

All NPQs FREE of charge - DfE announcement

The Kent Teaching School hub can announce that, as of this morning, all of the new NPQs (national professional qualifications) are to be fully funded by the Department for Education.

This means that they will be free of charge to all those who have a Teacher Reference number (TRN) and who are currently employed in state-maintained schools (including 16-19 & state maintained nursery provision).

There is no cap on how many can complete a NPQ per institution. So, for example, a school could have its entire 'middle leadership' team of phase leads/year managers/subject leads completing an NPQ. Those working in a MAT central team can also apply; as long as they have a TRN.

New application deadline:

The deadline for applications has been extended by our NPQ delivery partner, the Ambition Institute, to 23.59hrs on Sunday, 17th October. We are offering all the NPQs in partnership with Ambition.

The deadline for our NPQH with the Church of England has now also been extended to 23.59hrs on Monday 18th October.

Apply directly to us:

You and colleagues can apply [here](#) to enrol with us and our delivery partner Ambition Institute. Even quicker and easier than this headteachers can reply to this email and recommend colleagues who they wish to start on a NPQ this November. We just need their full name, email and which NPQ they wish to apply for.

Once the application has been onboarded by us participants will receive an email from Ambition. This will require them to complete a very quick, simple registration with the Department for Education portal. Click [here](#) for a direct link to that portal.

Click [here](#) to apply to the Church of England NPQH.

Apply as quickly as you can if you want to start in November:

There are still places in our NPQ cohorts starting next month but over the weekend they have been filling up fast. Currently, we have capacity for more to apply for our NPQs in leading teaching, leading behaviour and culture and senior leadership and headship.

NPQ leading teacher development and NPQ leading teaching is now full but there will be second cohorts starting in February 2022. If you would like a colleague to complete this NPQ or any of the others in a February 2022 starting cohort please reply to this email indicating your interest. We are also anticipating a February cohort for NPQSL.

The free funding offer will continue until we are told otherwise. So, those who start in February 2022 or even those in November 2022 should expect to be on a free, fully funded NPQ.

Existing NPQ applications are also free

The NPQs are free for all those who have already successfully applied as long as the participant meets the criteria for working in a state maintained school or nursery or 16-19 state maintained college and have a Teacher Reference number. The Department for Education will apply the new funding arrangement to all existing approved applications.

What is the 'time out of school' cost of the NPQs?

Our NPQ offer with Ambition Institute is designed to work around busy school schedules; a 'little and often' approach focused on learning key leadership knowledge and embedding it into practice. Most of the training will not take place during the school day thereby reducing the cost of a member of staff being out of school.

For full details of the time commitment of the NPQs please read full details of our NPQ [offer read here](#). The key headline is that each NPQ requires one day 'out of school' for an initial launch conference. After this, the leadership NPQs require a second day at the beginning of the next academic year. Almost all other training takes place as twilight training or as participant self study. The exception to this is the Church of England NPQH. Full details of this can be found in the link above.

What are the NPQs?

From September 2021 there are two types of NPQ available:

- i) **Specialist teaching NPQs** are aimed at teachers who have, or aspire to have, responsibilities for leading teaching (NPQLT), leading behaviour & culture (NPQLBC) or leading teacher development (NPQLTD). These specialist NPQs replace what was previously known as the NPQML and take twelve months to complete. At the end of the programme there is a three-month assessment window to complete an 'open book' style assessment.
- ii) **Leadership NPQs** are aimed at those who aspire to be or who are senior leaders (NPQSL), headteachers or heads of school (NPQH) and executive headteachers (NPQEL). Different to previous leadership NPQs these pay much less attention to generic management and leadership styles and are focused on participants understanding the domain specific professional knowledge that is necessary to lead schools effectively. They take eighteen months to complete with a three-month assessment window at the end of each.

NPQs can be taken by anyone who a headteacher thinks is suitable e.g. an assistant head on a NPQH will make that colleague even more effective in their current role even if they are not yet thinking of headship or a key stage/subject leader/SENCO taking NPQ leading behaviour and culture will help them undertake their current role more effectively.

Any further questions?

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions about this exciting opportunity. Email Andrea: info@ktsh.org.uk and she or one of the team will answer your query.