

Merseyside SEN Teaching Schools Alliance

www.mtsa.org.uk



Who are we ?

Merseyside SEN Teaching School Alliance (MSTSA) is a collaboration of four special schools located in Sefton and Liverpool. In this sense we are unique and form one of the biggest SEN alliances in the country. Working collegiately with our Strategic Partners we have combined with the aim of sustaining and promoting an exceptional quality of education for the young people and communities they serve.



Millstead Primary School



Princes Primary School



Redbridge High School



Rowan Park School

Strategic partners

- Liverpool Local Authority
- Sefton Local Authority
- Liverpool Hope University
- Smithdown Primary School, Liverpool
- Thomas Grey Primary School, Sefton
- Elleray Park School, Wirral
- Cavendish High School, Halton
- Bluebell Park School, Knowsley
- Mill Green School, St Helen's
- Palmerston Teaching School
- St Helen's teaching school alliance

What We Offer

Bespoke Professional Support

MSTSA has a number of partners with an extensive record of delivering support to a significant range of schools. This has included mentoring newly appointed Headteachers, Secondment, developing Senior and Middle Leadership Teams, whole school self validation of judgments, the effective use of SEND pupil assessment data to inform planning and outcomes, and supporting the development of additionally resourced SEN provision across from EYFS through to post 16.

Each project is based around a thorough needs analysis completed in conjunction with the leadership of the respective school and on that foundation, a bespoke package specific to needs is delivered. This includes measurable outcomes assessed in the context of strict quality assurance measures.

We have a range of National Leaders for Education (NLEs), Local Leaders for Education (LLEs) and Senior Leaders of Education (SLEs) and a key partner in this process is Learn and Lead who are a collaboration of the Teaching Schools and 9 Local Authorities in Cheshire and Merseyside. They will act as potential brokers for support within schools known to them and also assist in applying consistent quality assurance to delivery and outcome.

Research and Development

Our MSTSA objective for Research and Development is to engage in high quality research which will reflect the priorities of the Alliance and contribute significantly towards school improvement both locally and nationally.



We aim to use research and development to

- Show evidence of engagement in research and development that reflects agreed priorities, builds on existing external research/evidence, and contributes towards the alliance's overall priorities
- Ensure that new initiatives within the alliance are based on existing evidence and include a rigorous evaluative focus, drawing on external expertise.
- Demonstrate an ability to work with other teaching schools on research and development activities as part of regional or national networks where appropriate.
- Ensure that existing evidence can be accessed and used by staff and that appropriate staff have the time and support needed to undertake research and development activities.
- Effectively disseminate learning from research and development work across the alliance and the wider school system.

School to School Support

MSTSA can provide schools in need of support with a task force of leaders, teachers and school practitioners, experts in their respective fields and qualified to support others to improve teaching, learning and outcomes. We are currently working with a range of schools across Merseyside within a range of school improvement initiatives. We are committed to working collaboratively with School Improvement Liverpool, Liverpool Learning Partnership and other Teaching School Alliances in order to provide a complementary service of school improvement

We provide an inclusive and effective service characterized by: -

- Information, advice and support.
- Individual consultancy.
- Needs based and bespoke support.
- Self evaluation to inform future planning.
- Working to secure improvement and raise standards by closing the gap for SEND pupils whilst improving their progress and achievement.

Continuous Professional Development

MSTSA will be offering a range of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses. We are also happy to offer individualised INSET by arrangement with schools and can host visits by NQTs, RQTs and other staff interested in finding out more about provision for children with SEN

This could include

- SEN including ASD
- EYFS
- Curriculum
- Assessment, target setting, pupil tracking
- Monitoring and moderation
- Environment and ethos
- Speech, language and communication
- School self evaluation

As we develop our training more information will be gained by clicking on the appropriate link on the website.

Leadership training

We are currently running our first NPQML course, in conjunction with OLP. We are planning to commence NPQSL in January 2016. We are also happy to facilitate visits / exchanges for aspiring leaders who may be interested in finding out more about SEN.



School Direct

The Merseyside SEN Teaching School Alliance offers a unique programme for trainees who wish to become high achieving future teachers. We will train you not only to become excellent primary teachers, working closely with Liverpool Hope University and partner primary schools but we will also provide you with the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge of a range of Special Educational Needs across our alliance of Special schools.

Every teacher needs to be a teacher of special educational needs. Our programme will give participants a sound foundation to become a successful teacher across a range of settings. We will draw on our range of expertise and provide them with an enhanced primary programme which will participants to teach in mainstream schools, units or special schools. We have worked with trainee teachers for many years and will be able to provide high levels of support and challenge for the right applicants.

We can provide an environment in which trainee teachers feel valued and supported, just like our staff and pupils. We will deliver a personalised and bespoke course, based on the individual needs of our trainees. We will provide well-planned experiences in mainstream and specialist settings which will give our trainees significant opportunities to observe specialists in action and to learn about the needs of a range of learners.

About the Training Programme

The programme is highly personalised for trainees from their first contact with us, to taking up their first job as an NQT. They will be based in an Alliance home school from September where they will be trained and mentored by outstanding, specialist teachers. They will also undertake a placement during the Spring term in a mainstream primary school, ensuring that they have the opportunities to become proficient in their knowledge and understanding of the primary National curriculum. In the third term, trainees will be able to chose to remain within a mainstream environment, return to their home school or undertake a final placement in another type of specialist setting.

All trainees will be assigned a school-based mentor, as well as having the support of the School Direct Leader and a university tutor, to ensure that they receive the support to ensure successful completion of the course. Regular central training sessions bring participants together with other trainees to learn from each other, share their insights and develop their professional skills.

The training will last for one academic year (September-July) and on successful completion they will awarded a PGCE and be recommended for Qualified Teacher Status. In addition the award includes 60 Credits towards a Masters awarded by Liverpool Hope University. Participants have full access to the university's learning and research resources as part of the programme.

For further information, please go to our website www.mtsa.org.uk

or contact me at Princes Primary School

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