

Middle Leadership *Excellence in Practice*

Cohort 3 -Recruiting for Autumn 2025

Learners First is proud to be recruiting Cohort 3

Are you a current or aspiring Middle Leader with a curriculum or pastoral responsibility/interest? Do you lead a team, influence and develop others to deliver excellence that delivers positive outcomes for children and young people?

If so, this professional learning experience and peer networking opportunity is for you...

Whether you have studied a Specialist NPQ or wish to find an alternative development opportunity, this experience will complement DfE programmes by taking a more holistic view of the many facets, domains, opportunities and challenges of the Middle Leader role in schools. We will explore:

- Research informed and evidence led strategies and approaches to lead school improvement
- The leadership skills, qualities and behaviours required to build relationships, tackle tricky situations, develop teams and raise standards
- Metacognitive approaches of self-reflection and evaluation, and complete gap tasks to ensure that learning is centred on you as a leader
- Tools and strategies to frame the implementation of change projects and consider how AI tools can ease workload

The unique features of this Middle Leadership experience include:

- Peer support and professional challenge through a cross regional network of schools
- An elective 'curiosity' visit to another school/setting
- The headspace to think and reflect on your leadership and real time priorities in your school
- No formal written assessment but instead a verbal VIVA presentation of your learning journey, achievement and next steps

Learning Focus:

Developing Your Leadership Mindset
Creating the Conditions for Change

Leading Strategy for Improvement
Change Management & Decision Making

Leading Highly Effective Teams
Building relationships, Securing 'Buy in', & Courageous Conversations

Leading Curriculum, Learning & Teaching
Creating & Owning Your Curriculum Narrative

Leading Innovation and Change
Embracing Partnership, Collaboration and Innovation

Leading & Managing a Budget
Planning, Risk Management & Communication

The Leader Meet
Sustaining Improvement – Sharing What You're Proud Of and Learning from Others

Session Dates:

Introduction – October 2nd 9-12 noon (In person)
Workshop 1 – October 22nd 8.45-3.15 pm (in person)
Workshop 2 – November 25th 8.45-3.15 pm (in person)
Workshop 3 – December 12th 8.45-3.15 pm (in person)
Workshop 4 – January 8th 8.45-3.15pm (in person)
Workshop 5 – February 3rd 3.30-5.30 pm (Online)
Workshop 6 – February 25th 3.30-4.30 pm (Online)
Workshop 7 – March 20th 9-12 noon (In person)

Venue: Winterhill School, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S61 2BD

Costs & Application:

Fully funded for schools & MATS subscribing to Learners First or £475 per participant for non subscribing schools

Apply by scanning the QR code or [Apply here](#)

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