

MICK MINGSTONES- Bio

EDUCATION

- 2013: Diploma in Neuro Linguistic Programming**
The International NLP Trainers Association
- 2004: National Professional Qualification for Headship**
National College for School Leadership, Nottingham, England
- 2002: MA in Education Management** (6 action-based learning enquiries completed plus final dissertation- **DFES sponsored** via **Best Practice Research Scholarship**)
Centre for the Study of Education in an International Context (CEIC), Bath University, England (by distance learning)
- 1992: Post Graduate Certificate in Education**
Leeds University, England
- 1991: Institute of Personnel Management Diploma, Stage 1**
Ealing College, London, England
- 1989: BA Joint Honours**, Class 2:1, Business Management and Spanish
Leeds University, England
- 1984: 8 'O' levels, 3 'A' levels** (Spanish, French and Economics)
St. Aidan's Secondary School, Sunderland, England

RESEARCH AREAS AND EDUCATIONAL PASSIONS

Developing Higher-Level Thinking Skills
Developing Multiple Intelligences
Outdoor Learning for Promoting Personal Development and Emotional Wellbeing

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE THERAPEUTICALLY OUTDOORS – RECENT + ONGOING TRAINING

Youth Mental Health First Aid Course (Action for Children)
Outdoor Therapy Training (Venture Trust)
Certificate in Therapeutic Skills for Outdoor Leaders (The Therapeutic Forest)
The Therapeutic Forest Approved Practitioners' Network (The Therapeutic Forest)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2025-Present** **Director**
thriveinlife.uk
- Created and delivered Vulnerable Learner Programme (VLP).
 - Supported schools with the Strategic Planning and Development of Outdoor Learning.
 - Created Forest School Areas.
 - Supported staff to integrate outdoor learning into specific curriculum areas.
 - Mentored staff to deliver outdoor learning.
 - Worked in a freelance capacity to support young people at a North East alternative provision (birkheadswild.org.uk) whose aim is to help young people to 'Build a better future for themselves - using the outdoors.'
- 2010-Jan 2025** **Head Teacher**
West Denton Primary School (WDPS), Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K
- Envisioned and empowered staff to create a bespoke learning culture that celebrates all Intelligences and gives everyone the opportunity to achieve.
 - Developed the outdoor learning environment to create high quality facilities that maximise opportunities to develop students' Multiple Intelligences.
 - Created WDPS Life Skills Challenge, WDPS Resilience, WDPS Cycling and WDPS Raising Aspirations Programme (RAP).
 - Created the WDPS Life Skills Challenge Award (LSCA) that was sponsored by the Sir Graham Wylie Foundation.
 - 4 Ofsted Inspections rated 'Good' with Leadership rated as 'Outstanding'.

- Wrote grant bids and successfully gained external funding to improve the curricular offer for all students at WDPS.
- Created the 'Life Manual' which formed the core of 2 successful Turing grant awards. This included 2 visits to Amsterdam and a symbiotic, longstanding relationship with a Dutch school.
- Shaped learning and enhanced student life chances in the Outer West of Newcastle through creating the Outer West Learning Trust (OWLT) and the subsequent ONE Trust.
- Represented Outer West/ONE Trust schools on the Newcastle Fair Access Panel.
- Collaborated with Head Teachers across Newcastle and in the North of England to strategically develop their schools.
- Networked with Government, educational and private sector organisations to enhance life chances for our community.
- Collaborated with Northumbria University School of Architecture to develop a high-quality 'Parent Shack' in the school grounds.

2005-2010	Deputy Headteacher, Class Teacher (Y2), Enquiry-based Learning Network Leader (4 schools). St. Alban's R.C. Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K
2001-2005:	Class Teacher, Leadership and Curriculum Leadership Team Leader, Brain-based Learning Leader, Fellow of the University of the First Age (UFA) and Advanced Skills Teacher for Newcastle Local Education Authority (1 day a week). St. Catherine's R.C. Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K
2000-2001:	Agency Supply Teacher and completed Action-based Research for a Masters Degree Various Schools, North East of England
2000	Deputy Head Whole School (Head of Primary) The British School, Cairo, Egypt Established this new school following the UK National Curriculum. Co-ordinated whole school planning, teaching and learning, assessment. Developed management information systems, trained Admin staff.
1999	Primary Vice-Principal The International School of Lusaka, Zambia I was appointed to this post. The Zambian Government reneged on my work permit (as well as those of other newly-recruited UK teachers) citing a new Zambianisation policy.
1995-1998:	Teacher Advisor, Year Group Leader, Continuous Professional Development Leader for Indonesian and Western Staff Global Jaya School, Jakarta, Indonesia Helped establish a bi-lingual school of International Standards following the UK National Curriculum
1992-1995:	Class Teacher (Y4, Y5) Lord Blyton Primary School, S. Tyneside, U.K. Provided History in-service staff training, directed concerts and collaborated with local industry.
1989-1991:	Graduate Business Management Trainee George Wimpey PLC, London, U.K
1987-1988:	English Teacher as part of Spanish BA Joint Honours course Spanish Government, Palencia, Spain

INTERESTS

- Outdoor pursuits including: Cycling (MTB, road and gravel), trail running, hill-walking, swimming, climbing, camping etc.

- Travel, experiencing different cultures, reading, writing poetry and general self-improvement
- Spending time with my family outdoors
- Good level of Spanish, French and basic Indonesian
- Full UK car and motorcycle licenses
- Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MIDAS) qualified
- Educational Visits Co-ordinator Training (Sunderland Local Authority)
- Level 3 Awards in Outdoor First Aid, Paediatric First Aid and Forest School First Aid (ITC First)
- L3 Forest School Leader (AET and Archimedes Training)
- Trail Cycle Leader Award (Scottish Cycling-MBLA)
- Velotech Bicycle Maintenance Course Gold Award (Velotech Cycling Limited)
- British Cycling L2 Certificate in Coaching Cycling (1st4sport Qualifications)
- British Cycling L2 Mountain Bike Coaching Award (British Cycling)