

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



‘The overarching aim of the Minster Learning Alliance is that all pupils in our schools will benefit from our commitment to work collaboratively to share our strengths and support development.’

Leadership Development

Teacher Development

Networking & Moderation

AI in Education

SEND Hot Topics

Midday & Breaktime Courses

Mental Health First Aid

Nottinghamshire Music Hub

The Minster Learning Alliance (MLA) was formed in September 2021, building upon the work of the Minster Teaching School Alliance over the previous eight years. The MLA serves our partnership of schools sharing best practice, learning from each other and supporting improvement in all member schools. This philosophy is expressed in our mission:

***'Together, we help every child to flourish, opening doors to fulfilling futures.'***

At the MLA, we are proud to work with a wide range of respected organisations to ensure our professional learning offer meets the evolving needs of our member schools. Our strategic collaborators include Nottingham Trent University, the University of Nottingham, the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, the East Midlands East Maths Hub, the Redhill Teaching Hub and the Minster Trust for Education (MITRE). These partnerships allow us to draw on leading expertise and the latest research in education.

Together, we offer high-quality, evidence-informed professional development for all staff working in our schools – always with the aim of improving outcomes for children and young people. We work closely with our member schools to ensure that everything we offer is relevant, impactful, and grounded in real-world practice. We believe in the power of collaboration and continuous learning. That's why we welcome the opportunity to work with any school – regardless of phase, type, trust membership, religious character or location. By learning together, we grow stronger together.

We are pleased to present our Professional Learning for the 2025/26 academic year. If you are interested in joining the MLA or would like to explore potential collaborations, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Our flexible approach means that schools can engage with the activities that best suit their needs – there are no minimum or maximum requirements. This year, alongside our established programmes and networks, we are introducing a range of professional learning opportunities focused on Teaching and Learning as well as AI in Education, ensuring that our offer remains relevant, future-focused and responsive to the priorities of our schools.

With AI in Education evolving rapidly and becoming an increasingly significant part of pupils' lives, we're committed to working together to help school staff stay informed, confident and prepared. Our AI Champions network provide a space to explore emerging technologies, share best practice and understand how AI can be used effectively and ethically in education by teachers, support staff and pupils. As this area continues to develop at pace, we believe it is essential that our staff are equipped to engage with it meaningfully and make informed decisions for the benefit of their pupils.

Thank you for taking the time to explore what we have to offer. We hope to welcome you to one of our events very soon.

We warmly welcome staff from all schools to take part in our professional learning opportunities, as we believe that a diverse and inclusive network enriches everyone’s experience. Schools can choose to engage in individual programmes or activities on a flexible ‘pay-as-you-go’ basis. Alternatively, many schools find that becoming an MLA member offers the most cost-effective and impactful way to access a broad range of professional development throughout the year. MLA membership involves a one-off annual fee, tailored to the size of the school and calculated using pupil numbers from the previous October census. This fee helps

sustain the leadership, coordination and delivery of high-quality learning opportunities – the MLA does not seek to make a profit. By joining the MLA community, schools benefit not only from a rich programme of learning, but also from being part of a wider network committed to collaboration, innovation and continuous improvement.

## MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

The cost of MLA membership is based upon the size of your school. Full membership for primary and secondary schools\* is as follows:

Number of Pupils	Full membership fee	Full membership provides
Up to 75	£600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance at all networks and moderation groups.</li> <li>Participation in our Leadership and Teacher programmes.</li> <li>Unlimited participation in all our courses.</li> <li>Discounted participation in Mental Health Level 2 First Aid Certificate .</li> </ul>
76 - 150	£850	
151 - 250	£1250	
251 - 400	£1750	
401 - 600	£2100	
601 - 800	£2500	
801 - 1200	£3000	
1201 +	£3500	

\* If you lead a Special, Alternative Provision or Hospital school and are interested in full membership, please contact us to discuss an appropriate full membership arrangement.

The MLA offers a wide range of programmes, networks and courses for all staff working in primary and secondary schools.

## OUR PROGRAMMES

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### **Aspire to Lead: From Practice to Impact**

The Aspire to Lead programme develops your knowledge, understanding and application of key leadership behaviours and approaches.

Over the course of two terms, you will work in mixed cross-phase groups, in face-to-face sessions, through personal reflection and individual learning in your school, and put your learning into practice by leading a project linked to your school's improvement priorities.

You will also have access to a coach based in your school who will support your learning throughout the programme.

The programme is suitable for new or aspiring leaders, or existing middle leaders who are seeking to develop their practice and understanding of what makes them effective.

**Format:** Six face-to-face sessions over two terms

**Cost:** £300 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Aspire to Lead: From Practice to Impact](#)

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### **Elevate: The MITRE Teacher Programme**

The Elevate Programme is designed to develop the classroom practice of participants in the long-term and is facilitated by staff with expertise in and a passion for both the science and craft of teaching.

