere of influence beyond their immediate team.

The process of working towards accreditation is as important as the outcome. The process of self-assessment is supported by guidance and moderation from SSAT experts, enabling practitioners to reflect on the impact of their practice and expand on how it can be shared with colleagues.

Moderation of online portfolios is carried out twice a year. The moderation gateway dates are available on the LP site and reminders are sent directly to aspiring LPs by the SSAT LP team. Aspiring LPs may submit their portfolio at the most appropriate gateway within two years of joining the programme.

Reference library (New)

Whether they are an individual LP, or part of a school or LP Learning Centre (LPLC) cohort already benefiting from the tailored support sessions, aspiring LPs now have access to a comprehensive reference library offering a range of information, advice and guidance, which is regularly updated.

National cohort (New)

Individual aspiring LPs, not part of a school or LPLC cohort now have the option of joining a national cohort of LPs, where they will join online support seminars and have the opportunity to network with other aspiring LPs from a range of settings.

“Lead Practitioner Accreditation made me more self-reflective and more willing to try new strategies. It also encouraged me to work beyond my team and to take on more whole school responsibilities.”

*Alice Andrea, History Lead Practitioner,
Little Ilford School*

The SSAT Lead Practitioner standards

The LP standards describe the attributes of leaders of learning.

The standards were driven by teachers, support staff and leaders who wanted to recognise, value and celebrate the impact of their colleagues in leading learning. SSAT co-created the LP standards with schools, Warwick University and the Centre for the Use of Research and Evidence in Education (CUREE).

Refined and continuously developed through regular consultation over several years, the standards truly provide the definitive framework for professional development in education.

The ten LP standards that make up the framework are divided into 3 categories:

- **Personal skills and attributes:** to work successfully with colleagues, able to inspire and motivate others, not necessarily the 'guru with all the answers' but open to new ideas and approaches. Possessing a high degree of emotional intelligence.
- **Professional knowledge:** engaging with research and evidence, translating this into context and measuring impact. Having a sound pedagogical understanding and how to effectively share this with others as part of their professional development.
- **Process and impact on others:** combining the personal skills and attributes along with professional knowledge to lead learning and support colleagues' professional development. Demonstrating high quality coaching skills and an ability to develop a professional learning network.





Why implement SSAT Lead Practitioner Accreditation in your school?

Accredited status is awarded to individuals, but is most powerful when adopted on a whole-school basis or across a cluster of schools with an LP cohort being supported to:

- Recruit, retain and develop future leaders of learning.
- Evaluate each individual's impact, identifying their strengths and areas to develop.
- Introduce a framework of standards with impact at its core.
- Build a culture of, evidence-informed teaching and learning.
- Structure a school-wide or trust-wide professional development plan.

Lead Practitioner cohort support

A cohort support pack is available free of charge for all schools setting up the accreditation programme, containing an internal advert, person specification and application template.

For more detailed, contextualised and comprehensive guidance, schools may opt for the LP support sessions, consisting of two enlightening professional learning seminars, delivered in your school at a time to suit you.

The two seminars consist of an inspiring launch session and highly supportive application support session. The launch session introduces aspiring LPs to the accreditation system and process, as well as helping them identify appropriate school priorities which will focus their efforts over the coming months. The application support session, scheduled 6-8 weeks prior to the moderation gateway, is an opportunity for aspiring LPs to review and refine their portfolios prior to submission for moderation.

Becoming a Lead Practitioner Learning Centre (LPLC)

LPLCs are hubs of accredited LP expertise, committed to extending the Lead Practitioner principles and processes to their own networks. They help other schools apply and manage the accreditation process, offering support packages and building wider communities of LPs.

Becoming an LPLC gives you the chance to work with other schools in your cluster, support local projects, develop your school's own Lead Practitioners and generate revenue for your school by charging for the training delivered on behalf of SSAT.

An ongoing professional development journey

LP accreditation should be seen as a significant milestone on a practitioner's professional development journey, with LPs expanding the scope of their research, or contributing to the national picture of 'what works in context' by showcasing their practice through networks including the SSAT network of schools.

To ensure LP practice reflects current educational thinking, accreditation lasts for three years. All LPs are invited to re-accredit after three years through a streamlined validation process, which celebrates their leadership of learning achievements since accreditation.