

Glossary of Education Terms

A

Academy State funded schools that are independent of local authorities. Academies are primarily all-ability schools and benefit from greater freedoms and flexibilities which help them to innovate and raise standards. (Source: DfE)

Academy: Converter Schools that have chosen through Governing Body Resolution and application to the Secretary of State to become an Academy under the Academies Act 2010.

Academy: Sponsor-Led All-ability, state-funded schools established and managed by sponsors from a wide range of backgrounds, including high performing schools and colleges, universities, individual philanthropists, businesses, the voluntary sector, and the faith communities.

Additional Educational Needs AEN includes a wider range of needs beyond SEN; for example, EAL, traveller children and asylum seekers.

AD(H)D See Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder.

Advanced Levels Examinations taken in secondary schools in England typically in post-16 education.

Advanced Skills Teacher An excellent teacher who achieves the very highest standards of classroom practice and who is paid to share their skills and experience with other teachers.

Advanced Supplementary Levels Examinations taken in secondary schools in England typically in post-16 education. These constitute half an A-Level.

AEN Additional Educational Needs.

A-Levels See Advanced Levels.

Alternative Provision Education for pupils of compulsory school age who cannot attend a mainstream or special school, who are disengaged from education or at risk of exclusion.

APS See Average Points Score.

ASD See Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

AS Levels See Advanced Supplementary Levels.

Associate Headteacher Usually an experienced headteacher who is seconded to a school to assist in the long-term absence of the headteacher.

Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder

ADHD is a group of behavioural symptoms that include inattentiveness, hyperactivity and impulsiveness. ADD is a type of ADHD (Source: NHS)

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Pupils with ASD find it difficult to understand and use non-verbal and verbal communication; understand social behaviour, which affects their ability to interact with children and adults; and, think and behave flexibly, which may be shown in restricted, obsessional or repetitive activities. (Source: DfE)

Average Points Score

For KS2 and KS3, the APS is the average of the school's pupils' overall score in the tests for that age for maths, English and science. For KS4 (GCSE), the APS is the average score for all the GCSEs (or equivalent) exams the pupils take.

B**Beacon Schools**

These were outstanding schools in England and Wales acknowledged by the DfE between 1998 and 2005.

BTEC

Qualification equivalent to two A level courses. Subjects include Nursery Nursing, Business Studies and Art and Design. There are considerable practical elements to the courses with work placements offered.

C**CFR**

See Consistent Financial Reporting

Childminder

Childminders look after children under five and school age children after hours and in the holidays. The local authority decides how many children a childminder can care for, and childminders are able to register as part of a network to provide early education.

City Technology College

CTCs teach subjects of the national curriculum pre-16 with a specific focus on science and technology. They offer a wide range of vocational qualifications for post-16 pupils, and have close links with businesses.

Co-educational

The system of education in which both males and females attend the same institution or classes.

Community School

Schools that are maintained by the local authority (LA). The LA is the admissions authority - it has main responsibility for deciding arrangements for admitting pupils. (Source: DfE)

Community Special School

Schools that are maintained by the LA, which are organised to make special educational provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN). (Source: DfE)

Consistent Financial Reporting

CFR data provides financial information about a school's income and expenditure for a defined school year.

Controlled Schools

Schools in Northern Ireland which come under the control of Education and Library Boards.

Contextual Value Added (Measure) CVA is a performance indicator that takes into account variables outside of the classroom. For example, a number of other factors “such as gender, special educational needs, movement between schools, and family circumstances, are also known to affect pupils’ performance” (Source: DfE).

CTC See City Technology College.

CVA See Contextual Value Added (Measure).

CVAM See Contextual Value Added (Measure).

D

Day Nurseries These take children under five for the whole working day. Children can attend on a part-time or full-time basis according to their parents’ needs. They may be run by local authorities, voluntary organisations, private companies, individuals or employers. There must be at least one adult for every eight children and at least half of the staff must have a qualification recognised by the local authority.

DCSF See the Department for Children, Schools & Families.

Dedicated Schools Grant A combination of old grants; i.e. school standards grant, Leadership Incentive Grant, deprivation and transition, city learning centres, specialist schools, school lunch grant, ethnic achievement grant, 121 tuition, extended schools subsidy, national strategies, diploma formula grant, and the London pay addition. (Source: BESA)

DENI See the Department for Education in Northern Ireland.