This programme provides the opportunity to reflect on and develop pedagogy, engage with evidence and research on what makes effective teaching and become reflective practitioners.

This programme is for any teacher who wants to develop their practice in a supportive environment, focusing on what makes great teaching. Typically, we work with teachers in the developing years of their career following the Early Career Framework, although the programme is also suitable for more experienced colleagues who want the chance to revisit and develop their pedagogy.

**Format:** Seven sessions over 2 terms, with a mixture of afternoons and twilights

**Cost:** £300 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Elevate: The MITRE Teaching Programme](#)

## NETWORKS AND COURSES

The MLA offers a range of professional learning that support the sharing of best practice and resources, professional support and development and expert input for both teachers and support staff. In addition, we provide a range of courses suitable for a range of staff in specialist roles.

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### **Ignite: Developing your Teaching in Years 3-6**

Ignite is designed specifically for teachers working within MITRE schools within the first 3-6 years of their practice. With the aim to inspire teachers through engaging professional learning, deepening practice with current educational research and reflection, fostering collaboration, sharing with peers and supporting wellbeing and workload through effective strategies.

Ignite will include face-to-face sessions with teachers which explore key aspects of teaching, online 'Teach Meet' sessions which serve as an opportunity for teachers to share best practice and learn from each other and an exchange programme in the Summer term, with the opportunity for teachers to visit a colleague in a different setting.

This is suitable for teachers in the first 3-6 years of their career.

**Format:** Five sessions, with a mixture of face-to-face and online.

**Cost:** £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Ignite: Developing your teaching in Years 3-6](#)

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### **Designated Safeguarding Lead Network**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead Network is a termly forum designed to further strengthen safeguarding practice across our school communities. It is an opportunity to bring together DSLs and safeguarding leads to share legislative and policy updates, best practice and address emerging concerns in line with statutory guidance and local safeguarding priorities. The aim of the network is to promote a culture of continued learning, strategic direction and alignment across our schools, ensuring that safeguarding leads remain informed, confident, and well-supported in their roles.

This network is for all DSLs in primary and secondary schools.

**Format:** Three sessions a year, 1 per term

**Cost:** £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Designated Safeguarding Lead Network](#)

## NETWORKS AND COURSES

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### Moderation Groups

The MLA runs three moderation groups for primary colleagues: EYFS, KS1 and KS2. These provide the opportunity to share examples of work, marking standards and inform curriculum development.

The moderation groups are for colleagues involved in the planning, delivery and assessment of the curriculum in each key stage.

**Format:** Moderation groups operate on a termly basis with 3 sessions per year

**Cost:** £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:**

[EYFS Network and Moderation](#)

[KS1 Moderation](#)

[KS2 Moderation](#)

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### Primary Leaders Network

This network offers a supportive space to explore key aspects of leadership, share good practice and reflect on real-life case studies. Leaders will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions around current educational issues, collaborate with peers and develop practical strategies to take back to their schools. Whether you are looking to grow your leadership confidence, stay informed or simply connect with others in similar roles, this network is here to support your journey.

This network is designed specifically for senior leaders (excluding Head Teachers) working in primary schools.

**Format:** Three sessions a year, 1 per term

**Cost:** £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Primary Leaders Network](#)

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### SENCO Network

This network offers the opportunity to share updates on local and national developments in SEND, develop skills and knowledge, learn from new and innovative research, and network with colleagues to share and further develop their practice.

This network is for SENCOs in primary and secondary schools.

**Format:** Three sessions a year, 1 per term

**Cost:** £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [SENCO Network](#)

## NETWORKS AND COURSES

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### Teaching Assistant SEND Network

This network offers a platform to share best practices, access resources, and gain support from peers. Whether you are looking to enhance your skills, stay updated on SEND developments, or connect with colleagues, the Teaching Assistant SEND Network is here to empower you in your role, making a positive impact in every student's educational journey. The network is for primary and secondary phase teaching assistants and other educational support staff who work with children with SEND.

**Format:** Three sessions a year, 1 per term

**Cost:** £150 per person for non-MLA members (3 for 2 offer), £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Teaching Assistant SEND Network](#)

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### Business/Office Manager Network

This network is a professional forum designed to support those leading on finance, operations and administration across schools. This collaborative network offers a supportive space to share expertise, discuss a wide range of topics, gain practical insights and stay ahead in a rapidly changing educational environment.

The network is suitable for Business/Office Managers and Finance Officers.

**Format:** Networks have three sessions a year, 1 per term

**Cost:** £150 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Business/Office Manager Cross-Phase Network](#)

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### Senior Mental Health Lead Network

This network offers a supportive and collaborative space for SMHLs across our schools to come together, share best practice and lead meaningful change in their school communities towards a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing for pupils and staff.

