



Department of
Education

www.education-ni.gov.uk

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Dear Colleague,

SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITIES – LEADERS OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME

I am writing to make you aware of an exciting new programme designed to strengthen the provision of school-to school support as outlined in the TransformED Strategy and Delivery Plan – the ***Northern Ireland Leaders of Education Programme***.

This initiative will bring together a small group of highly effective school leaders to work alongside schools requiring additional support, while also contributing to wider system improvement and reform - particularly around the implementation of the TransformED strategy.

Seconded school leaders will work in partnership with the Department, the Education Authority and other delivery partners to deliver targeted, high-quality support where it is most needed.

The programme offers:

- The opportunity to influence and improve outcomes across multiple schools.
- Professional growth through system-level leadership experience.
- The chance to contribute directly to education reform.



We are seeking experienced and high-performing school leaders who:

- Have a strong track record of successful school leadership, including 5 years' experience at Principal level.
- Can demonstrate impact on school improvement and improved outcomes and experiences for learners.
- Have system credibility and strong interpersonal skills to support others.
- Are committed to collaboration and system leadership.
- Can contribute to shaping the future direction of the education system.

Participants in the programme will:

- Be seconded to the Department on a full-time basis for one academic year (with potential extension).
- Support designated schools requiring external support by providing hands-on leadership support and mentoring.
- Contribute to system-level learning and reform.

How to Apply

A link to the opportunity which is advertising through Interchange can be viewed [here](#). Completed applications should be returned to interchangesecretariat@finance-ni.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 15 May 2026. Any queries should be directed to DESIT@education-ni.gov.uk.

We recognise the significant contribution this will require, and we are committed to working closely with employing schools to ensure appropriate support arrangements are in place. Therefore, a pre-requisite of applying is that permission for the secondment is agreed with the Board of Governors and assurance can be provided that there is appropriate capacity in the school for backfill. The Department will reimburse the school in order to meet full salary costs for the period of the secondment.



We will endeavour, as far as possible, to ensure that there will be representation across a range of school phases, types and sectors.

This is a unique opportunity to extend your impact beyond your own school and play a leading role in system-wide improvement, particularly the implementation of the TransformED strategy.

We would strongly encourage applications from leaders who are motivated to make a wider contribution to the education system.

Yours sincerely,



Cynthia Currie
Director of Teaching and Learning Excellence

