

Middle Leadership *Excellence in Practice*

Cohort 4 - Recruiting for Spring 2026



Are you a current or aspiring Middle Leader, influencing and developing others to deliver positive outcomes for children and young people? Do you wish to develop your leadership skills, approaches and effectiveness? If so, this cross phase professional learning experience and peer networking opportunity is for you...

With the national changes to inspection, spotlight on curriculum and assessment, emphasis on inclusion, workload and wellbeing, there has never been a more critical time to explore Middle Leadership. Against this backdrop we will consider the domains, exciting opportunities and challenges of this valuable 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 gap tasks to ensure that learning is centred on you as a leader
- Case studies, tools and strategies to frame the implementation of change projects, consider how AI tools can ease workload and prioritise wellbeing

The unique features of this Middle Leadership experience include:

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

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 Inclusion & Pupil Investment
Adaptive Practice

Leading & Managing Operations
Budget, Risk Management & Communication

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

Session Dates:

Introduction – February 9th 2-4 pm (online)
Workshop 1 – March 5th 8.45-3.00 pm (in person)
Workshop 2 – April 23rd 8.45-3.00 pm (in person)
Workshop 3 – May 8th 8.45-3.00 pm (in person)
Workshop 4 – June 18th 8.45-3.00 pm (in person)
Workshop 5 – July 1st 3.30-5.30 pm (online)
Workshop 6 – July 10th 9-12 noon (in person)

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

Cost & Application:

Fully funded for schools in the PCA & Learners First Partnership or £450 per participant for non partner schools

Apply by scanning the QR code or [Apply here](https://www.learnersfirst.net)
www.learnersfirst.net
Email us:
info@learnersfirst.org

