

Subject Leadership: National Standards: A Brief Summary.

1. The Core Purpose of The Subject Leader

Under the core purpose of subject leadership, the emphasis is firmly on improved standards of attainment. The standards state as the core purpose:

“To provide professional leadership and management for a subject to secure high quality teaching, effective use of resources and improved standards of learning and achievement for all pupils.”

The whole reason for having subject leaders is to ensure high quality provision which raises the standards of attainment of all pupils.

2. Key Outcomes of Subject Leadership

The key outcomes of effective subject leadership are detailed in the standards in terms of its impact on various groups of people within school. Effective subject leadership results in:

- pupils who show sustained improvement in the subject
- teachers who work well as a team, have secure subject knowledge and set high expectations for their pupils
- parents who are well informed and supportive
- headteachers and senior managers who understand the needs of the subject so that they can make informed decisions
- other adults in the school who are well informed and enabled to play an effective role in the delivery of the subject.

3. Professional Knowledge & Understanding
- This includes subject-specific and generic knowledge and understanding. It includes an understanding of:
- the school's aims, priorities, targets and action plans
 - the relationship of the subject to the curriculum as a whole
 - any statutory requirements
 - the characteristics of high quality teaching
 - how research and inspection evidence can be used
 - how to use comparative data to set targets for improvement
 - how to develop literacy, numeracy and IT skills through the subject
 - how teaching the subject can promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development
 - management including employment law, personnel, change, equal opportunities and finance
 - how teaching can prepare pupils for adult life
 - the potential of information technology for aiding teaching and learning in the subject
 - school governance
 - the implications of information and guidance from government departments and national bodies
 - the implications of the Code of Practice for special educational needs;
 - health & safety requirements.
4. Skills & Attributes
- The skills required by subject leaders are under the broad headings of:
- Leadership;
 - Decision-making;
 - Communication;
 - Self Management.
5. Key Areas
- The National Standards identify four key areas of subject leadership:
- Strategic direction & development of the subject;
 - Teaching & learning;
 - Leading & managing staff;
 - Effective and efficient deployment of staff & resources.