

Who can apply?

To become an SLE, you need to have been in a leadership role below the level of headteacher for at least 2 years. Your headteacher will be asked to confirm that you are in an appropriate role. Higher level teaching assistants are not eligible to apply.

You can be from any type or phase of school.

You don't need to be in an outstanding school or a school that is part of a [teaching school alliance](#), but your school will need to have the capacity to release you to work in other schools. You must have at least 1 specialism from our areas of expertise, which are based on the 4 areas of focus for Ofsted.

Ofsted focus	Areas of expertise
Leadership and management	Academies and academy transition; assessment; leadership of continuing professional development; school business management and financial management; leadership of curriculum
Pupil achievement	Art; closing the gap; drama; design and technology; early years; English; geography; history; information and communication technology; maths; modern foreign languages; music; phonics; physical education; personal, social and health education; religious education; science; special educational needs; support for the most able pupils
Quality of teaching	Initial teacher training and newly qualified teacher development
Behaviour and safety	Behaviour and discipline; attendance

To be successful in your application, you should have:

- a successful track record of working effectively within your own school and/or across a group of schools, or working with a range of leaders within a single school
- evidence of successfully using coaching and/or facilitation skills to bring about sustainable improvements
- excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- an understanding of what constitutes 'outstanding' in your field of expertise and the ability and confidence to communicate this

- an understanding of how your specialism and skills can contribute to wider school improvement goals
- an analytical approach to identifying and prioritising needs
- the ability to set and establish new and innovative working practices
- the ability to grow leadership capacity in others