

Secondary

National Strategy

for school improvement

The Secondary National Strategy is designed to promote the most effective practices in teaching and learning across Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, with a particular eye on success in the core subjects and cross-curricular skills. Our aim is to help you to create enthusiastic, independent and successful learners.

Your role as subject leader is crucial to the success of the Strategy. We are committed to providing you with up-to-date intelligence about the best practice in your subject, high-quality guidance materials, engaging resources, and opportunities to share local practice as well as new ideas. But these can only make an impact on pupils' everyday experiences through you and your teachers.

Our consultant colleagues in the LEA will be your main point of contact with the Strategy and link you to local, regional and national sources of support. Regular termly meetings are being designed to help you to lead improvements in your department. Yours is a vital, challenging and exciting role. Our aim is to add value by helping you to be a successful leader and manager, and to enjoy the support of experienced, like-minded professionals.

Subject leaders have worked hard over the last few years to secure steady improvement in Key Stage 3, once a Cinderella stage. Now we want to ensure that the same pupils hold on to the gains they made, and go even further. At first, we will extend our networks, consultancy and materials to cover both key stages. We will extend rather than expand. We don't want to overwhelm you with new initiatives; we want to make the ones you already have work well.

In future there will be opportunities to reflect on local experiences and discuss local priorities, and to feed back into the Strategy all your good ideas so that we can disseminate them to others.

This folder is designed to accommodate materials associated with the termly development days and to grow into a reference resource for you working with colleagues in school. You will be encouraged to personalise it and there is space to add your own papers.

I hope you will find the termly meetings professionally stimulating and worthwhile. In the meantime, thank you for everything you and your colleagues have done, and are doing.



Sue Hackman
National Director
Secondary National Strategy

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English subject leader development folder

This folder is designed to accompany the Secondary National Strategy's English subject leader development days, which your LEA will be running each term.

We will be providing guidance and resources via these meetings, which you can use with colleagues in school. The folder is designed to be large enough for you to include these alongside other Strategy publications or related materials from other sources. Our aim is to keep you up-to-date with the National Strategy, help you make best use of the wealth of materials already published and support you in your crucial work of leading changes with colleagues in your department.

We aim to make the meetings topical, practical and flexible enough to reflect local priorities and expertise. The theme underpinning the coming terms will be securing progression from 11 to 16 in English, extending into Key Stage 4 the improvements in planning, teaching and learning which are already emerging in Key Stage 3. Our particular focus for the year will be on improving the planning, teaching and assessment of reading and the encouragement of pupils' independent reading.

The new arrangements for school inspection highlight the need for regular, sharp and accurate school-based evaluation of provision. In future terms, we will be looking at ways to strengthen teacher assessment and assist your monitoring and evaluation of key aspects of your department's work.

There will be activities for you to undertake in school between meetings and an opportunity for you to share your findings together locally with consultants and with other schools.

I hope the meetings will support your leadership role in school and that you find the discussion and materials we introduce over the year stimulating.



Gerry Swain
English Strand Director
Secondary National Strategy