

# The Church of England National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership (NPQEL)

## Course Overview for Participants

This programme is for school leaders who are, or are aspiring to be, an executive headteacher or have a school trust-wide role with responsibility for leading several schools. This includes those with trust-wide responsibility for aspects of trust development (e.g. Head of School Improvement, Director of Education etc.), and executive leadership in non-academy contexts – such as Federations and other school groupings.

## Our NPQEL programme will:

Develop evidence-led expertise equipping you to respond effectively to the strategic challenges you will encounter; investing in other leaders, enabling the flourishing of children and adults through an ambitious vision for your whole context.

Deepen your knowledge application to enable you to help your group of schools keep improving in key domains including professional development, governance, curriculum and organisational management.

Provide you with a dedicated expert coach who will champion, challenge and encourage your leadership journey, developing your specialist knowledge and supporting your wellbeing and resilience as a leader.

Create networked communities of practice of fellow professionals on a national stage to support your development for the long-term, enabling the collective expertise of the whole education system to grow and develop.



“The Church of England’s offer is integral to our vision for the professional development over the next 4 years. We are thrilled to be working with such a high quality partner and look forward to many of our leaders developing with the Church of England in their career pathway through the full suite of qualifications.”

Laurie Kwissa, CEO, Liverpool Diocese Schools Trust



## Your Learning Experience

The Church of England NPQEL programme is designed to develop you as a leader in 3 key aspects, which we define as **CALLED**, **CONNECTED** and **COMMITTED**.

Drawing on these aspects of leadership, your learning experience with the Church of England will be defined by 6 interacting principles upon which we have built the entire programme.



### #1 Teacher excellence at the heart of Leadership

Be inspired to place the art and craft of teaching at the heart of your vision for school leadership and secure the best outcomes for children through building a culture of teacher excellence effective classroom practice.



### #2 Culture which shapes Leadership Practices

You set the culture and define it by your expectations, actions and decision-making, enabling your teams to secure the very best outcomes for every child. Putting your vision into practice is complex, but each unit will help you to bring this vision alive.



### CALLED:

Defining self-identity and ambitious school vision for flourishing children and adults



### #3 Creating and sustaining Communities of Practice

We flourish together not alone. Your training will embed you in vibrant professional networks, ensuring that your wisdom and wellbeing are strengthened by the community.



### #6 Social Justice and Serving the Common Good

Our Vision for Education for all schools is centred on the flourishing of children and adults through Educating for Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity. Leading excellence in teaching is the most effective way to enact social justice for any community.



### COMMITTED:

Enacting purpose through evidence-led decision-making and actions



### CONNECTED:

Developing together within an inter-dependent community of learners



### #5 Effective Role-Specific Application of Knowledge

The knowledge you gain will be applied effectively, specific to your role as an Executive Leader, enabling you to deeply understand the evidence based teaching, and put this into practice in new and unfamiliar contexts.



### #4 An Expert Coach for Every Leader

Your expert coach will guide you through a significant proportion of the programme, enhancing your understanding of the research and supporting your practice of new skills.

## The role of Executive Leader

Leading across a group of schools is complex. Executive leaders are typically responsible for several schools located on different sites either as a cluster within a larger trust or as a trust themselves. Their strategic work and relies on working with and through their colleagues (in particular, through senior colleagues) to ensure every pupil and student gets an excellent education.

Those in an executive leadership role need to have a strong understanding of their context, communities and the pupils and adults they work with. They also need to have depth of expertise across a number of specialist areas related to their role and in approaches that, through working with their colleagues, enable their trust or group of schools to keep improving.

They must understand the relationship between these different areas, how they can change over time, how to set an ambitious vision for their school trust and the schools within it, and how to establish the culture and conditions across the trust in which staff, pupils and students are able to thrive.

