Leading Physics Improvement (Priority Areas)

Eligibility checker

Leading Physics Improvement is a three-year school improvement programme for senior leaders who are committed to strengthening physics teaching and learning. Through a leadership-led, capacity-building approach, participating schools work with Ogden Trust consultants to identify strengths and challenges, prioritise improvement, and build

sustainable capacity for long-term improvement.

The programme includes:

- An evidence-informed diagnostic framework
- Targeted improvement planning
- Dedicated implementation support
- Access to networks, expertise and funded professional development aligned to identified priorities

Our approach is guided by the Education Endowment Foundation's implementation principles, focusing on effective behaviours, contextual factors and a structured process for change.

Before you begin

Leading Physics Improvement is a leadership-led school improvement programme. If you are not a senior leader, please discuss participation with your line manager or senior leadership team before proceeding.

If you require support to complete the form, please contact schools@ogdentrust.com.

Expressions of interest close on 28 February 2027.

Eligibility

This programme is available to secondary schools and colleges that provide physics education for students aged 11-16, 11-18 or 16-18.

To be eligible, your setting must:

- Be a state-funded secondary school, college or equivalent provision.
- Have physics provision at key stage 4 and/or post-16.
- Have the capacity to engage fully with the programme over an initial one-year period, with opportunities to renew annually for up to three years.

In addition, priority will be given to schools that:

- Have above-average levels of Free School Meal eligibility (28.9% or above).
- Serve communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.
- Have out-of-field teachers of physics and/or early career physics teachers.

Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee participation. Expressions of interest will be assessed to ensure the programme is targeted where it can have the greatest impact.

Schools selected to progress will be invited to discuss how the programme could support their improvement priorities.

Priority area

This programme is currently available only to schools located in the designated priority areas of Hull and Swindon.

Which priority area is your school located in?

☐ Hull

☐ Swindon

Capacity to engage

As a minimum, participating schools will be expected to:

- Nominate a senior leadership sponsor and programme lead.
- Engage in the diagnostic and self-evaluation process.
- Attend programme meetings and review activities.
- Enable relevant staff participation in development opportunities.
- Support the implementation, monitoring and refinement of agreed improvement priorities.

☐ Yes
☐ No

School profile

1. School education range

Primary and Independent schools are not eligible for this programme.

☐ State secondary 11-16

☐ State secondary 11-18

☐ 6th form/college 16-18 provision (not independent sector)

☐ State all-through including Key Stage 4

☐ State specialist provision including secondary education

☐ Academy school with secondary provision

☐ State school with no secondary provision

☐ Independent secondary provision

2. Which courses are available to students? Tick all that apply.

☐ GCSE physics (single subject)

☐ GCSE combined science

☐ A-level physics

☐ None of the above

3. What is your school % for pupils eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years here (national average 28.9%)

☐ Below 28.9%

☐ 28.9% or above

Priority will be given to schools with above average FSM%

4. What is the school's teacher profile for teaching physics? Tick all that apply.

	None	1	2	3	4+
Early Career teacher with a physics specialism					
One teacher with a physics specialism (not Early Career)					
More than one teacher with a physics specialism (not Early Career)					
Out-of-field teachers (with a chemistry or biology specialism)					
Out-of-field teachers (without science-related A-level or degree)					

5. What is the school's technician profile? Tick all that apply.

☐ Physics specialist(s)

☐ Chemistry or biology specialist(s)

☐ No technician

What's next?

Those passing the eligibility checker who wish to be considered for the Leading Physics Improvement programme, should complete the next section of the form as an expression of interest.

Expression of interest

The following questions help us understand your current context and improvement priorities.

Strategic alignment

How does improving physics education align with your current school or trust improvement priorities?

[TEXT]

Barriers to improvement

Before undertaking any formal diagnosis, what does your instinct tell you are the main barriers to improving physics in your setting?

Please select all that apply and provide further detail where relevant:

☐ Recruitment and retention of specialist physics teachers
☐ Subject leadership capacity
☐ Teacher subject knowledge and confidence
☐ Curriculum design and progression
☐ Student engagement and participation in physics
☐ Practical work and resources
☐ Professional development opportunities
☐ Cross-school collaboration and networks
☐ Data, monitoring, and evaluation
☐ Other (please specify)

[TEXT]

Existing strengths

What approaches or interventions have already been effective in improving physics education across your school?

[TEXT]

Areas for development

What do you see as the most important priorities for improving physics education in your school/trust over the next three years and why?

Please outline up to three priority areas and explain why they are important in your context.

[TEXT]

Readiness for change

What current opportunity, challenge or strategic priority makes this an important time for your school/trust to engage with the programme?

Please describe the opportunity, need, or strategic priority that this programme would help address.

[TEXT]

Contact information

Please complete the following:

1. School name and address (in full including postcode)
2. School URN (https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/find-a-school-in-england)
3. Is the school part of a multi academy trust (MAT)?
    a. Yes
    b. No
4. If yes, what is the MAT name?

    [TEXT]

Applications must include:

- A named senior leader (for example, Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, Head of School or CEO).
- A named subject contact (Head of Science, Head of Physics or physics teacher).

    - Your name (as lead contact)
    - Your role
    - Named senior leader contact
    - Named head of department contact
    - Contact telephone number
    - Contact email address

Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee participation. Expressions of interest will be assessed against programme eligibility, capacity to engage, alignment with programme aims, and readiness to undertake sustained improvement to ensure the programme is targeted where it can have the greatest impact.

Schools selected to progress will be invited to discuss how the programme could support their improvement priorities.

Following the closing date, all expressions of interest will be assessed by 31 March 2027. Schools that are selected to progress to the next stage will be contacted after this date.

Thank you for taking an interest in our programmes.

Further information on our open-access resources and programmes can be found on our website https://www.ogdentrust.com/.