

WHY CHOOSE AN NPQ?

As a first-year Mathematics Lead, I was seeking to transition from classroom expertise to strategic oversight of my subject. I wanted the opportunity to engage with high-level pedagogical research and translate those insights into actionable school-wide improvements for HRS Primary. I was also seeking a network of experienced peers to collaborate with.

IMPACT

- I have developed a deeper understanding of mathematics anxiety, enabling staff to identify how cognitive and emotional barriers - particularly anxiety-related impacts on working memory - affect pupil learning.
- Implemented a strategic, school-wide rollout of the Concrete–Pictorial–Abstract (CPA) approach, including Key Stage 2, resulting in a more consistent curriculum that strengthens scaffolding for struggling learners and deepens conceptual understanding for higher-attaining pupils.

BENEFITS

1. Strategic Insights

The NPQ has moved my thinking from being a teacher who happens to lead a subject to a strategic leader who understands the mechanics of school improvement.

2. Cultural Shifts

I've been able to affect a school-wide cultural shift toward low-stakes retrieval practice and supportive classroom environments designed to rebuild learner confidence and reduce anxiety.

3. A Blueprint for Leadership

The programme provided me with a 'leadership manual' exactly when I needed it most, preventing me from falling into bad habits and giving me instant credibility with colleagues and staff at all levels.



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NPQ LEADING PRIMARY MATHS AT A GLANCE

TOP TIPS FOR PROGRAMME MEMBERS

- Connect with the other people in your Saffron cohort. Knowing that a school down the road is struggling with the same engagement issues or budget constraints makes the journey much less isolating.
- Talk to your SLT about carving out dedicated time to engage with research beyond surface-level reading.

“Our facilitator was extremely knowledgeable and engaging and provided a safe and collaborative space to talk about challenges and successes with other leaders.”