DE Ref No. The Northern Ireland equivalent of a DfE No. (also 7 digits long).

Department for Children, Schools & Families The Government department that oversaw the education portfolio in England & Wales (2007-2010).

Department for Education The current Government department that oversees the education portfolio in England & Wales (2010-present).

Department for Education & Employment The Government department that oversaw the education portfolio in England & Wales (1995-2001).

Department for Education & Science The Government department that oversees the education portfolio in Ireland (Republic).

Department for Education & Skills The Government department that oversaw the education portfolio in England & Wales (2001-2007).

Department for Education in Northern Ireland The current Government department that oversees the education portfolio in Northern Ireland.

DfE See the Department for Education.

DfEE See the Department for Education & Employment.

DfES (1) See the Department for Education & Skills.

DfES (2) See the Department for Education & Science.

DfE No.	The 7-digit combination of the LA No. and the Establishment No. (state schools in England & Wales only).
Disapplication	Removal or lifting of a programme of study, attainment target, assessment, or any other component of the National Curriculum, or any combination of these, including entire subjects or the entire National Curriculum. (Source: DfE)
DSG	See Dedicated Schools Grant.
Dyscalculia	Pupils with dyscalculia have difficulty in acquiring mathematical skills. (Source: DfE)
Dyslexia	Pupils with dyslexia have a marked and persistent difficulty in learning to read, write and spell, despite progress in other areas. (Source: DfE)
Dyspraxia	Pupils with dyspraxia are affected by an impairment or immaturity of the organisation of movement, often appearing clumsy. (Source: DfE)
E	
EAL	English as an Additional Language.
Early Years	Children aged 3 to the end of the school reception year.
EAZ	See Education Action Zones.
Education Action Zones	Forums established in areas of low academic achievement in 1998 by the Labour Government.
Education Maintenance Allowance	A financial incentive paid to Post-16 students to keep them in full-time education.
EiC	See Excellence in Cities
EMA	See Education Maintenance Allowance.
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages.
ESTYN	The education and training inspectorate for Wales.
Excellence Cluster	A group of schools working together under the EiC programme. The specific Excellence Cluster grant has now been absorbed into the DSG.
Excellence in Cities	A programme launched by the Labour Government in March 1999 to raise standards and promote inclusion in urban areas, particularly inner cities.
Executive Headteacher	A very experienced headteacher who oversees the running of multiple schools; for example, a federation or consortium.
Extended Schools	A school that provides a range of services and activities often beyond the school day to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.
EY	See Early Years.

F

FE	See Further Education.
Feeder Schools	Some admission authorities give priority to children from certain primary schools.
First Schools	State schools that teach pupils aged 5 to 8/9.
Foundation School	Schools maintained by the LA. May have a foundation (generally religious) that appoints some - but not most - of the governing body. The governing body is the admissions authority. (Source: DfE)
Foundation Special School	Schools maintained by the LA, which are specifically organised to make special educational provision for pupils with SEN. (Source: DfE)
Foundation Stage	See Early Years.
Free School	All-ability state-funded schools set up in response to what local people say they want and need in order to improve education for children in their community. They have the same legal requirements as academies and enjoy the same freedoms and flexibilities. (Source: DfE)
Free School Meal	A pupil's entitlement to receive a paid for meal in the middle of the school day.
FS	See Foundation Stage.
FSM	Free School Meals. See "Full-time equivalent".
Further Education	Traditionally, post-16 education, though some vocational courses may start at age 14 with secondary school children attending specific courses at FE Colleges. Qualifications include HNDs and Foundation Degrees.
Full-time equivalent	The headcount of full-time staff plus the proportion of the full-time hours worked by part-time teachers.

G

GCSE	See General Certificate of Secondary Education.
General Certificate of Secondary Education	Examinations taken by pupils in England, usually aged 14-16.
General National Vocational Qualification	Similar to a BTEC and the equivalent of 2 A levels. The subjects offered have a vocational element, such as childhood studies.
GNVQ	See General National Vocational Qualification.

H

HE	See Higher Education.
Hearing Impairment	Varying degrees of deafness.

