

Questions and Comments from the Leadership Launch Events (2010)

Questions

Who will deliver the Leadership Award in schools?

Leadership does not sit within any particular subject area in school. It could be delivered by any teacher(s) who have a particular interest or who are running activities which would allow pupils opportunities to demonstrate leadership.

How many periods per week would be required to deliver the Leadership Award?

The Leadership Award is designed to be flexible to enable centres to timetable it to suit their own needs, availability and resources. It is likely that much of the learning and activities will take place outwith the formal classroom.

How much does the Award cost?

The Award is made up of two units. The cost of each unit is £7.50, therefore to enter a learner for the whole Award, it will cost £15.

What is the Leadership Award worth in terms of UCAS points?

The UCAS points for the Leadership Award are still to be allocated.

Leadership activities already exist for senior pupils. Will they be deterred by a layer of paperwork to gain an Award of dubious value?

The Leadership Award confirms learners' successes for themselves and others by providing hard evidence of their achievements. This may help learners if they wish to progress onto further or higher education in leadership and management. It may also be useful evidence when they are seeking employment.

I have 70 pupils involved in a variety of leadership activities; would each pupil need to have an individual project or can we assess their leadership contribution within a group?

Each pupil does not need to have their own individual project. It is sufficient that each pupil takes a leading role for an aspect of a project or activity. To successfully complete the assessment, each pupil would need to produce the evidence required for the appropriate level. Evidence requirements can be found within the Unit documentation.

Would the video of pupils talking about their experiences, like the one from Jordanhill School, have been accepted as evidence for ‘Leadership in Practice’?

SQA welcomes assessment evidence in a variety of formats. For one of the tasks in the Unit, ‘Leadership in Practice’, learners are required to review their experiences and reach conclusions about their own leadership. It is possible that a video, such as the one used in the presentation from Jordanhill School, could provide the evidence required to support this.

How will external verification be organised? How will centres submit any evidence which is recorded orally?

External Verifiers will visit centres to carry out external verification (centres will be notified if they have been selected for verification). Centres are asked to make the evidence produced by learners available to the External Verifiers; this would include any audio and/or video recordings.

Would the Leadership Award be timetabled or embedded in extra-curricular activities?

This decision would be made by staff in centres to enable them to arrange delivery in a manner best suited to the centre and the learners.

Has it been piloted?

No, however, some centres have now successfully delivered the Leadership Award.

How far back can past experiences be used for accreditation eg S2/S3 work?

The Leadership Award is about learning through doing. When embarking on the Award, learners begin a process of finding out about leadership and developing abilities in leadership. Learners will produce the evidence required at appropriate points as they progress. Therefore, the Leadership Award should be used to obtain credit and recognition for current work.

Should the qualification be delivered as ‘free-standing’ optional Units or through structured learning activities?

It is for staff in centres to decide the best mode of delivery for their learners. That said, it is likely that staff will organise some structured learning, particularly at the beginning of the Award. However, the emphasis should be on learning through doing.

There is an increase in the number of Intermediate 1 pupils staying on who would need substantial teacher input for the written part of the work.

The Leadership Award is available at SCQF levels 5 (Intermediate 2) and 6 (Higher) and is therefore not suitable for a learner operating at Intermediate 1 level. Evidence does not need to be written and can be presented in other formats, eg audio/visual.

What is the value of the Award for employers and colleges?

The Qualification Design Team for the Award included employers and lecturers among its members. The Award provides an opportunity to recognise and give credit for the many activities which pupils in schools are involved in and learn from. This may provide evidence of their wider achievements for employers, colleges and other external agencies.

Can work experience be adapted to show leadership skills for certain individuals?

It is for staff in centres to decide which types of activities would best suit their learners and which would enable them to gather the evidence required to achieve each of the Units in the Leadership Award.

Can we aggregate the Leadership Award with other qualifications such as Personal Development Units to form a 'Course' for more UCAS points?

The Qualification Design Team decided on a smaller Award as this allowed both the desired content to be covered and a greater degree of flexibility in delivery for centres.

Can Outward Bound/Duke of Edinburgh Awards be allowed for dual accreditation?

No, the Leadership Award is not jointly accredited with any other qualification. To achieve the Leadership Award, learners need to successfully produce the evidence required for each Unit of the Award.

Is the Award pre-approved by SQA?

The Leadership Award is auto-approved which means that secondary schools are able to offer it. Colleges have devolved approval. Any other centres will be required to go through the approval process.

Does LTS have materials supporting the Award?

Not at the moment. However, each Unit of the Award has an assessment support pack which contains templates and exemplification. These are available from the SQA secure website. It is our intention to provide further support to centres by highlighting case studies on the website.

Define 'minimum support' at Intermediate 2 level.

This means that teachers/lecturers can support learners by answering specific questions to enable them to progress.

Is it a fully-fledged Higher?

No, it is an Award which is available at Higher level (SCQF 6) ie it has the same level of demand as a Higher. The Leadership Award is smaller in size than a National Course at Higher level.

Comments

The following is a selection of comments made at the events:

'The Leadership Award provides an opportunity to recognise wider achievement'

'This Award gives the opportunity to formalise and capture the hidden curriculum'

'There is a need to have the Award at lower levels, eg SCQF 3 and 4'

'Adapt "traditional" school activities to allow accreditation, eg discos, sports awards, yearbook and prom committees, peer mentoring, parents' nights, info nights etc.'

'This Award may be useful for:

- ◆ Motivating S6 pupils with unconditional offers
- ◆ Provides less academic learners who have skills and qualities to achieve qualifications
- ◆ Partnerships within Curriculum for Excellence. Deliver with partners
- ◆ Capturing progress made outwith school (youth justice, community learning, outward bound etc.)'

'I like the flexibility'

'There is potential to match up with the Sports Leadership Award'

'(this) Award on a CV could be beneficial — demonstrates flexibility, teamwork etc'