

## Virtual Staff College Development Programme Managing School Organisation

This is a management development programme for managers of school organisation arrangements in local authorities and their stakeholder partnerships. It is the first element of an optional three stage programme leading from Certificate to Diploma and a Masters Degree awarded by the University of Cumbria. This option is subject to final ratification by the University.

The course has been designed to help local authority officers meet the challenges of managing school organisation within a changing legal and policy context, so benefitting the individual professionals and their local authorities. The issues addressed will include the role of local authorities as commissioner of school places; the contribution of effective school organisation to planning Children's Services; the legal and policy context for developing and implementing school reorganisation proposals; the use of data and information to define and support proposals; the project management of the different stages in school reorganisation; and supporting schools with change management.

The course is organised around five full days of attendance, comprising both taught and group work elements. Participants are also expected to undertake pre and post seminar reading, totalling approximately 40 hours. A course reader will be given to each participant prior to the course. This will provide a guide to the legal and policy context of school organisation, practical information about managing different types of school reorganisation, and reference material for participants to use throughout the course and in the workshops, as well as suggestions for further reading. The design and content of the course ensures that learning is embedded in professional experience in the workplace. Discussions and assignments are located at the interface between practice and new/innovative ways of working. The course will therefore involve use of case studies. Participants will make a presentation on a school reorganisation project (of their choice) on the final day of the course. The total personal study time for this is approximately 30 hours.

Participants are awarded the VSC Certificate of Completion once they have completed the five days of the course, including making a satisfactory presentation on a school reorganisation(s) project, and completing a professional development analysis.

In addition to this, successful participants will have the opportunity to enrol on the University of Cumbria's Masters programme. This accreditation is currently being finalised.

Dates for this programme are scheduled for:

Days 1 & 2 - 16th & 17th November 2009  
Days 3 & 4 - 14th & 15th December 2009  
Day 5 - January 2010 (Date tbc)

The venue will be The Hotel Russell, 1-8 Russell Square, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 5BE.

### Programme Outline

**Day 1: Legal and Policy Context for school organisation, within the overall planning for Children's Services and LAs' role as commissioners of school places**

**Day 2: Project management of school organisation, including use and interpretation of relevant data**

**Day 3: Application of legislation and national/local policy to school organisation, using case studies as exemplars**

**Day 4: Working through case studies - identifying options, associated issues/risks and implications for implementation**

**Day 5: Presentations of projects, identifying issues and sharing solutions**

This course and the materials have been developed with financial support from:

[www.appleyards.co.uk](http://www.appleyards.co.uk)

**Indicative fees:** £1150 plus VAT (Subscribing LA) £1350 plus VAT (Non subscribing LA)

There is an additional accreditation fee payable direct to the University for participants who elect to seek the Post Graduate Certificate

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