The network also supports schools in aligning their mental health strategy with safeguarding, SEND and curriculum development.

The network is for Senior Mental Health Leads in both primary and secondary schools.

**Format:** Two sessions a year - Autumn and Spring term

**Cost:** £100 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:** [Senior Mental Health Lead Network](#)

## NETWORKS AND COURSES

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### Level 2 Mental Health First Aid Certificate

An internationally recognised training programme that provides participants with the knowledge and understanding to support students with a range of mental health issues.

The training leads to a certificate in Level 2 Mental Health First Aid and the resources will be available to you.

This course is for anyone who regularly works closely with children and young people in Primary and Secondary schools.

**Format:** In-person training for one day

**Cost:** £150 per person for non-MLA members, £100 for MLA members.

**Details and bookings:** [Level 2 Mental Health First Aid Course](#)

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### SEND Hot Topics - Online

These sessions have been identified through school feedback, relating to the most pressing areas of need and support in school.

These one-hour online sessions will look at how we identify need, support our students, and remove barriers to learning through adaptive teaching practices, learning environments, and targeted intervention.

These sessions are for teachers, teaching assistants and other educational support staff who work with children with SEND and SEND link governors who want to develop their knowledge and understanding of how best to support young people in their learning.

**Format:** Five 1-hour online sessions - Autumn/Spring Terms

**Cost:** £30 per person for non-MLA members (3 for 2 offer), £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:**

[Hot Topic 1 - SEMH and trauma informed practice](#)

[Hot Topic 2 - Dyslexia awareness and support](#)

[Hot Topic 3 - Supporting Speech and Language needs](#)

[Hot Topic 4 - Behaviour and SEND](#)

[Hot Topic 5 - Session focus TBC](#)

[Hot Topic 6 - Session focus TBC](#)

## NETWORKS AND COURSES

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### Nottinghamshire Music Hub – Primary Music CPD Network

The Primary Music CPD Network provides a strong and supportive learning community, ideal for leaders and teachers who wish to work together to explore best practice in music education from a national and local perspective. It provides the opportunity for professionals to collaborate and share strategies to improve outcomes and experiences for pupils in all schools.

This network is for subject leaders and those involved in delivering music in Nottinghamshire schools.

**Format:** Three sessions a year, 1 per term

**Cost:** £120 per person for non-MLA members, £0 for MLA members.

**Details and bookings:** [Nottinghamshire Music Hub – Primary Music CPD Network](#)

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### Midday and Breaktime Training Courses

We have a range of development opportunities for support staff working in Early Years, Primary, Secondary and SEN schools, delivered by NSM Training and Consultancy.

These courses are suitable for Lunchtime Supervisors, Playworkers, Catering staff, Office Staff, Teaching Assistants and support staff.

**Format:** Each course is a 1-hour online provision

**Cost:** £40 per person per session for non-MLA members (5 for 3 offer), £0 for MLA members

**Details and bookings:**

[The Outstanding Lunchtime Supervisor: Skills for Success and Impact](#)

[Behaviour Management Made Easy: Empowering Lunchtime Supervisors](#)

[Play with Purpose: Practical Games and Activities for Lunchtime Supervisors](#)

[SEND/ALN Awareness](#)

[Rainy Day Magic: Turning Wet Play into Positive and Productive Lunchtimes](#)

## NETWORKS AND COURSES

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### AI Champions Network – Exploring AI in Education

We are excited to launch a new initiative across MITRE to explore the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education. As AI technologies continue to develop rapidly, they offer promising opportunities to support our work in planning, marking, administration and leadership.

Our AI Champions are staff members from all roles who want to be at the forefront of this exciting journey. This is an early-stage exploration, so there is no expectation of prior AI knowledge. Instead, we want people who are eager to learn, experiment and share ideas about how AI tools can enhance our everyday work and improve outcomes for students and staff alike.

As an AI Champion, you will have the chance to:

- Collaborate with colleagues from other schools
- Trial AI tools in real settings
- Share feedback and insights
- Help shape future AI adoption and training

If you are interested in joining this network, please contact Stacey Sills [s.sills@mitretrust.org.uk](mailto:s.sills@mitretrust.org.uk)

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### Initial Teacher Education

The Minster Learning Alliance works closely with Nottingham Trent University as a Strategic Partner in delivery of teacher training at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

To discuss the range of opportunities available in offering placements and engaging in the delivery of training, please contact:

Nicole Lyons, Leader of Teacher Education [n.lyons@mitretrust.org.uk](mailto:n.lyons@mitretrust.org.uk) | 01636 551 123

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## CONTACTS

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