



Department  
for Education

# National Professional Qualifications framework review: call for insights and evidence

Launch date **10 December 2025**

Respond by **20 February 2026**

# Contents

Introduction	3
Who this is for	3
Insight and evidence guidelines	4
How to respond	4
What is research evidence and what is an insight	4
If you are sharing insights or opinions	5
If you are sharing an evidence source for the department to consider	5
How responses will be used	6
Next steps	6
Enquiries	6
Additional copies	7
Respond online	7
Other ways to respond	7
Deadline	7

## Introduction

National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) are a national suite of leadership qualifications designed to support the professional development of teachers and leaders. They are based on the best available evidence and best-practice of teaching and leadership in education. The [NPQ frameworks](#) are available online.

In 2021, the NPQ frameworks were reformed in collaboration with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), who independently reviewed the frameworks to ensure they were based on the strongest available evidence and that this evidence was interpreted accurately.

However, evidence is not static and insights evolve. The Department for Education (DfE) is reviewing the frameworks to ensure they remain underpinned by robust, up-to-date evidence and meet the professional development needs of teachers and leaders. Further information on the [NPQ frameworks review](#) can be found online.

As part of the process, DfE launched a first call for evidence on 27 March 2025, seeking recent, relevant and high-quality research that may inform updates to the following leadership NPQ frameworks: Headship (NPQH), Senior Leadership (NPQSL) and Executive Leadership (NPQEL). This call for evidence closed on 16 May 2025. We published a [response](#) to this call for evidence in July 2025, with further information about the evidence that was received and the next steps for its use.

We are now launching a second and final call for evidence as part of the NPQ review process. This exercise is seeking both insights or opinions on the full suite of NPQs and research evidence which may inform updates to the evidence base unpinning the following NPQ frameworks:

- NPQ Leading teacher development (NPQLTD)
- NPQ Leading teaching (NPQLT)
- NPQ Leading behaviour and culture (NPQLBC)
- NPQ Leading literacy (NPQLL)
- NPQ Leading primary maths (NPQLPM)
- NPQ Early years leadership (NPQEYL)
- NPQ Special educational needs co-ordinators (NPQSENCOs)

## Who this is for

This call for insights and evidence is seeking views from anyone who has:

- insights or opinions to share with DfE about any NPQ or NPQs in general (for example, views on what is working well or what could be improved)

- research evidence to share that may inform updates to the evidence base underpinning the 7 NPQ frameworks listed in this document

## Insight and evidence guidelines

### How to respond

If you have insights or evidence to submit for consideration, please share them through completion of the online survey. The survey will initially ask you to think carefully about whether what you are submitting is an insight or research evidence. Your survey pathway will look slightly different depending on whether you are submitting:

- only insights or opinions on the NPQ(s)
- only research evidence for consideration
- both insights or opinions on the NPQ(s) and research evidence

### What is research evidence and what is an insight

#### Research evidence

Research evidence is the product of any study that follows a systematic process for collecting and analysing information. The NPQ frameworks include different types of statements, from descriptive statements about the nature of teaching, learning, and school leadership, to causal claims about the known efficacy or effectiveness of teaching, learning and leadership approaches.

Whilst we are interested in all forms of relevant research evidence, studies that use a comparison group to test impact in a reliable way are necessary to support claims of the efficacy or effectiveness of an approach. Therefore, any submissions which relate to 'learn that' statements which make causal claims should be backed up by studies with a valid comparison group. The types of evidence that we are seeking include, but are not limited to:

- experimental research (such as randomised controlled trials or quasi-experimental designs)
- systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- practice reviews
- surveys and case studies
- theoretical and narrative review papers
- qualitative evidence derived from interviews and focus groups

## Insights or opinions

Insights should be as clear and succinct as possible, including why this is relevant for the process of reviewing the NPQs. Insights may include, but are not limited to:

- personal opinions (for example, areas or gaps that we should focus on or prioritise for change)
- accounts from education professionals (like teachers, school leaders, consultations)
- data insights
- guidance and best practice

## If you are sharing insights or opinions

If you selected that you are submitting insights or opinions, you will be taken to the insights or opinions submission page. Please include **all** the insights and opinions that you wish to share in one response, making use of the free text boxes provided.

As set out in the survey, you have the option of either submitting what you think is working well or what could be improved about the NPQ(s) selected. You also have the option to share your insights or opinions through the next question instead, which includes specific prompts on the following aspects of NPQs:

- content
- delivery
- assessment
- target audience
- impact

You have the flexibility to share insights through free text boxes. If you wish to input multiple insights (say, on different topics) within one box, we ask that you make a new paragraph for each insight. This will help us to accurately capture and categorise your views.

If you would like to request further information about potential opportunities for engagement, please get in touch with us through our mailbox:

[npg.insights@education.gov.uk](mailto:npg.insights@education.gov.uk).

