

National Professional Qualification for SENCOs

Qualification Specification



AT A GLANCE

Course Duration: **18 months**

Face-to-Face Events: **4 events**

Online Learning: **38 hours**

Coaching: **6 hours**

Total Learning Hours: **90-94 hours**

Final Assessment: **Case study scenario**

★ Awards 60 Master's Credits

About the NPQ for SENCOs

The DfE-accredited NPQ for SENCOs delivers evidence-based SEN training to those who are, or aspire to be, SENCOs. This flexible training fits around a teacher's timetable and is delivered through a combination of face-to-face events, online study, webinars and coaching. Completing the NPQ for SENCOs is hugely beneficial for participants as well as their school and pupils.

Benefits for participants

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of current SEND frameworks, legislation and responsibilities, ensuring you can navigate the role with confidence
- Support the development of a positive, predictable and safe environment so SEN pupils can thrive
- Build high-trust, seamless partnerships between parents, staff, and external agencies to ensure every child is supported
- Equip all staff with evidence-based teaching strategies to improve classroom standards

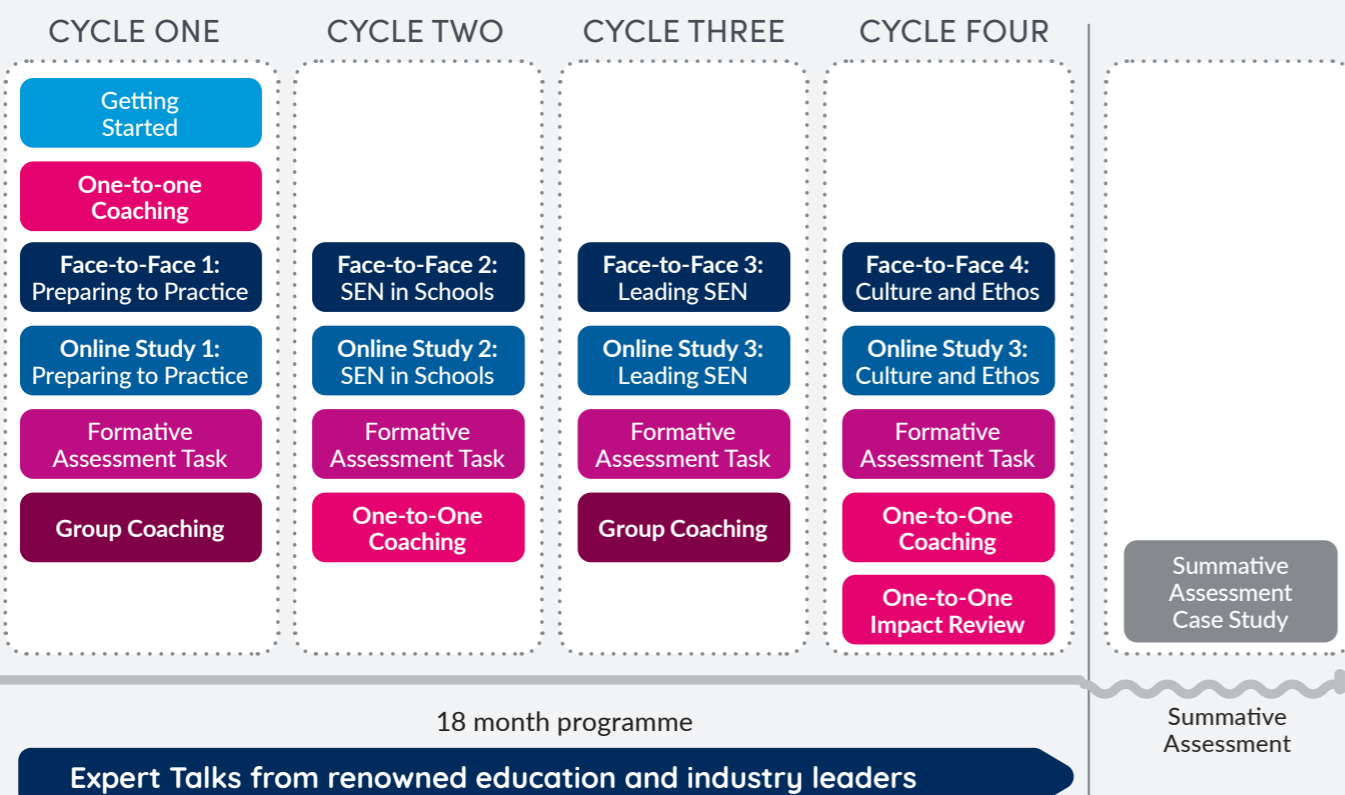
Benefits for schools

- Develop strategic leaders within their schools, playing a pivotal role in shaping whole-school teaching practices and fostering inclusive environments where pupils with SEND can thrive
- Leaders who recognise the importance of having a secure evidence-base to underpin their strategic decision making
- A leader with the ability to review and evaluate practice in order to bring about change and get the best for young people and staff within the organisation

Qualification elements

INDUCTION STAGE	Getting started	2 hours	Total Guided Learning Hours: 90
DEVELOPMENT STAGE	Face-to-Face events	24 hours	
	Online course study	38 hours	
	Formative assessment tasks	20 hours	
	Leadership performance coaching	6 hours	
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT STAGE	Case study scenario	Max. 2500 words	

Qualification programme structure



The NPQ for SENCO content is delivered across four development stage cycles that include Face-to-Face events, online study, a formative assessment task and leadership performance coaching. The context focus for each cycle aligns to each of the content areas identified by the DfE, and their sequencing across the delivery cycle has been carefully crafted to ensure depth of study and time for the most effective reflection and review by each participant.

