

# Warwickshire Teaching School Alliance

## SLE Background - a school-led system

The teaching school model aims to drive school-led development for the benefit of pupils and staff. As the government is moving further away from local authority support, schools may be the bright future of professional support and development and are already a great source of expertise and a wealth of specialist experience. It's time to share this beyond your school and your alliance. Each School in our alliance has very special skills based upon an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the importance of high quality, meaningful early educational experiences. Each School has a child centred approach that defines a shared philosophy for Warwickshire TSA, that is respectful of children and their individual rights and needs as learners. This philosophy is also applied to all learners and the peer work completed by SLEs is carefully considered to develop and empower staff receiving support.

**The SLE role** is about sharing expertise and knowledge and developing capacity. It provides a professional pathway for teachers allowing them to develop further skills and work with peers, experiencing others schools, settings and approaches. The work allows them to share best practice and reflect upon their approaches to early educational provision with colleagues.

The role means working with others, in their context, to develop their capacity in Early Years Education. Deployments should leave the Schools receiving support empowered and able to further develop early education themselves. SLEs will work with a School who have identified a need for development in their early educational provision across foundation stage and possibly into KS1. They will get a sense of the context and stage the School is at and, using a range of strategies, help build the School's knowledge, systems and capacity to engage with the area of focus effectively.

"Some of this will be mentoring, coaching and supporting. Other aspects may be providing systems and documentation, building a knowledge base and sharing best practice."

The role is important in developing the school-led system and based upon:

*A responsibility to share knowledge and expertise so that the system is not reliant on a small group of individuals and every child receives high quality educational experiences regardless of their point of access. We ensure that the knowledge base continues to expand, that best practice is shared and developed, that quality peer work leads to quality professionals and that the system has a variety of effective solutions and enough depth to survive long term.*

### **Benefits of SLE work**

"One of the best things is going into other schools and supporting other people. Because you are supporting people who are struggling or finding things hard you have to break it down and put it in easier steps. This makes you think about your own practice. It has definitely influenced the way I deliver training and lessons and how I break it down. It makes me reflect on my own practice."