## If you are sharing an evidence source for the department to consider

If you selected that you are submitting research evidence, you will be taken to the NPQ evidence submission page. When completing this page, please include and refer to one source of research evidence only. If you want to propose more than one source of research evidence, then you should select yes to question 16, which will reset the page for you to submit another source of research evidence.

After submitting and describing the research evidence, we ask you to select which NPQ the evidence relates to and explain in the free text box how the evidence source relates to the frameworks and statements. You may wish to use wording like the following examples when explaining how the evidence relates to the NPQ framework:

- this research evidence supports/substantiates the current statement 2.2
- this research evidence could lead to a change to statement 2.2
- this research evidence identifies a gap for an additional framework statement in section 5 - Professional Development

If you think that the research evidence relates to multiple NPQs or framework statements, you should make this clear in the free text box. Likewise, there may be a scenario whereby the evidence could support a framework statement and propose a change to another. Again, you should only submit one source of research evidence per page and explain in the free text box how it relates to the NPQ frameworks selected.

## How responses will be used

Insights or opinions submitted will be considered by DfE to inform decision-making in the wider process of reviewing the NPQ suite and may be shared with the appointed external experts who are supporting the review. Evidence submitted will be considered by DfE, the EEF and the appointed external experts.

The frameworks will be independently reviewed and quality assured by the EEF to ensure they draw on the best available evidence and have been interpreted accurately. To support the review, DfE has convened a panel of experts representing a wide range of expertise from across the education sector, including serving school leaders. While the expert steering group (ESG) will advise on future changes, final decisions about amendments to the frameworks will be taken by DfE.

## Next steps

Once the call for insights and evidence has closed, we will publish a response with information about the evidence that was received and how they will be used. A final report detailing the use of the evidence submitted will be published towards the end of the NPQ review in 2026.

## Enquiries

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the call for insights and evidence, you can contact [NPQFrameworks.EVIDENCE@education.gov.uk](mailto:NPQFrameworks.EVIDENCE@education.gov.uk)

If your enquiry is related to the Citizen Space website or the process in general, you can contact the DfE Ministerial and Public Communications Division by email: [coordinator.consultations@education.gov.uk](mailto:coordinator.consultations@education.gov.uk), telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the [DfE Contact us page](#).

## **Additional copies**

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from [GOV.UK DfE consultations](#).

## **Respond online**

To help us analyse the responses please use the online system wherever possible. Visit [DfE consultations on GOV.UK](#) to submit your response.

## **Other ways to respond**

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may request an alternative format of the form.

### **By email**

[NPQFrameworks.EVIDENCE@education.gov.uk](mailto:NPQFrameworks.EVIDENCE@education.gov.uk)

### **By post**

Teacher Workforce: Teachers and Tutors  
Developing Teachers and Leaders Division  
Department for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
London, SW1P 3BT

## **Deadline**

The call for evidence closes at 23.59 on 20 February 2026.

## **Survey questions for respondents**

### **Page 1 – About you (optional)**

#### **1. Would you like us to keep your response confidential?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Information provided in response to calls for evidence, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it to be confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the DfE. The DfE will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Evidence submitted will be shared with the EEF, but personal information will not.

#### **2. If you would like to keep your response confidential, please explain your reason for confidentiality.**

#### **3. What is your name?**

#### **4. What type of organisation are you from?**

(drop down menu options – Primary School; Secondary School; multi-academy trust; maintained nursery school; private, voluntary or independent nursery; childminder; Further Education Statutory: GFE, Specialist and Designated Colleges; Further Education Statutory; Sixth Form colleges; Further Education: Non-Statutory (e.g. Independent Training Providers, Independent Specialist Colleges, Community Learning Provider, Employer Providers); training provider; local authority; research organisation (e.g., universities and consultancies); pedagogy and education experts; What Works Centres and Think Tanks; education charity; Education charities, private organisations, and public bodies



that commission and/or review education research; SEND charities, private organisations, and public bodies that commission and/or review education research; other)

**5. What is the name of your organisation?**

**6. What is your role within the organisation?**

**Page 2 – What are you submitting (mandatory)**

When selecting an option, we are asking you to think carefully about whether what you are submitting is an insight or research evidence. Detailed information is included within this guidance to support this decision.