Getting Started

The getting started stage includes insight into and preparation for qualification engagement. Participants will learn about the online learning environment (Canvas), the programme structure and expectations.

Face-to-Face content outline

The NPQ for SENCO programme includes four Face-to-Face events spread across the 18-month duration of the qualification.

Each event precedes online course study and will introduce the climate and context for online study. The four event days consist of tailored practice tasks, group networking and self-managed learning interaction supporting powerful dialogue and leadership development.

Face-to-Face events

- Day 1: Preparing to Practice
- Day 2: SEN in Schools
- Day 3: Leading SEN
- Day 4: Culture and Ethos

Online course content outline

NPQ for SENCO participants will undertake four cycles. As part of online course engagement compliance, participants will be required to select and complete three practice activities and undertake one formative assessment task per cycle.

Courses

- Preparing to Practice**
 - Content Area 1: Implementation
 - Content Area 2: Statutory Framework
- SEN in Schools**
 - Content Area 1: Identification of Need
 - Content Area 2: Teaching
 - Content Area 3: Statutory Framework
- Leading SEN**
 - Content Area 1: Leading and Managing Provision
 - Content Area 2: Professional Development
- Culture and Ethos**
 - Content Area 1: School Culture
 - Content Area 2: Behaviour

Formative assessment tasks

The formative assessment tasks are in-school practice-led activities that participants choose to complete following an online course. There are four formative assessment tasks for NPQ for SENCOs.

Leadership performance coaching

NPQ for SENCO participants will engage with six hours of coaching.

Group coaching

- Two hours

One-to-one coaching

- Four hours (one hour during the induction stage and then one hour following the completion of a formative assessment task, plus an impact review prior to the summative assessment stage)

Assessment

Qualification elements that count towards final assessment

To pass an NPQ, the following criteria need to be met:

- Participants must engage in 90% of the course elements determined by the provider.
- Participants must submit and pass one summative assessment that takes the form of a case study. Participants have an eight-day window to provide a written response of a maximum 1500-2500 words and submit this by midnight on the designated eighth day.

What are the course elements I must engage with?

- Leadership Development Record (LDR) review
- Face-to-Face events
- Online practice activities
- Formative assessment tasks
- Coaching

Course intakes

Intakes usually take place in Spring and Autumn each year. Please see our website to find out the next intake and application deadlines.

Delivery locations

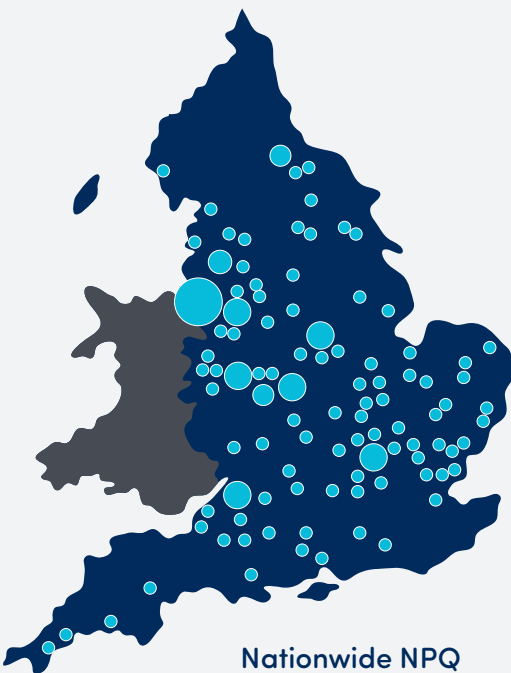
Delivery venues are largely provided through our national network of teaching school and multi-academy trust partners. Participants applying from one of our partner groups will be allocated to that group for the Face-to-Face events*.

In addition to partner groups we also have a number of groups located according to the geography of the participants who register, helping minimise travel time for the majority of participants.

Participants not registering through a school partner will be allocated to their most geographically convenient group.

Our Face-to-Face groups take place across the country and we strive to ensure all participants have access to local delivery.

* Subject to group viability



Contact us

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bestpracticenet.co.uk/npq



Cost and funding

The National Professional Qualification for SENCOs costs £1,298 plus VAT if applicable.

DfE scholarships will continue to be available to all teachers and leaders from publicly funded schools and 16 to 19 educational organisations for the NPQ for SENCOs.

All scholarships are subject to availability - apply as soon as possible for the best chance of receiving one.

Entry requirements

The NPQ for SENCOs is for those who are, or are aspiring to become, Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinators (SENCOs).

In order to be accepted onto the qualification, participants must have their application endorsed by their headteacher via a signed headteacher declaration that is uploaded as part of the participant's application. Participants must have 2 years of teaching experience and the opportunity to apply learning.

How to apply

Completing an NPQ is a huge achievement that requires a significant investment in time and effort. As such we advise all participants to follow these steps when applying:

- Discuss the NPQ with your headteacher or CPD lead. What are your goals? How will the NPQ benefit your school and pupils?
- Contact us with any questions about the qualification or the availability of funding.
- Start your application as early as possible to avoid the last minute NPQ rush!

The application form can be found at:

bestpracticenet.co.uk/npq-for-SENCOs

What's next?

Participants who successfully complete NPQ for SENCOs may choose to continue their professional development through the completion of a master's degree in educational leadership using the 60 master's credits earned through completion of the qualification.

Alternatively, if they deem themselves to be within three years of applying for headship roles, participants might go on to complete the NPQ for Headship (NPQH).

Professionally, NPQ for SENCO graduates are equipped to apply for SENCO roles.



Accredited NPQ provider



Department
for Education