Statutory Qualification for SENCOs New to Post

Under the new proposals in the Draft Special Educational Needs Code of Practice there is a continued commitment to ensure that SENCOs are appropriately skilled to lead the strategic development of SEN policy and provision in schools.

As such there is a continued statutory requirement that all SENCOs in maintained mainstream schools including academies, must be qualified teachers and have the National Award In Special Education Needs Coordination if they have not had twelve months previous experience in this role.

The DFE will fund a further 800 places nationally for the next academic year, but although the Award remains statutory, there will not be further funding available at this stage.

Funding currently covers the £3,000 course fees as well as up to £1,500 paid directly to the school on completion of the course to cover supply costs. Details for applying for this funding should be sent to schools directly from the DfE in the next week or so and applications will be managed centrally.

If the school/SENO does not get a funded place the course cost will be £2,085.

Croydon School Improvement in partnership with Canterbury Christchurch University have successfully led two cohorts of SENCOs through this training programme. We are considering running a third cohort during the coming academic but need to make sure the demand is there to make this viable. There will be a small additional charge to cover local venue and administration costs to run the course here in Croydon.

Experienced SENCOs have also benefited from this high quality CPD with professional accreditation.

Further details about the course content and expectations are included below.

If you or any colleagues are interested in accessing this training please could you let me know no later than Friday 28 June.

If you would like any more information or would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me.

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National Award for SEN Co-ordination

What is the National Award for SEN Coordination?
It is now statutory that all SENCOs new to post (with less than 12 months experience in post from September 2009) must attend and complete the National Award for SEN Coordination. The course is a one year Postgraduate Certificate course, comprising of 9 full days taught input and two half day sessions. The half day sessions are structured at the beginning and the end of the course to provide opportunities for an initial introduction to the course and an ending tutorial session.

The course supports SENCOs to complete a portfolio which demonstrates evidence of their ability to meet the new required SENCO learning outcomes. It provides a unique mix of practical school related support and teaching input, essential for those new to the complex role of the SENCO, with an opportunity to relate this to wider critical and academic discussions around SEN, disability and inclusion. Participants are supported through the course by knowledgeable course tutors, high
quality teaching resources, local authority advisors and staff, with the cohort of other SENCOs providing a reflective and supportive network of peers.

The course may also be of interest to experienced SENCOs. For experienced SENCOs the course will provide the opportunity to benefit from the high quality CPD on offer; to gain a professional qualification and Award which is equitable to those new to the role; and opportunities to contextualise their practices within rapidly changing policy contexts. The practical, school based elements will provide opportunities to review existing practices and consider new ways to take these forward within their particular school context.

**Key teaching content:**
The teaching content of the course is comprehensive, and offers participants the opportunity to consider key issues central to their role, including:

- Statutory legislation and the SEN and Disability policy context
- Identifying pupil needs
- Coordinating, Monitoring and Evaluating Provision
- Action Research and Evidence Based Practice
- Strategic leadership- working with others and supporting colleagues
- Working with pupils, families and other professionals