**7. Which of the following options best describes what you are submitting?**

- ☐ I only want to submit insights or opinions on the NPQ(s)
- ☐ I only want to submit research evidence for consideration
- ☐ I want to submit both insights or opinions on the NPQ(s) and research evidence for consideration

**Page 3 – Insights or opinions submission (optional)**

**8. Please indicate which NPQ(s) the insights or opinions that you are submitting best relates to. Please select either one NPQ or multiple from the list below.**

- ☐ NPQ Leading teacher development (NPQLTD)
- ☐ NPQ Leading teaching (NPQLT)
- ☐ NPQ Leading behaviour and culture (NPQLBC)
- ☐ NPQ Leading literacy (NPQLL)
- ☐ NPQ Leading primary maths (NPQLPM)
- ☐ NPQ Early years leadership (NPQEYL)
- ☐ NPQ Special educational needs co-ordinator (NPQSENCO)
- ☐ NPQ Senior leadership (NPQSL)
- ☐ NPQ Headship (NPQH)
- ☐ NPQ Executive leadership (NPQEL)
- ☐ Early headship coaching offer (EHCO)
- ☐ NPQs in general or all of the above

**9. Based on the NPQ(s) that you selected in the previous question, please submit your insight(s) based on what you think is either working well or could be improved**

If your feedback is about a particular aspect of the NPQ(s) you may choose to ignore this question (question 9) and respond through completion of the next question (question 10) instead.

If you have distinct insights or opinions to submit as part of this question (question 9), where possible, can you separate them in the text boxes. For example, by responding with different paragraphs for each distinct insight or opinion.

What is working well about the NPQ(s) selected?

What could be improved about the NPQ(s) selected?

**10. If your insights or opinions are about a particular aspect of the NPQ(s) selected in question 8, please share them through completion of the free text box (or boxes) below.**

As part of the NPQ Review we are exploring the particular aspects of NPQs outlined in the free text boxes below: content, delivery, assessment, target audience and impact. You may decide not to answer question 9 above and instead share your insights or opinions through this question (question 10) instead.

If you have distinct insights or opinions to submit as part of this question (question 10), where possible, can you separate them in the text boxes. For example, by responding with different paragraphs for each distinct insight or opinion within each free text box.

The existing content covered in the NPQ(s) selected.

How the NPQ(s) selected are delivered. For example, how you found the different forms of delivery for the course(s) such as face-to-face and asynchronous, and how accessible you found the course.

The end of course assessment for the NPQ(s) selected

The target audience for the NPQ(s) selected. For example, is it clear who the NPQ(s) selected are pitched at and who should be taking them.

Whether the NPQ(s) selected achieves its intended impact. For example, to what extent do you think the NPQ improves the specialist knowledge for teachers and leaders taking them? Another example is to what extent do you think that the NPQ makes a positive contribution to the career progression for teachers and leaders taking them?

**11. Are you also submitting research evidence for consideration that may inform updates to the NPQ frameworks?**

- ☐ Yes – I want to continue the survey to submit research evidence
- ☐ No – I have completed the survey

**Page 4 – NPQ evidence submission**

When completing this page, please include and refer to **one source of research evidence only**. If you want to propose more than one sources of research evidence, then you should select yes to question 16 at the bottom of this page.

You should only respond if you are submitting research evidence that may inform updates to the evidence-base underpinning the following NPQ frameworks only:

- NPQ Leading teacher development (NPQLTD)
- NPQ Leading teaching (NPQLT)

- NPQ Leading behaviour and culture (NPQLBC)
- NPQ Leading literacy (NPQLL)
- NPQ Leading primary maths (NPQLPM)
- NPQ Early years leadership (NPQEYL)
- NPQ Special educational needs co-ordinator (NPQSENCO)

**12. What is the research evidence? Please provide a URL link and full reference to the source of evidence that you are submitting**

Required – 100 words

**13. Please provide a very brief description of this research evidence.**

Required – 300 words

**14. Which NPQ and framework statement does this evidence relate to? Select each NPQ that you think the research evidence relates to.**

- ☐ NPQ Leading teacher development (NPQLTD)
- ☐ NPQ Leading teaching (NPQLT)
- ☐ NPQ Leading behaviour and culture (NPQLBC)
- ☐ NPQ Leading literacy (NPQLL)
- ☐ NPQ Leading primary maths (NPQLPM)
- ☐ NPQ Early years leadership (NPQEYL)
- ☐ NPQ Special educational needs co-ordinator (NPQSENCO)

Please explain in the free text box below how the research evidence relates to the NPQ(s) selected. If you think the research evidence relates to multiple NPQs or statements, where possible, can you make this clear in the free text box by making a new paragraph per NPQ. Some examples of potential wording in the free text box:

- This evidence source supports/substantiates the current statement 2.2.
- This evidence source could lead to a change to statement 2.2.
- This evidence source identifies a gap for an additional framework statement in section 5 - Professional Development.

**15. How the research evidence relates to the NPQ(s) selected:**

Required – 500 words

**16. Are you submitting another source of research evidence for consideration that may inform update to the NPQ frameworks?**

- ☐ Yes – I want to submit another source of research evidence
- ☐ No – I have completed the survey



Department  
for Education

© Crown copyright 2025

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3).

Where we have identified any third-party copyright information, you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

About this publication:

enquiries <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

download [www.gov.uk/government/publications](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications)

Follow us on X: [@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)

Connect with us on Facebook: [facebook.com/educationgovuk](https://facebook.com/educationgovuk)