



→ [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) | Rules, guidance and support

→ [Brexit](#) | Check what you need to do

[Home](#) > [Education, training and skills](#) > [Teaching and leadership](#) > [Teacher training and professional development](#) > [School leadership](#) > [National professional qualifications \(NPQs\) reforms](#)



Policy paper

National professional qualifications (NPQs) reforms

Updated 31 March 2021

- Contents
- [Reformed national professional qualifications](#)
- [NPQs in specialist areas of teaching](#)
- [NPQ framework reforms](#)
- [NPQ providers](#)

[Print this page](#)

National professional qualifications (NPQs) are a national, voluntary suite of qualifications designed to support the professional development of teachers and leaders. [More information about existing NPQs](#) is available.

Reformed national professional qualifications

From September 2021, a reformed suite of NPQs will be available for teachers and leaders who want to develop their knowledge and skills in school leadership and specialist areas of teaching practice. These reforms include:

- reforming the 3 existing NPQs in senior leadership, headship and executive leadership
- replacing the current NPQ in middle leadership with 3 new NPQs for teachers and leaders who want to develop their expertise in specialist areas of teaching practice

Scholarship funding to support participants to access the reformed suite of NPQs is planned from September 2021 and details will be confirmed in due course.

NPQs in specialist areas of teaching

The 3 new NPQs are:

- leading teacher development: supporting the training and development of others
- leading teaching: developing teachers who are subject leads or responsible for improving teaching practice in a subject or phase
- leading behaviour and culture: developing teachers who have responsibilities for leading behaviour and culture

NPQ framework reforms

On 13 October 2020, we published 6 new content frameworks which will underpin the reformed suite of NPQs.

The new frameworks set out the things that participants should know and be able to do after completing an NPQ. Providers of NPQs will be expected to use these frameworks to design their course.

You can access the reformed content [national professional qualification frameworks: from September 2021](#).

Anyone currently undertaking an NPQ under the existing contracts and frameworks will continue to benefit from the knowledge and skills gained from these courses. All current participants are required to complete these courses, including assessment and moderation, by August 2022.

NPQ providers

Lead training providers will deliver the reformed suite of national professional qualifications from September 2021. They are:

- Ambition Institute
- Best Practice Network (home of Outstanding Leaders Partnership)
- Church of England
- Education Development Trust
- Harris Federation
- Leadership Learning South East
- Teacher Development Trust
- Teach First
- UCL Institute of Education

These providers have been chosen by a fair and open procurement process by the Department for Education.

Providers of the reformed suite of NPQs will be subject to a quality assurance (QA) mechanism through Ofsted inspection to ensure the best support for schools and teachers. Ofsted's QA role will be distinct from and not apply to the current suite of NPQs. The current QA agent (Tribal) will continue to provide QA for all NPQ programmes until contract closure in August 2022.

Is this page useful?

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support](#)

Brexit

[Check what you need to do](#)

Services and information

- [Benefits](#)
- [Births, deaths, marriages and care](#)
- [Business and self-employed](#)
- [Childcare and parenting](#)
- [Citizenship and living in the UK](#)
- [Crime, justice and the law](#)
- [Disabled people](#)
- [Driving and transport](#)

- [Education and learning](#)
- [Employing people](#)
- [Environment and countryside](#)
- [Housing and local services](#)
- [Money and tax](#)
- [Passports, travel and living abroad](#)
- [Visas and immigration](#)
- [Working, jobs and pensions](#)

Departments and policy

- [How government works](#)
- [Departments](#)
- [Worldwide](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Guidance and regulation](#)
- [News and communications](#)
- [Research and statistics](#)
- [Policy papers and consultations](#)
- [Transparency and freedom of information releases](#)

