

School acronyms

AfL Assessment for Learning – a programme of teaching and learning activities which are designed to provide information to be used as feedback to modify the learning activities. Examples of AfL activities are: effective questioning, observations of students during teaching and learning activities, class discussions, analysing work and providing feedback to students.

A Levels and AS levels – advanced qualifications for students aged 16-19. A Levels are achieved following two years of advanced study.

APP Assessing Pupils' Progress – a structured approach to periodically assessing maths, science, reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. APP is not mandatory.

BTEC Business and Technology Education Council – work-related qualifications offered by an increasing number of schools and colleges. They can be taken both as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, A Levels or GCSEs. BTEC courses are vocational courses but they also cover the theoretical aspects of the subject.

CATs Cognitive Ability Tests – a set of tests for children aged 7-15, which include verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and non-verbal reasoning. Similar to the Midyis test.

CPD Continued Professional Development – any activity that increases teachers' knowledge, understanding or effectiveness in schools.

CPS Common Pay Scale – starting point for teacher's salary scales. Note: academies and free schools can set their own pay scales.

DfE The Department for Education – responsible for education and children's services in England.

EAL English as an Additional Language – refers to children whose first language is not English, and who may not speak English fluently or at all.

EBD Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties – Children who display these problems may be placed on the Special Needs Register and given extra support.

EHCP Education, Health and Care Plan – Students who are issued with an EHCP have serious special educational needs, and will receive extra assistance in their learning. Plans outline the child's needs and required support, and are reviewed annually.

EYFS Early Years Foundation Stage – sets standards for the learning, development and care of children

from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years' providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

FSM Free School Meals – Students on FSM will have access to extra funding to support their learning activities inside and outside the classroom.

GCSE General Certificate of Secondary Education – academic examination of basic secondary education, generally taken by 14–16 year-olds but available to anyone who would like to study a subject that interests them. GCSEs are available in a wide range of academic and work-related subjects.

HLTA Higher Level Teaching Assistant – An HLTA does all the things a teaching assistant does but has a greater level of responsibility, such as being able to teach classes on their own, cover planned absences and allow teachers time for planning and marking.

HoD Head of Department – subject leader accountable for teaching and learning, supporting staff, resource management and quality assurance.

HOY Head of Year – responsible for welfare of students in the year level.

IB International Baccalaureate – a series of educational programmes for children aged 3-19.

IEP Individual Education Plan – identifies the special educational needs of a child and outlines targets and strategies to support their learning.

ITT Initial Teacher Training – a course required in order to gain qualified teacher status.

LA/LEA Local Authority/Local Education Authority – local government with responsibility for education.

LAC Looked after Children – children who are in care or looked after by foster parents. LACs have the highest status for admissions and provisions in schools.

LSA or LSTA Learning Support or Teaching Assistants – This is a widely used job title for assistants who provide in-school support for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

KS Key Stage – The National Curriculum is organised into blocks of years called Key Stages. Early Years (EYFS) covers birth to 5 years, Key Stage 1 covers school years 1–2, Key Stage 2 covers school years 3–6, Key Stage 3 covers school years 7–9 and Key Stage 4 covers school years 10–11.

MLD Moderate Learning Difficulties – Students with MLDs receive extra assistance under the SEN provision. Students with MLD have attainments well below expected levels in all or most areas of the curriculum. Their needs will not be met by normal differentiation and the flexibilities of the National Curriculum.

NQT Newly Qualified Teacher – a teacher in their first year of qualified teaching.

NVQ National Vocational Qualification – a competence-based qualification, in which students learn practical, work-related tasks designed to help them develop skills and knowledge to do a job effectively.

Ofsted The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills – the regulatory and inspection body for education and children's care service providers.

Ofqual The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation – Ofqual regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England, including SATs, GCSEs, A Levels, BTECs and NVQs.

OTT Overseas Trained Teacher – teachers who qualified in countries outside of the EEA, who may work as a temporary teacher in England for up to four years without QTS. Teachers who qualified in Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA may be recognised as a qualified teachers and can apply for QTS status in England. You must have QTS to take up a permanent teaching post in a state-maintained school.

POS Programme of Study – sets out what should be taught in each subject at each Key Stage.

PPA Planning, Preparation and Assessment time – 10% of teachers' time is allocated to PPA.

PPF Pupil Premium Funding – additional funding allocated to schools per student receiving free school meals.

PRU Pupil Referral Unit – established and maintained by an LA to provide education for pupils who would not otherwise receive a suitable education due to exclusion or other reasons.

PYP Primary Years Programme – the International Baccalaureate Primary School programme for children aged 3-12.

QTS Qualified Teacher Status – the accreditation that allows you to teach in state-maintained and special schools in England and Wales.

SATs Standard Attainment Tests (previously known as Standard Assessment Tasks) – during Key Stages 1-3 progress is assessed against eight levels in most National Curriculum subjects. In 2016 new KS1 tests were introduced based on English reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling (not writing), maths, arithmetic and reasoning. KS2 tests cover English and maths.

SDP School Development Plan – a projection of what a school hopes to achieve within a prescribed time limit.

SEF Self-Evaluation Form – an online form which helps schools evaluate their own performance, used by Ofsted inspectors prior to an inspection to help identify where they might need to focus their efforts.

SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – refers to pupils with learning disabilities. Support may be provided through mainstream or more specialised education.

SENco Special Education Needs Co-ordinator – teacher responsible for ensuring that students with learning difficulties, emotional problems and behavioural problems receive appropriate support, overseeing the completion of IEPs and liaising with external agencies.

SMT/SLT Senior Management/Leadership Team – consisting of headteacher, deputy head and assistant headteachers.

SSCo School Sports Co-ordinator – responsible for implementing School Sport Partnership plans for the feeder primary schools in their cluster. SSCos support colleagues in the delivery of high quality PE and school sport, and have a remit to increase sporting opportunities for students outside school hours.

STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and maths. Sometimes called STEAM, with the addition of Arts into the mix.

TA Teaching Assistant – The role of a teaching assistant varies but usually includes some or all of the following: working one-to-one or in small groups of students, supporting students with learning difficulties or disabilities, preparing the classroom for lessons, creating displays, helping on school outings or at events.

TLR Teaching and Learning Responsibilities – classroom teachers who take on extra responsibility could be awarded a TLR payment if they meet certain criteria.