HI See Hearing Impairment.

Higher Education Traditionally, post-16 education undertaken at HE Colleges, Universities and Institutes of Technology. Qualifications include undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant The role of HLTA was created under the 2003 National Workforce Agreement to establish advanced LSAs that may lead lessons and work closer with pupils on their learning requirements.

Higher National A qualification in Scotland awarded by the SQA and considered equivalent to the first or second year of a university degree course.

Higher National Diploma A BTEC qualification in England awarded by Edexcel and considered equivalent to the first or second year of a university degree course.

HLTA See Higher level teaching Assistant.

HND See Higher National Diploma.

I

Independent School This is a school that is neither maintained by an LA nor grants and which is registered under section 70 of the Education Act 1944. (Source: DfE)

Independent Special School An independently-run special school.

INSET See In-Service Education & Training.

Initial Teacher Training Most people need to take an ITT course in order to gain qualified teacher status (QTS).

In-Service Education & Training All teachers have access to INSET in schools, helping them to refine their teaching and management skills.

ITT See Initial Teacher Training.

J

No entries currently

K

Key Stage 1 Ages 4 to 7 (school years 1 & 2).

Key Stage 2 Ages 7 to 11 (school years 3 to 6).

Key Stage 3 Ages 11 to 14 (traditionally school years 7 to 9).

Key Stage 4 Ages 14 to 16 (traditionally school years 10 & 11).

Key Stage 5 Ages 16 to 18 (traditionally school years 12 & 13 - also known as Post-16).

KS1 See Key Stage 1.

KS2 See Key Stage 2.

KS3 See Key Stage 3.

KS4 See Key Stage 4.

KS5 See Key Stage 5.

L

LA See Local Authority.

LEA See Local Education Authority.

Learning & Skills Council From 2001-10 the LSC had a budget of £13bn to improve the provision of learning in England, particularly through vocational courses in FE.

Local Education Authority Established by the 1902 Education Act, LEAs replaced school boards and technical instruction committees in being responsible for education in areas of at least 10,000 people. The 2004 Children's Act expanded their remit to include social services responsibilities for children.

Local Authority England is governed by LAs, which may be county councils, metropolitan districts, metropolitan boroughs, unitary authorities, districts or boroughs.

LSA See Learning Support Assistant

LSC See Learning & Skills Council.

Learning Support Assistant A classroom assistant.

M

MFL See Modern Foreign Languages.

Middle Schools State schools that teach pupils aged 8/9 to 12/13.

MLD See Moderate Learning Difficulty.

Moderate Learning Difficulty Pupils with MLDs will have attainments significantly below expected levels in most areas of the curriculum despite appropriate interventions. Their needs will not be able to be met by normal differentiation and the flexibilities of the National Curriculum. (Source: DfE)

Modern Foreign Languages MFL typically includes French, German and Spanish. There is currently no statutory requirement to teach MFL in KS1, KS2 or KS4 in England.

MSI See Multi-Sensory Impairment.

Multi-Sensory Impairment Pupils with MSI have a combination of visual and hearing difficulties. They are sometimes referred to as deafblind but may have some residual sight and/or hearing. (Source: DfE)

N**National Curriculum**

The basic framework setting out what children aged 5 to 16 should learn in state schools.

New Schools Network

Registered Charity set up in 2009 to give guidance, support and advice for groups looking to open a school.

Nursery School

These take children from the age of three or four and are open during school term time and normally offer five half-day sessions a week. There must be at least one adult for every 13 children. Staff are qualified teachers and assistants.

O**Ofsted**

The Office for Standards in Education.

Opportunity Playgroup

This is a group that is set up primarily to provide for children with disabilities or learning difficulties alongside other children. (Source: DfE)

P**Per Pupil Funding**

The amount of funding received by a school for each pupil they have on their roll.

PFI

See Private Finance Initiative.

Playgroup

See Pre-School.

Playschool

See Pre-School.

PMLD

See Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty.

Post-16

Ages 16 to 18 (also known as Key Stage 5).

PPP

See Public-Private Partnership.

