



The  
**Mulberry  
Bush Outreach**

Showing the way in teaching, practice & research

# Overview



**NASS Advanced Special  
and AP Headship  
Development Programme**



**NASS**

National Association  
of Special Schools

# NASS Advanced Special and AP Headship Development Programme: Overview

**This programme is being run for NASS member schools. Non NASS members are also able to apply. The programme is being run jointly by NASS and The Mulberry Bush.**

Very few development opportunities exist for experienced Headteachers of Special Schools or AP settings. National Headteacher qualifications are largely focussed on mainstream issues and Headteachers most often undertake the qualification prior to becoming a Headteacher or early on in their career. Additionally, there is little support for special school Headteachers, their advancement, continued work satisfaction and well-being.

Results from a very recent poll by a Headteachers' union revealed that within 5 years more than 1 in 3 secondary school Headteachers and more than 1 in 4 primary school Headteachers leave the school. There is considerable dissatisfaction with the role and the job is likely to get more difficult moving forward.

Our course tutors already run a number of courses. The success of the School Improvement Partner course as well as the response to the Nurturing New Headship course, indicates a desire by Headteachers to engage with further learning and meet with other likeminded professionals. The Advanced Headship programme aims to provide additional professional nourishment and inspiration for those Headteachers who have been in the profession for longer than 3 years. Through providing the most up to date training and support for a network of experienced Headteachers, the programme intends to reenergise and support Headteachers in developing the crucial next steps for themselves and their school.

The programme takes place over an academic year and will include a mixture of face-to-face training, the latest educational research, virtual coaching and mentoring, and peer to peer project work.

## Course Outcomes

- 1 To provide specialist input to address key current issues of leadership and running a special /AP school. All sessions will include updates on the latest educational policy requirements as well as the knowledge and skills required to keep educational and leadership practice current.
- 2 To raise awareness of relevant educational and leadership research and how this can be used to further develop the school.
- 3 To undertake small scale project-based work with other experienced Headteachers.
- 4 To create a network of special school Headteachers at a similar point in their careers.
- 5 To provide a supportive, reflective space so that leadership and school provision can be developed without distraction.

## Delivery Methods

### **This course provides ongoing learning, mentoring and coaching for experienced Headteachers.**

There will be 5 face-to-face sessions including a 2-day residential. The individual face-to-face days will take place in November, January and April and the 2-day residential will take place in June.

Furthermore, participants will be expected to undertake 2-day visits to a fellow programme member's school to engage in a small-scale project. The project will be determined by the participating Headteacher but supported and coordinated by the course tutors. Where appropriate, findings will be shared across the sector.

## A typical face-to-face day will take the following format:

9.00 – 9.30	Arrive, check-in, refreshments
9.30 – 10.00	Latest educational updates (DfE, Ofsted and updates to educational practice)
10.00 – 11.00	Training session 1*
11.00 – 11.20	Coffee & Biscuits
11.20 – 12.30	Educational research
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch (catering by a professional chef)
1.30 – 2.30	Training session 2**
2.30 – 3.30	Seminar technique focused on an issue identified by a school leader
3.30	Finish

*\*Training sessions will be topic specific and focus on an aspect of leadership or school improvement that is pertinent at the time of training. Time may also be given over to school to school, project based, deliberation.*

*Each headteacher will also receive 2 individual 1 hour, virtual, coaching/mentoring sessions slotted between the training sessions.*

*Whilst the course will be predominantly led by the course tutors, an educational research specialist will also join the course and guest speakers will be invited to ensure a rich knowledge base.*

*\*\*Due to the nature of the accommodation there will be a maximum 16 trainees on this course. Bed and breakfast accommodation can also be provided at a small cost the night before each training day. One of the course tutors will be on hand to make you overnight stay as welcoming as possible.*



# Course Tutors



## Deirdre Fitzpatrick

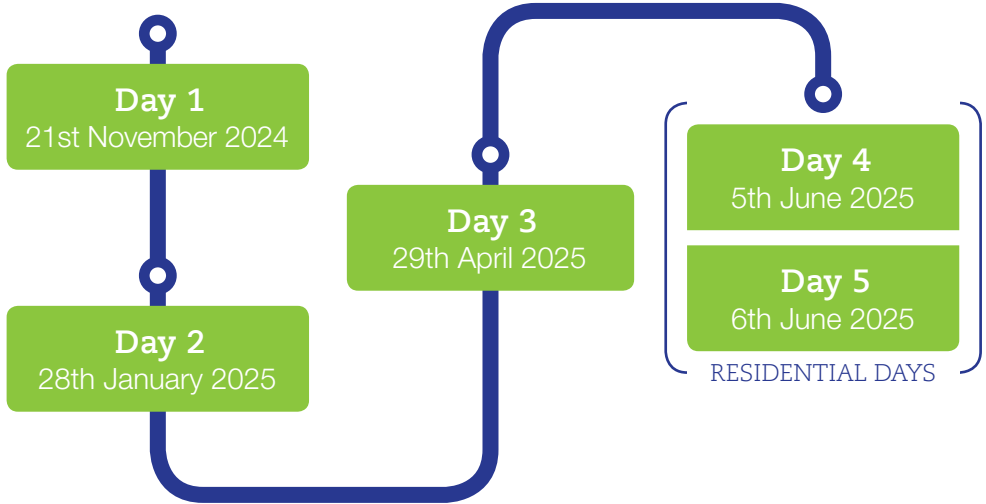
Deirdre has been a school improvement partner for over 10 years and is currently a SIP for over 50 schools. She works with a vast range of schools including all through generic special schools, hospital schools, SEMH, PRUs and APs, residential and mainstream schools as well as schools in the maintained and independent sector. Deirdre has also worked to monitor schools for a number of organisations including Challenge Partners and Local Authorities. She has been a DfE expert advisor and has supported both free schools and schools in challenging circumstances. She has been a Director of Education, a National Leader in Education, headteacher and overseer of three outstanding special schools (one of which won TES School of the Year).



## Andy Lole

Andy started his career as a mainstream primary school teacher. He has many years of leadership experience in special schools. As a headteacher his school was judged outstanding by Ofsted. He was a National Leader of Education. In this role he led many school to school improvement projects. He has worked as a school improvement partner since 2007, after being accredited by the National College of School Leadership. He currently supports 15 schools as their SIP. He has carried out monitoring and support work on behalf of several local authorities.

# Course Dates



## Course Venue

The course will be run at  
The Mulberry Bush Third Space,  
Toddington, Gloucestershire

## Costs

All costs are inclusive of  
accommodation and meals.

NASS members – £2,400

Non NASS members – £2,800

Places will be allocated in the order  
that applications are received.

## Closing Date for Applications

17th May 2024



For more information and an application  
form please contact Angie Brown  
[abrown@mulberrybush.org.uk](mailto:abrown@mulberrybush.org.uk)



[mulberrybush.org.uk](http://mulberrybush.org.uk)