



National Professional Qualifications Announcement

Today (Tuesday 12 October 2021) the Department for Education has announced updated funding eligibility criteria for the reformed suite of National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) and published new frameworks for upcoming qualifications in Leading Literacy (NPQLL) and Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)

From autumn 2021 the Department of Education will be introducing a new and updated suite of NPQs to offer the best possible support to teachers and leaders to help them become more effective teachers and leaders inside and outside the classroom.

The three existing NPQs in [Senior Leadership](#), [Headship](#) and [Executive Leadership](#) have been refreshed, ensuring that they are underpinned by the latest evidence of what works. The existing Middle Leadership NPQ has also been replaced with three new specialist NPQs to best address the broad range of responsibilities of current and aspiring middle leaders. These specialist areas cover:

- [National Professional Qualification for Leading Teacher Development](#): Supporting the training and development of others, including early career teachers.
- [National Professional Qualification for Leading Teaching](#): Developing teachers who are subject leads or responsible for improving teaching practice in a subject or phase.
- [National Professional Qualification for Leading Behaviour and Culture](#) Developing teachers who have responsibilities for leading behaviour and culture.

The frameworks have been developed in consultation with an expert advisory group with specialists from across the education system and clearly sets out the content that participants should know and be able to do after completing an NPQ. Providers of NPQs will use these frameworks to design their courses.

Funding

As part of the government's long-term education recovery plan, £184 million of new funding for NPQs was announced on 2 June 2021 to be spent over the course of this parliament.

Teachers and leaders employed in state funded schools, and state funded organisations that offer 16-19 places, in England **will be able to access a fully funded NPQ from Autumn 2021**, to support teachers and pupils following the disruption to learning faced as a result of COVID-19.

Access to funding remains conditional on successful validation of participants' registration information against Teaching Regulation Agency records, so you must ensure that the information supplied to your NPQ provider matches your teacher record. You can check and update your record via the [Teaching Regulation Agency' Teacher Self-Service Portal](#).





If you are not eligible for scholarship funding, you can still undertake an NPQ and should contact your [local teaching school hub](#), lead provider or other delivery partners directly.

Expansion of the reformed suite: NPQs available from autumn 2022

To ensure national professional qualifications continue to offer the best possible support to teachers and leaders wanting to expand their knowledge and skills, we are introducing two additional NPQs which will be available from autumn 2022.

The 2022 NPQs comprise the:

National Professional Qualification for Leading Literacy (NPQLL) – for teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading literacy across a school, year group, key stage or phase.

National Professional Qualification for Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL) – for leaders qualified to at least Level 3 with a full and relevant qualification who are, or are aspiring to be, managers of Private, Voluntary and Independent nurseries, headteachers of school-based or maintained nurseries, or childminders with leadership responsibilities.

As for the 2021 suite of NPQs, each of these NPQs is underpinned by a new content framework, setting out what participants should know and be able to do after completing an NPQ.

You can access the content frameworks for the 2022 NPQs at [National professional qualification frameworks: from autumn 2021](#).

Further details in relation to the procurement and funding for these qualifications will be announced in due course.

Additional support offer for the NPQ in Headship

Alongside the reformed suite of NPQs, the department is introducing an additional support offer for new headteachers from autumn 2021. This is a targeted support package for teachers new to the role of headship. The additional support offer is available to those who meet the following criteria:

- have completed an NPQH
- are studying for an NPQH
- are about to start an NPQH

Full scholarship funding for the additional support offer, meaning no cost to the participant, is available for those who meet the following criteria:

- work in a state-funded school or state funded organisation that offer 16-19 places in England upon starting the training
- are in their first 24 months of headship
- have not withdrawn from the additional support programme previously

The additional support offer provides structured, unassessed face-to-face support based on the best available evidence about what makes an effective headteacher. The way in which the additional support offer is delivered may vary between providers, but could include a combination of group coaching, one-to-one support





discussions and peer network support. You can contact your local teaching school hub, lead provider or other delivery partner to find out more.

Next steps for potential applicants

If you are interested in undertaking an NPQ programme, your first step will be to sign up with a provider.

The easiest way to do this is to contact your local teaching school hub. To [find your local teaching school hub on GOV.UK](#). You can also contact Lead Providers, or other known delivery partners, directly.

Once you have selected your course and provider, you will need to register for your programme using the [DfE's Online service](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which NPQs are fully funded?

Each qualification in the updated suite will be fully funded if the applicant meets the eligibility criteria outlined below.

2. Who is eligible for funding?

Teachers and leaders employed in state funded schools and state funded organisations that offer 16-19 places in England will be able to access a fully funded NPQ from Autumn 2021, to support teachers and pupils following the disruption to learning faced as a result of COVID-19.

Applicants who are not eligible for scholarship funding, will still be able to undertake an NPQ and should contact their [local teaching school hub](#), lead provider or other delivery partners directly.

3. I have already registered to self-fund for an NPQ starting in November and am now eligible for funding, what happens?

For participants who have already registered for an NPQ on the DfE system, and are currently self-funding, there will be an automatic check against the new funding criteria. Where participants become eligible under the new criteria, funding status will be updated automatically and an email will be sent to inform participants they are now eligible for DfE NPQ scholarship funding. The relevant provider will be informed of this change, and those participants do not need to take any further action. These communications will be sent throughout the day on Tuesday 12 October.