Pre-School

These generally take children between the ages of three and five and most offer half-day sessions. Usually non-profit making and managed by volunteers and parents. There must be at least one adult for every eight children and at least half of the adults must be qualified leaders or assistants

Primary Schools

State schools that teach pupils aged 4 to 11. Primary Schools are typically co-educational.

Private Finance Initiative

An initiative to attract private sector funding for major public sector projects.

Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulty

Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties have complex learning needs. In addition to very severe learning difficulties, pupils have other significant difficulties such as physical disabilities, sensory impairment or a severe medical condition. (Source: DfE)

Public-Private Partnership

The introduction of private sector funding and expertise into the provision of public services in order to achieve best value for money for taxpayers.

Pupil Premium

Funding for pupils in reception through to Year 11, based on FSM.

Q**QTS**

See Qualified Teacher Status.

Qualified Teacher Status

The professional status you need to obtain to teach in state maintained schools in England and Wales. QTS is normally awarded after successful completion of an Initial Teacher Training course.

R

No entries currently

S**School Business Manager**

An extension to the traditional Bursar role. SBMs take on the headteacher's financial responsibilities. 9/10 secondary schools and 3/10 primaries now have SBMs (Source: National College - 2011)

Scottish Qualifications Authority

The non-Governmental body responsible for accreditation and awarding in Scotland.

SEED

Scottish Executive Education Department.

SEED No.

The Scottish equivalent of a DfE No. (also 7 digits long).

SEN

Special Educational Needs.

SENCo

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

Senior Leadership Team

A school's decision-making body. This would normally consist of the headteacher, any assistant and/or deputy heads, SBM and other appropriate and experienced members of teaching staff.

Senior Management Team

See Senior Leadership Team.

Severe Learning Difficulty

Pupils with SLDs have significant intellectual or cognitive impairments. (Source: DfE)

SLD

See Severe Learning Difficulty.

SLT

See Senior Leadership Team.

SMT

See Senior Management Team.

Special Academy

Academies specially organised to make special educational provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN). (Source: DfE)

Special Educational Needs

A child is defined as having Special Educational Needs if he or she has a learning difficulty which needs special teaching. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age.

Special School

A school that caters for pupils with SEN.

SQA

See Scottish Qualifications Authority.

State Schools

The majority of pupils in the UK go to publicly-funded schools, usually known as state schools. These make no charge to parents.

Studio Schools

An innovative new model of 14 to 19 year-old educational provision. They are small schools - typically with around 300 pupils - delivering mainstream qualifications through project based learning. (Source: BESA)

Sure Start

A Government-funded programme introduced in 1998 to provide childcare support with an emphasis on community development.

T**Teacher Assessments**

Tests marked internally by teachers. The results, together with other information, are used by teachers to produce teacher assessments in each subject. (Source: DfE)

Teaching Schools

Outstanding schools that will take a leading role in the training and professional development of teachers, support staff and headteachers, as well as contributing to the raising of standards through school-to-school support. Teaching Schools can work alone or in partnership with another school.

U**UCAS**

See Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

University Technical Colleges

UTCs are academies for 14-19-year-olds. They provide technical education that meets the needs of modern employers. They offer technical courses and work-related learning, combined with academic studies. (Source: BESA)

Universities & Colleges Admissions Service

Central agency for processing applications for undergraduate courses including degree level initial teacher training courses (BEd, BA/BSc with qualified teacher status).

Upper Schools

State schools that teach pupils aged 14 to 18.

URN

The Unique Reference Number assigned to the school by the national education department (state & independent schools).

UTC

See University Technical Colleges.

V**Value Added Measures**

VAMs are intended to allow comparisons between schools with different student intakes. It may be, for example, that they have significant special educational needs. All students are capable of making progress and it is important that schools are given recognition for the work that they do with these students.

VAM

See Value Added Measures.

VET

Vocational and Educational Training.

VI

See Visual Impairment.

Visual Impairment

Varying forms of blindness.

Voluntary Aided School

Maintained by the LA, with a foundation (generally religious) that appoints most of the governing body. The governing body is the admissions authority. (Source: DfE)

Voluntary Controlled School

Maintained by the LA, with a foundation (generally religious) which appoints some, but not most, of the governing body. The LA is the admissions authority. (Source: DfE)

W

No entries currently

X

No entries currently

Y

No entries currently

Z

No entries currently