

SCHOOL SENIOR LEADER LEVEL 7 APPRENTICESHIP

A fully funded 14-month leadership programme for senior school leaders, with flexible study that fits around your role and the option to fast-track to a Master's degree (see below).

What is the School Senior Leader Programme?

The School Senior Leader Programme is a leadership development pathway tailored for senior leaders within primary, secondary or multi-academy trust settings.

It is built on the nationally recognised Level 7 Senior Leader apprenticeship standard, adapting its principles and expectations to the unique demands of school leadership.

Who should apply for the School Senior Leader Apprenticeship?

You should be employed in a school or MAT in England for the duration of the programme, and you should already hold a leadership or management role, such as:

- School Business Manager
- Deputy Headteacher
- Headteacher
- Financial Officer
- HR Manager
- Regional Manager
- Associate Director
- Area Manager
- Assistant headteacher
- Head of Department

Learn more and apply:
bestpracticenet.co.uk/school-senior-leader 

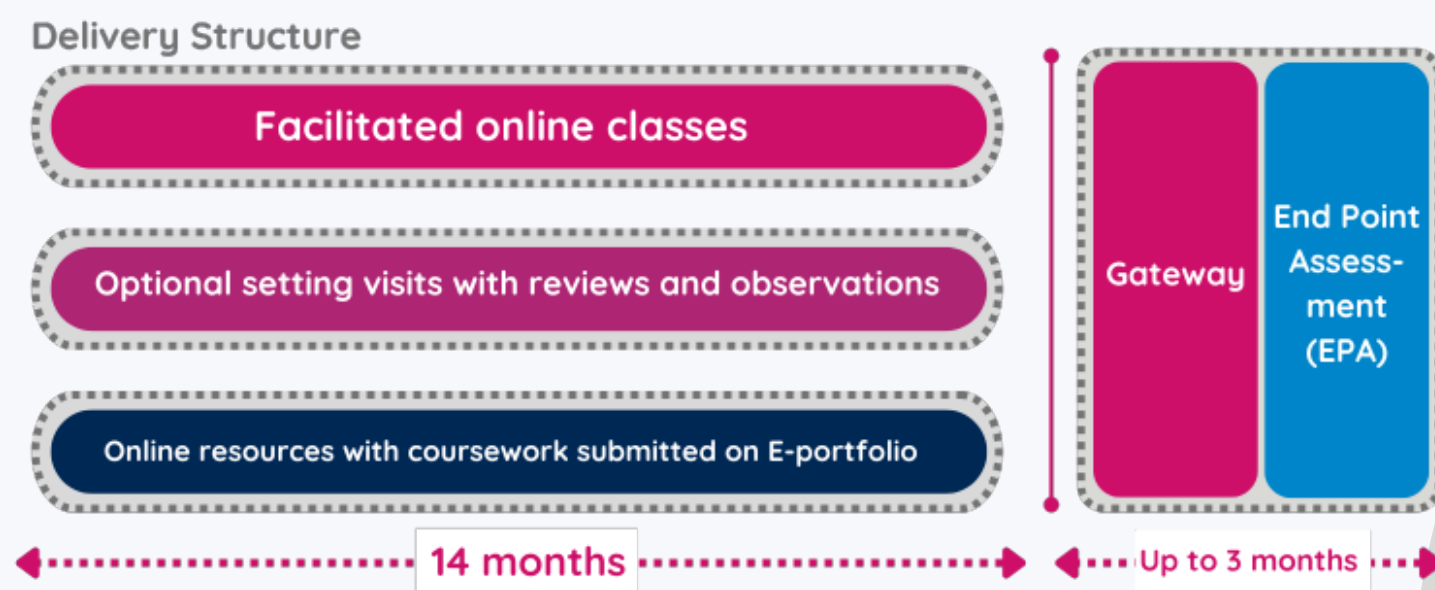


HOW IS THE PROGRAMME DELIVERED?

The apprenticeship is completed over 14 months and is designed to flex around your existing school commitments. Learning is structured so you can decide when to schedule activities, making it practical alongside a busy leadership role.

You will engage in a blend of:

- School-based leadership practice – applying learning directly in your setting
- Formal learning – structured modules that build advanced leadership knowledge
- Coaching – 1:1 guidance tailored to your goals
- Independent study and assessment – at a pace that works for you End-point



How much does it cost?

Most schools in England pay into the Apprenticeship Levy through their MAT or local authority, which means the programme is fully funded. Our friendly team is ready to guide you and help you access this funding.

Levy-paying organisations: Until 31 December 2025, schools and academies in England that pay into the Apprenticeship Levy can use those funds to cover the full course fee of £14,000 (including residential). Neither the apprentice nor the setting pays anything.

Non-levy paying organisations: A small amount of Single Academy Trusts and Voluntary aided schools may not be Levy-payers. Such schools can pay 5% of the fee (just £700). The Government covers the remaining 95%.

Learn more and apply:

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Senior Leader Master's Pathway

Turn your professional experience into a master's — no degree required.

**School Senior Leader
Apprenticeship Level 7**



Complete our Apprenticeship Levy-funded School Senior Leader Apprenticeship to earn 120 Master's credits.



Best
Practice
Network



**60 Credit dissertation module
with Chester University**

Complete a 60 credit dissertation module with Chester University for £3k.



University of
Chester

MA in Educational Leadership



You now have 180 Master's credits and Chester University will award you a full MA in Educational Leadership!

Learn more and apply:

bestpracticenet.co.uk/school-senior-leader



Fast-Track to a Master's

Turn your School Senior Leader apprenticeship into an
MA in Educational Leadership

No degree? No problem

- You do not need a bachelor's degree to take this route
- If you are eligible to start this Level 7 apprenticeship, you are automatically eligible for the Master's fast track
- Your professional experience as a school leader is recognised and valued by the University of Chester and Best Practice Network

1. Complete the School Senior Leader Apprenticeship

- Fully funded through the Apprenticeship Levy - no cost to you or your setting in most cases. Just £700 for non-levy paying settings.
- Delivered at Master's level and formally recognised by the University of Chester.
- By completing the programme, you gain 120 Master's-level credits

2. Add a Dissertation Module (£3,210)

- Choose to continue with a final 60-credit dissertation, studied online with the University of Chester
- This is the only cost – just £3,210, compared with the usual £10,000+ Master's fee.
- You'll be fully supported with:
 - 1:1 dissertation supervisor
 - Personal tutor for pastoral and academic support
 - Study Skills & Library Services Teams: webinars, 1:1 sessions, assignment and referencing support, and digital resource training

3. Graduate with a Master's in Educational Leadership

- Earn a respected Master's degree for a fraction of the standard cost.
- Minimal extra study required – the dissertation builds on your apprenticeship work.
- Open doors to senior leadership, consultancy and other exciting new opportunities.

A fully funded apprenticeship + a low-cost dissertation = a clear, supported, and affordable pathway to a Master's degree.