4. Why did the DfE develop a Leading Literacy NPQ?

The NPQLL has been developed to aid the teaching of literacy in primary and secondary schools and support the catch up of children whose literacy development has been impacted by the pandemic.

The qualification will explore the development of literacy skills including oral language, word reading, reading comprehension, spelling, and writing composition through effective teaching and monitoring. The role of strong literacy leadership and





high-quality training in primary and secondary settings, as well as managing transition between key stages and into secondary school will also be examined.

5. Why did the DfE develop an Early Years Leadership NPQ?

The NPQEYL has been developed to underpin and increase early years-specific pedagogical leadership in early years settings, strengthen staff pedagogy, and support children whose development has been impacted by the pandemic.

The qualification will investigate early education and child development, with a focus on communication, language, and physical development as well as personal, social and emotional growth, in line with the EYSF reforms. The setting of strategic direction and organisational culture, as well as pedagogical leadership, including evidence-based learning will also be explored.

6. Who are the NPQs for?

The specialist and leadership NPQs provide training and support for teachers and school leaders at all levels, from those who want to develop expertise in high-quality teaching practice, such as behaviour management, to those leading multiple schools across trusts.

They are part of a wider set of [teacher development reforms](#) which together will create a 'golden thread' of high-quality evidence underpinning the support, training and development available through the entirety of a teacher's career.

NPQs have been designed with teachers and leaders in mind using the latest evidence and can be completed flexibly around existing commitments.

NPQ in Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD)

The NPQLTD is available for teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading the development of other teachers in their school. This may be responsibility for the development of all teachers across a school or specifically trainees or ECTs.

The aim of the NPQLTD is to provide teachers with essential knowledge, skills and concepts that underpin successful leadership of teacher development.

Following completion of the NPQLTD, participants will have covered the four areas:

- Teaching
- Designing Effective Professional Development
- Delivering Effective Professional Development
- Implementation

[Read the full Leading Teacher Development framework here.](#)

NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture

The NPQLBC is available for teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading behaviour and/or supporting pupil wellbeing in their school.

The aim of the NPQLBC is to provide evidence which underpins successful leadership of behaviour and culture and provides participants with an understanding of how to put new approaches into practice.





Following completion of the NPQLBC, participants will have covered the following six areas:

- Teaching
- School Culture
- Enabling Conditions for Good Behaviour
- Complex Behavioural Needs
- Professional Development
- Implementation

[Read the full Leading Behaviour and Culture framework here.](#)

NPQ in Leading Teaching

The NPQLT is available for teachers who have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading teaching in a subject, year group, key stage or phase.

The aim of the NPQLT is to provide the participant with expertise and approaches that, through working with their colleagues, enable their school to keep improving, and contribute to a culture in which staff and pupils are all able to thrive.

Following completion of the NPQLT, participants will have covered the following nine areas:

- Teaching
- School Culture
- How Pupils Learn
- Subject and Curriculum
- Classroom Practice
- Adaptive Teaching
- Assessment
- Professional Development
- Implementation

[Read the full Leading Teaching framework here.](#)

NPQ in Senior Leadership

The NPQSL is available for teachers who are, or are aspiring to be, a senior leader with cross-school responsibilities.

The aim of the NPQSL is to enable participants to develop the relevant expertise and provide approaches to enable continuous improvement across the school.

Following completion of the NPQSL, participants will have covered the following ten areas:

- School Culture
- Teaching
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Behaviour
- Additional and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Professional Development
- Organisation Management
- Implementation
- Working in Partnership
- Governance and Accountability

[Read the full Senior Leadership framework here.](#)





NPQ in Headship

The NPQH is available for those who are, or are aspiring to be, a headteacher or head of school with responsibility for leading a school; or for those who are a headteacher or head of school with responsibility for leading a school and are in the first 24 months of headship.

The aim of the NPQH is to enable participants to gain an understanding of the expertise and approaches required to set an ambitious vision for their school, as well as learning how to establish a culture where staff and pupils can thrive.

Following completion of the NPQSL, participants will have covered the following ten areas:

- School Culture
- Teaching
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Behaviour
- Additional and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Professional Development
- Organisational Management
- Implementation
- Working in Partnership
- Governance and Accountability

[Read the full Headship framework here.](#)

Additional support offer for the NPQ in Headship

In addition to the reformed suite of NPQs, the department is introducing an additional support offer for new headteachers from autumn 2021. This is a targeted support package for teachers new to the role of headship.

You are eligible for this targeted support package if you meet the following criteria:

- are in your first 24 months of headship
- work in a state-funded school in England upon starting the training
- have either completed an NPQH before taking up your first headship post or are currently taking the NPQH
- have not withdrawn from the additional support programme previously

The offer provides structured, unassessed face-to-face support based on the best available evidence about what makes an effective headteacher. While the exact content of this support will depend on the provider chosen, activities could include a combination of group coaching, one-to-one support discussions and peer network support.

NPQ in Executive Leadership

The NPQEL is available for those who are, or are aspiring to be, and executive headteacher or have a school trust CEO role with responsibility for leading several schools.

The aim of the NPQEL is to develop flexible expertise than participants can use to respond to challenges in a range of contexts, as well as being able to identify and address persistent and common school leadership challenges.





Following completion of the NPQSL, participants will have covered the following ten areas:

- Trust Culture
- Teaching
- Curriculum and Assessment
- Behaviour
- Additional and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Professional Development
- Organisation Management
- Implementation
- Working in Partnership
- Governance and Accountability

[Read the full Executive Leadership framework here.](#)

