



**New Schools Network:**  
*Supporting you every step of the way*

**New  
Schools  
Network**

# New Schools Network *Delivery Programme*

NSN has supported free school groups in pre-opening since 2014. NSN's unrivalled knowledge and experience has been informed by its work with **over two-thirds of open and approved free school groups** throughout the application and pre-opening phases.

The NSN Delivery Programme has been designed to address the challenges of the rigorous pre-opening process. Whilst proposer groups have a wealth of skills and expertise, the NSN Delivery Programme **fills gaps in capacity and capability**, providing a range of support options to prepare schools for a successful opening.

NSN's exclusive programme of advice, support and project management has been developed to comply with DfE and ESFA guidance, and **focuses on the areas that our experience shows will provide free schools with the most value in pre-opening**. Our dynamic and adaptable team has built a solid reputation for professionalism and expertise; NSN's deep institutional knowledge is supplemented by its team of Associates – experienced specialists with strong track records delivering complex free school projects. NSN Project Managers, Advisers and Associates have worked on over 500 free school projects – ranging from supporting groups in the pre-opening phase, to setting up and working in free schools.

The core elements of the Delivery Programme are outlined below in more detail. Although presented as four distinct services, **NSN is quite accustomed to 'bespoking' its services** to best meet the needs of free school groups. In each instance, NSN's experienced team will look to develop a tailored proposal that offers additional support in areas where the group has reduced capacity and/or capability, and remove elements where work has already been completed.

*“We go to NSN for advice, I think they're a great organisation. It's always nice to know that they are there and they're open – and I think of them if we experience any challenges.*





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*NSN provide excellent support as a sounding board for exploring ideas and developing individual issues relevant to our school.”*



## NSN Foundation Advisory Service | Free of charge for all approved schools

The Foundation Advisory Service delivers guidance to groups in pre-opening through a series of events and resources, as well as providing opportunities to interact with and learn from successful free school leaders from around the country. The foundational offer includes:

### *An invitation to NSN's pre-opening launch event*

Delivered in partnership with the DfE, this post-approval event is an opportunity to prepare for pre-opening and to reflect on lessons learnt from NSN's network of successful open free schools.

### *Key pre-opening resources*

NSN has developed guidance to help groups navigate the complex pre-opening period – from securing a site to developing a comprehensive marketing plan.

### *Question-and-answer service*

A helpdesk service for all free schools in pre-opening, NSN answers any questions you may have over the telephone or by email.

### *Invitations to NSN Spotlight visits to open free schools*

These regular events provide groups with an opportunity to visit a high-performing free school and learn about the school's journey from conception through to its first Ofsted inspection.

### *Invitations to NSN events focusing on the final stages of pre-opening*

Two cohort-wide events held in the year of opening, focusing on the final stages of pre-opening and successfully leading an open free school.

### *Networking opportunities*

In addition to a regular programme of events, NSN provides focused opportunities for school leaders to share their expertise and experience of pre-opening.

### *Workshops and seminars*

In association with external partners, NSN facilitates a series of workshops and seminars to discuss specific aspects of pre-opening in detail.

### *Regular newsletters*

Groups on the Foundation Advisory Service receive a regular update from NSN with information about upcoming events, policy news and links to useful resources.



*NSN offered thoroughly professional and knowledgeable insight, advice and challenge.”*

## NSN Site Advisory Service | Core costs: £9,500

NSN recognises that finding and securing a site and premises for an approved free school is one of the most challenging and time-consuming tasks of the pre-opening period. NSN's Site Advisory Service helps you to navigate this complex process, ensuring the best outcomes for staff and pupils. Every aspect of the service has been developed to complement the support provided by local authorities, LocatED and the ESFA. The service includes:

### *Access to a named NSN Adviser*

Advisers design and deliver personalised support plans for each group, organise meetings around ESFA milestones, and direct groups towards key premium resources as and when appropriate.

### *Access to NSN Site Associates*

NSN Associates offer advice and guidance tailored to the specific circumstances of each group, and clarify some of the more technical or intricate aspects of the process.

### *Detailed feedback from in-depth meetings with NSN Associates and NSN Advisers*

Each Milestone Meeting follows a structured agenda. Following each meeting, comprehensive minutes, detailed feedback and additional resources are provided.

### *A comprehensive and exclusive suite of premium resources about all aspects of pre-opening*

Rather than duplicating existing ESFA and DfE support, NSN's premium resources elucidate some of the more complicated, nuanced and technical aspects of the pre-opening process.

“Knowing people are available over the phone who have great experience, understanding and insight was very reassuring.”



## NSN Essentials Advisory Service | Core costs: £12,700

NSN recognises that many trusts need additional advice and guidance during the pre-opening phase to navigate a complex, long-term project, which they may be undertaking for the first time. Securing a funding agreement for your free school is a key milestone on the road to opening, and this service focuses on supporting the delivery of non-site related work streams that the funding agreement is contingent upon. Every aspect of the service has been developed to complement the support provided by local authorities, the DfE and the ESFA. The service includes:

### *Access to a named NSN Adviser*

Advisers design and deliver personalised support plans for each group, organise meetings around ESFA milestones, and direct groups towards key premium resources as and when appropriate.

### *Access to a range of NSN Associates*

Direct access to Associates' expertise through a series of Associate Meetings; NSN's Associates advise groups on how to prepare for tasks and quality assure plans, as well as completed work.

### *Detailed feedback from in-depth meetings with NSN Associates and NSN Advisers*

Following each meeting, comprehensive minutes, detailed feedback and additional resources are provided.

### *Two bespoke Spotlight visits to high-performing open free schools relevant to your school*

An opportunity to hear more about the school's journey to date and to better understand how the project group mitigated risk and addressed areas of concern during pre-opening.

### *Training for free school media spokespeople*

An intensive session with an experienced media trainer to prepare free school leaders for media engagement.

### *A comprehensive and exclusive suite of premium resources about all aspects of pre-opening*

Rather than duplicating existing ESFA and DfE support, NSN's premium resources elucidate some of the more complicated, nuanced and technical aspects of the pre-opening process.



*The training is of a far higher standard than other education training providers I have experienced.”*

*“The workshops and the advice that you're getting, the people who are presenting and sharing information with you are absolutely involved in the free schools process.”*



## NSN Project Management Partnership | Please contact us for bespoke cost

NSN's Project Management Partnership Service is for groups planning to outsource some or all of the project management of their free school in pre-opening. The Project Management Partnership takes into account the volume, complexity and timing of tasks in different phases of pre-opening. The NSN Project Management Partnership Service is the most bespoke offering within the NSN Delivery Programme, and includes the following elements:

### *A bespoke project management service, based on invitations to tender*

NSN can provide support in all pre-opening work streams, and will adapt the service to the needs of the project.

### *Access to a named NSN Project Manager*

NSN's Project Managers are heavily embedded within the Delivery Team, allowing them to draw upon our organisation's deep institutional knowledge.

### *Access to a range of NSN Associates*

Our Project Managers are able to call upon our team of Associates – experienced consultants each with a particular area of pre-opening expertise.

### *Planning and operational delivery*

Leveraging our vast experience and unrivalled knowledge of the free schools process, NSN's Project Managers will develop and deliver an operational plan in-line with the free school group's strategic objectives.

“ NSN support is really good - I rely on NSN for anything I can receive help with.”



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## Want to find out more?

If you are interested in one or more of NSN's pre-opening services, please contact the Delivery team at [open@newschoolsnetwork.org](mailto:open@newschoolsnetwork.org) or call 020 7952 8559.

*We would be happy to discuss how we can support your free school project.*

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