

Guidance for Lead Hub Schools in selecting Partner Schools (Autumn 2023)

Following conversations with the DfE and feedback from the Lead Hub Schools, the agreed criteria for selecting your Hub Partner Schools are outlined below – the lower limit for MFL entry has now been removed. To ensure that you and NCLE have the necessary assurances in place during the Hub Partner Schools selection process, there are points included below that we expect you to confirm with each Partner School ahead of selection.

SELECTION PROCESS

Criteria for selecting Partner Schools:

- A GCSE MFL entry rate of no more than 70%
- 25% of the selected partner schools within each Lead Hub network must either be in an EIA or have 28% or more pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding
- Partner schools with low GCSE entries must be fully committed to raising uptake and open to setting realistic tapered increases in GCSE entries over the duration of the project and beyond
- Partner hubs will need to be ready to work with the Lead Hubs and should ideally have a fully staffed Languages department
- Selected partner schools must have need of languages support, and there should be a clear rationale for why your hub partner schools have been chosen. Your school's existing partnerships and structures will not normally be eligible for further funding through the hubs programme. Please consider making these schools affiliate schools in order to sustain cooperation and networking
- Lead Hubs must have the necessary assurances that the partner hubs will, to the best of their ability, remain a partner school for the duration of the programme
- Where the above is not possible, the Lead Hub School will recommend to NCLE a replacement partner hub school
- A school with German is not a strict must have requirement but is strongly encouraged
- Proposed Partner Hub Schools will be subject to approval by the DfE

The registration form link to be sent out to your Hub Partner Schools is below.

All prospective partner schools will need to register their interest by **12 noon on Wednesday 18th October**: <https://forms.office.com/e/0PuAQQvBsH>

How do we select our partner schools?

Lead Hub Schools will manage the selection process. To be considered as a Hub Partner School, the school must have completed the Microsoft Form (please see link above) by 12 noon Wednesday 18th October. Following this deadline, all schools who have registered an interest, will be sorted by region and NCLE will send details to the relevant Lead Hub School. Where expressions of interest have been received in a region with one or more Lead School, NCLE will communicate with all Lead Hub Schools in that region to allocate appropriately.

Additional criteria for selecting your schools may include any or all of the following:

- Inclusive of diverse communities within your region
- Range of curriculum languages
- Access to Home, Heritage and Community Languages accreditation
- Regional spread

Lead Hub Schools will need to notify NCLE via their Hub Channel on Teams by **12 noon on Wednesday 15th November** of their proposed partner schools and their rationale for selection. These will then be passed on to the DfE for approval. Once the DfE has confirmed selection, lead hub schools will need to inform both successful and unsuccessful schools of the outcome of their expression of interest.

ABOUT HUB PARTNER SCHOOLS

What does being a Hub Partner School mean?

Partner schools will be agreeing to work in tandem with their Lead hub school to explore pedagogy and improve MFL uptake within their school. Priorities for each partner school will be agreed with the lead hub school. Each partner school will be a part of the **Hub Working Group** which will make decisions about priorities for the hub as a whole.

Each Hub will develop a hub delivery plan. The lead school will have funding to be able to release staff from Hub Partner Schools for specific activities related to their hub delivery plan. Each Hub may decide to focus on different areas with their Hub Partner Schools e.g., to support SEND, to develop stronger independent use of the language, to improve motivation, to increase HHCL (Home, Heritage, and Community Languages) entries, to boost German, to have the opportunity to engage in research. The Lead Schools will be responsible for feedback on hub progress overall in relation to its delivery plan objectives. Knowledge sharing and professional development from the hubs will be broadcast more widely across the local area and through universal CPD nationally.

Hub Partner Schools will have the opportunity to take part in research as part of the wider Language Hubs programme over the course of the project.

Who can be a partner school?

Hub Partner Schools should be state-funded secondary schools in England offering KS3 and KS4, ages 11-16 or 11-18. All Partner Schools must enter pupils for GCSE, as one of the programme Key Performance Indicators is an increase in the percentage of pupils of Partner Hub Schools achieving grade 9-4 in French, German, and/or Spanish GCSEs.

Hub Partner Schools should enable you, as a Hub Lead School, to expand your existing partnerships and share best practice beyond your current networks. If your school is part of a large MAT you may consider selecting a Hub Partner School which is within your MAT but is not a school that you currently work with.

What is the difference between a partner school and an affiliate school?

Partner Schools can/will be in receipt of funds to meet any needs identified by the Hub Working Group.

An affiliate school is an existing partner of the Lead Hub School and will not receive any additional funding.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Budget Allocation

Lead Hub Schools can decide how to allocate their budget, including determining Hub School priorities through the working group. This may include supply cover costs where appropriate. Supply rates are likely to vary by region (we recommend that Lead Hub Schools follow guidance on supply pay rates as outlined by the Teaching Unions). Any activity relating to the Language Hubs programme and as part of meeting priorities in their delivery plan can be invoiced by the Lead Hub Schools within the current limits per term.

Co-Lead Hubs – Partner Schools

Each Co-lead Hub School will work with three to four partner secondary schools.

Primary Transition

Each Lead Hub School will identify five main feeder primary schools based on the proportion of pupils at transfer. In Co-lead arrangements, this means each school will work with five primary schools each.