



Exceed Teaching Schools Alliance, Bradford: A Summary of Our Vision

Exceed TSA is Bradford's only Alliance – a partnership of schools and multi-academy trusts committed to providing peer support - with two lead schools; Copthorne Primary School and Horton Grange Primary School. These schools are committed to the moral purpose of working alongside local schools and partnerships to help raise standards, through providing additional capacity to develop and expand the school-led system for school improvement. The two lead schools don't do this alone, they are building networks between school leaders at all levels and their staff to give all schools and partnerships a greater voice and role to make sure the support they need is available locally. Primarily, this is achieved by empowering staff in all schools to provide and access school-based support, CPD, leadership development, research and development, and initial teacher training on a 'when-ready' basis.

Teaching Schools are at the heart of the government's school improvement strategy. Teaching Schools are increasingly seen as the conduit for developing support for schools. The Government expects schools and multi-academy trusts to either have their own Teaching School (300 more "outstanding" schools will be designated as Teaching Schools nationally taking the total to 1000) or align to an established Teaching School for their school improvement support. Exceed TSA is empowering its partner schools and MATs to shape the support it facilitates. Schools and partnerships are represented on its Strategic Board with further schools contributing to its sub-committee working groups – Professional Learning (developing CPD, leadership development, and research & development); Talent Management (ITT, NQT, recruitment and retention); and School Improvement (Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE), school to school support). These areas of focus complement, for example, those of a Trust Board associated with a MAT; they don't replace or duplicate it. Schools and partnerships are able to choose which elements of the Teaching Schools' work they wish to access and contribute to.

Exceed TSA's school improvement offer is shaped by schools and MATs for schools. Exceed TSA will primarily serve the needs of its partners although many aspects will remain accessible for all schools within the city and region. But, it cannot replicate the local authority-wide models that have traditionally existed; it needs to adopt a different model by aligning to meet the needs of partners with a shared and complementary ethos and values – Exceed TSA's key criteria for agreeing membership arrangements. Exceed TSA is not seeking to develop a huge Alliance; its more concerned with quality and meeting the needs of its partners. Exceed TSA does ask partners to sign up to a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding so that there is an agreement in place that schools and partners will work together and support each other. There is no membership fee or subscription cost. Some schools may already be viewed

as Alliance members to other TSAs simply because they attended an event; we don't think this as an 'agreement' is rigorous enough.

Going forward, Exceed TSA believes the Teaching Schools and its partners work will have even greater impact through these membership arrangements. For example, CPD will become easier to align to partners' School Development Plan priorities and collaborative events can be timetables across schools, e.g. local TeachMeets for staff training twilight sessions with short keynote presentations and teachers sharing their best and emerging practice. The Teaching Schools will have a greater awareness of schools needs and strengths, providing new opportunities for schools to contribute to sharing its best practice. Through regular engagement with Headteachers, agreement and commitment to events and opportunities become easier to arrive at, making the school-led system more responsive and timely for partners' needs.

To state once again, the Teaching School is here for its partners; not for the best interests of one or two schools. The Alliance will be partnership working at its best.

We're working on:

- Exceed TSA has secured funding to develop and deliver:
 - **Executive Headteacher Programmes** – for both existing and potential Executive Headteachers.
 - **Middle Leadership Programmes** – for both emerging and established leaders.
- **Bar Modelling** – Exceed TSA has three SLEs training through the White Rose Maths Hub to deliver Bar Modelling training. Exceed TSA will lead the training for Bradford.
- The **Bradford Bulls Foundation** are strategic partners of Exceed TSA. This will provide new opportunities to partners schools first and foremost.
- In 2015-16, over 1000 school staff attended Exceed TSA facilitated **CPD**.
- **97%** of evaluations rated events are “outstanding” or “good”.
- Exceed TSA has **30 SLEs** available to provide support. Most have been deployed at least once. 5 aspirant SLEs are also accredited.
- Exceed TSA offers the **NPQSL** and **NPQML** programmes through Carnegie Leaders of Learning.
- **25 trainee teachers** are currently training with Exceed TSA with a further 24 due to start in September 2016.
- Exceed TSA has facilitated a wide range of **school to school support**, including National Leader of Education (NLE) and National Leader of Governance (NLG) deployments. Tens of thousands of pounds of additional funding has been secured for schools.

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