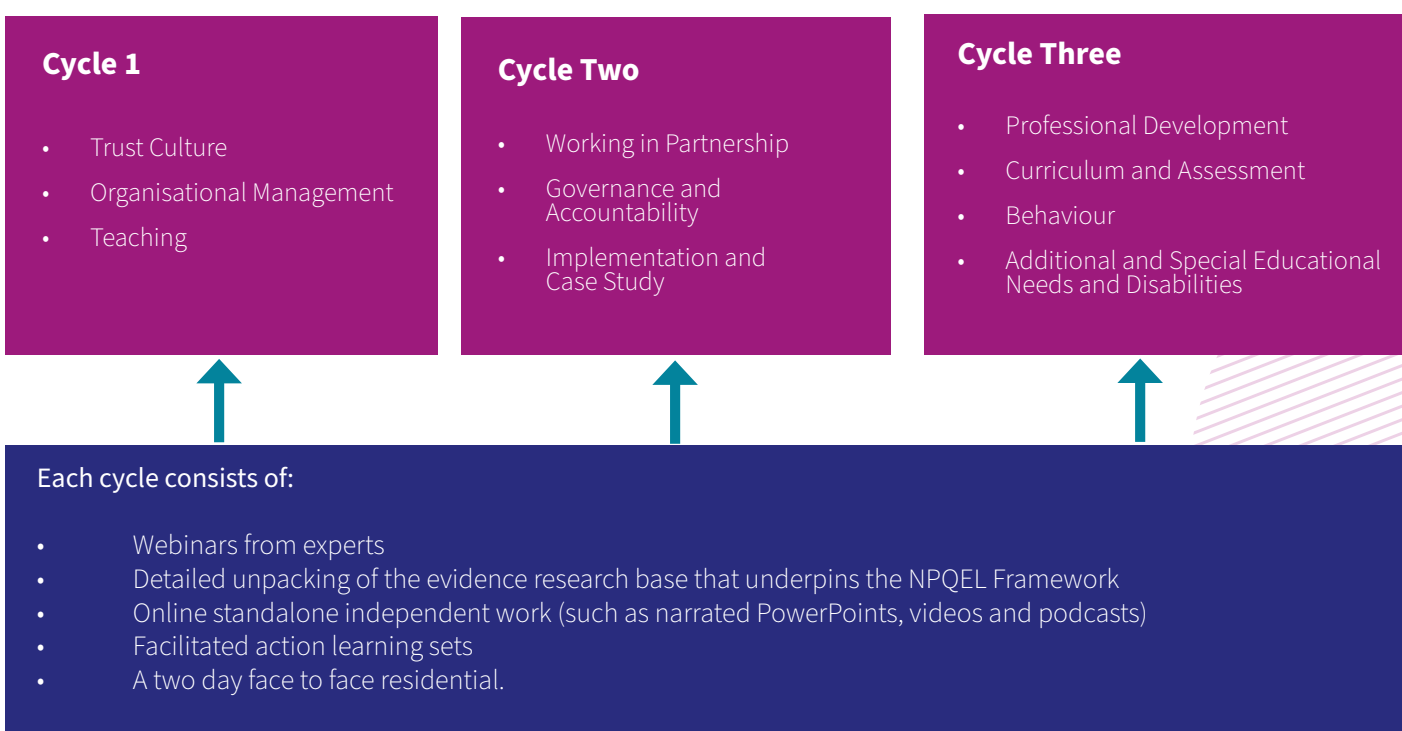
Developing expertise in executive leadership is complex. The NPQEL framework is a codification of essential knowledge, skills and concepts that underpin successful leadership of a school/trust. It sets out what those leading across a trust should know and be able to do within the specialist areas related to their role and in relation to approaches that enable their trust to keep improving.



## The Curriculum

We have designed a curriculum that draws on and blends together sections from across the framework and which is responsive to participant needs. Our curriculum aims to develop expertise that is flexible and allows participants to respond to the challenges they will encounter in a range of contexts. It will allow participants to develop expertise that can be applied to both identifying and addressing persistent and common challenges and opportunities in school leadership.

There are ten units are delivered within three cycles over the 18 month course duration.





## The Assessment

The assessment is summative and is designed to assess your knowledge, understanding and application of the ‘**Learn That**’ and ‘**Learn How To**’ statements that have underpinned the NPQEL.

Assessors are looking for clear, research-based evidence that you have understood the core knowledge from this programme (Learn That statements) and can apply this knowledge effectively into this new context (Learn How To statements)

**The maximum word count is 1500.**

You will be assessed according to a 4-stage process of your response. This response must:

1. Identify the problem(s)
2. Identify the solution(s)
3. Set out the rationale for the solution(s) proposed
4. Detail how the implementation of the solution should be approached and why

1

Problem

2

Solution

3

Rationale

4

Implementation

## Our National Vision

This NPQEL will be delivered in one fantastic national cohort of executive leaders drawn from right across the country. You will be learning alongside inspirational leaders from a wide range of contexts, drawing on the leading expertise nationally, high profile inputs and the opportunities to develop and sustain long-term national networks.

## Trusts and the Local Authority Maintained System

In the Church of England and Catholic Education Service, we are particularly aware that there are many different groupings both in the academy trust and the local authority maintained systems. Throughout the curriculum we will make reference to different school groupings but you will be encouraged to think about the principles that apply to all executive leadership positions and also to consider the government’s stated aim of having all schools working in multi academy trusts.

## Course Leaders

Throughout your NPQ you will be taught by an NPQEL Programme Lead and team of Executive Leaders who lead the majority of your learning events. you will be supported by an Expert Coach who will facilitate your Action Learning Sets, and inspired by Guest Speakers who join to share their expertise in specific areas.



## Department For Education Scholarship Funding

Full funding is available for all NPQs for state-funded schools and state-funded 16-19 institutions in England

See [www.cefel.org.uk/npq](http://www.cefel.org.uk/npq) for latest information on eligibility.

### How to apply

1. You will need to complete an online application form at [www.cefel.org.uk/npq](http://www.cefel.org.uk/npq).
2. Your sponsor will then complete an endorsement form. Your sponsor should be your Trust CEO or Chair of Governors if you are a serving Headteacher, or Chair of the Trust Board if you are the Trust CEO.



Register your interest now on our website to ensure you get the latest information about completing your application

We host regular webinars to support you in your development and choosing the right programme.

Find out more: [www.cefel.org.uk/npq](http://www.cefel.org.uk/npq)