

Future Physics Leaders

Summary

Through the Future Physics Leaders (FPL) Programme the Institute of Physics (IOP) seeks to provide a sustainable offering of continuing professional development (CPD) support to specialist physics teachers, newly qualified physics teachers and non-specialist teachers of physics.

The Programme will be organised on a Hub model, bringing together schools with specialist physics teachers and more advanced physics offerings, called Lead Schools, with schools that might not have a specialist physics teacher or have a less advanced offering in physics, called Partner Schools. Each Hub will comprise seven schools, one Lead School and six Partner Schools and each Hub will also contain a Lead Teacher who will be a specialist physics teacher based in the Lead School. The Lead Teacher will receive a coherent, bespoke programme of training and support to become a School-Based Development Coach and, as part of the programme, they will contribute to the overall offering by supporting programme delivery.

The Hub model will be implemented in [REDACTED] schools in England, [REDACTED] each in Lots 2, 3 and 4, and will provide training to an estimated [REDACTED] teachers. Programme schools will be located in [REDACTED] Priority Areas total and [REDACTED] Priority Schools are expected to participate.

Every two Hubs will be supported by one external Development Coach, who will implement a suite of activities that includes:

1. Professional development support for specialist physics teachers;
2. Train the trainer exercises for Lead Teachers that will enable them to continue to provide CPD support to a hub as a School-Based Development Coach following the completion of the programme
3. CPD support for non-specialist physics teachers that will increase their subject and pedagogical knowledge; and
4. A blend of recruitment and mentoring activities for newly qualified teachers (NQTs).

This programme will meet the objectives and outcomes of TLIF's Round 1 by providing a CPD offering in a wide range of Target Areas and Priority Schools, which will:

- improve the quality of all teachers of physics, whether specialist or non-specialist, by improving teachers' pedagogical and subject knowledge;
- improve the career progression of specialist physics teacher leaders by expanding teacher capabilities through professional development; and
- improve the retention of high-quality teachers and leaders by providing mentoring for NQTs and setting out a clear path of advancement for emerging physics leaders.

Each outcome is expected to lead to improved pupil outcomes through better-quality teaching practices and enhanced teacher capabilities.