

Popular acronyms used in education


This acronym list can be used by governing boards and school staff as a point of reference when coming across acronyms in official policies and documentation.

[When looking for a specific acronym, you can search by pressing ctrl and F simultaneously and type the acronym into the navigation bar.]

Popular acronyms used in education	
Short form	Long form
AAN	Approved Admission Number
ACE	Advisory Centre for Education
ACS	Average Class Size
ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder
AfL	Assessment for Learning
AI	Assigned Inspector
ALIS	Advanced Level Indicator System
ALPS	Advanced Level Performance System
AQA	Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
ASCL	Association of School and College Leaders
ASP	Analyse School Performance
ASD	Autism Spectrum Disorder
ASR	Annual School Review
AST	Advanced Skills Teacher
AT	Attainment Target
ATL	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
 	
BIP	Improvement Plan
BSA	Basic Skill Agency
BSP	Behaviour Support Plan
BSS	Behaviour Support Service
BTEC	Business and Technology Education Council
 	
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAL	Computer Assisted Learning
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CAP	Child Action Project

CAT	Cognitive Ability Test
CAT	Curriculum Attainment Target
CBT	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
CCT	Chartered College of Teaching
CDC	Child Development Centre
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFO	Chief Financial Officer
CFR	Consistent Financial Reporting
COSHH	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
CPD	Continuous Professional Development
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
CRE	Commission for Racial Equality
CTF	Common Transfer File
D&T or DT	Design and Technology
DBS	Disclosure Barring Service
DCPO	Designated Child Protection Officer
DfE	Department for Education
DHT	Deputy Headteacher
DI	The Dyslexia Institute
DPO	Data Protection Officer
DSL	Designated Safeguarding Lead
EAB	Examinations Appeals Board
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EBD	Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties
ECT	Early Career Teacher
ECM	Every Child Matters
ECYPPC	Education of Children and Young People in Public Care
EEC	Early Excellence Centres

EHC	Education, Health and Care
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
EHE	Elective Home Education
EIF	Education Inspection Framework
EIP	Education Improvement Partnerships
EMS	Education Management System
EO	Equal Opportunities
EP	Educational Psychologist
EPT	Educational Psychology Team
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
ESW	Education Social Worker
EWO	Education Welfare Officer
EYDCP	Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
EYDP	Early Years Development Plan
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage
FBV	Fundamental British Values
FE	Further Education
FEFC	Further Education Funding Council
FFT	Fischer Family Trust
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FMS	Financial Management System
FMSiS	Financial Management Standards in Schools
FOI	Freedom of Information
FS	Foundation Stage
FSM	Free School Meals
FSS	Formula Spending Share
FSW	Family Support Worker
FTE	Full Time Equivalent

GaT	Gifted and Talented
GB	Governing Board
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GIAS	Get Information About Schools
GLD	Good Level of Development
GM	Grant Maintained
GNVQ	General National Vocational Qualification
GRE	Grant Related Council
GSB	General Schools Budget
GTC	General Teaching Council
H&S	Health and Safety
HAD	Hyperactivity Disorder
HE	Higher Education
HEFC	Higher Education Funding Council
HLTA	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
HMCI	His Majesty's Chief Inspector
HMI	 Majesty's Inspector
HoDs	Heads of Departments
H-SA	Home-school Agreement
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
HT	Headteacher
IAG	Individual Advice Guidance
IB	International Baccalaureate
ICO	Information Commissioner's Office
ICS	Integrated Children's System
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IEB	Interim Education Board
IEP	Individual Education Plan

IfL	Institute for Learning
IHP	Individual Healthcare Plan
INSET	In-service Education and Training
ISB	Individual School Budget
ISBL	Institute of School Business Leadership
ISCG	Institute of School and College Governors
ISR	Individual School Range
IT	Information Technology
ITT	Initial Teacher Training
IYSS	Integrated Youth Support Service
JCQ	Joint Council for Qualifications
JNC	Joint National Committee or Joint Negotiating Committee
KCSIE	Keeping Children Safe in Education
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KS	Key Stage
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked-after Children
LGA	Local Government Association
LGB	Local Governing Board
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning and more
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Agender and more
LMS	Local Management of Schools
LPSH	Leadership Programme for Serving Heads
LSA	Learning Support Assistant
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
LSDA	Learning Skills Development Agency
LSW	Learning Support Workers

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MA&T	More Able and Talented
MAT	Multi-academy Trust
MFL	Modern Foreign Languages
MIS	Management Information System
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulties
MPR	Main Pay Range
NAHT	National Association of Head Teachers
NASEN	National Association of Special Educational Needs
NASUWT	National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers
NC	National Curriculum
NCSL	National College of School Leadership
NCTL	National College for Teaching and Leadership
NERS	National Exclusions Reporting System
NETT	National Education and Training Targets
NEU	National Education Union
NFER	National Foundation for Educational Research
NGA	National Governance Association
NPQ	National Professional Qualification
NPQH	National Professional Qualification for Headship
NPQSL	National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership
NQT	Newly Qualified Teacher – (Now referred to as Early Career Teacher (ECT))
NTA	Non-teaching Assistant
NUPE	National Union of Public Employees
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
OCR	Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education

[New] OFQUAL	[New] Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation
[New] OTT	[New] Overseas Trained Teacher
PAN	Pupil Admission Number
PANDA	Performance and Data Analysis
PANDAS	Performance and Assessment Documents
PAT	Professional Association of Teachers
[New] PAYE	[New] Pay-as-you-earn Tax
PCT	Primary Care Team
PDC	Professional Development Consultancy
PE	Physical Education
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PFI	Private Finance Initiative
PGCE	Postgraduate Certification of Education
PIP	Performance Improvement Plan
PIs	Performance Indicators
[New] PLAC	[New] Previously Looked-after Children
PLASC	Pupil Level Annual School Census
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties
PPA	Planning, Preparation and Assessment
[New] PP	[New] Pupil Premium
PoS	Programme of Study
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PRP	Performance Related Pay
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit
PSA	Parent School Association
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
PSP	Pastoral Support Programme
PTA	Parent-teacher Association
PTR	Pupil Teacher Ratio

QCA	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
QT	Qualified Teacher
QTS	Qualified Teacher Status
RE	Religious Education
RI	Requires Improvement
[New] Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences and Regulations	[New] RIDDOR
Rgl	Registered Inspector
RoA	Record of Achievement
[Updated] RSHE	[Updated] Relationships, Sex and Health Education
SACRE	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
SAR	Subject Access Request
[New] SAT	[New] Single Academy Trust
SATs	Standard Assessment Tests
SBM	School Business Manager
SCR	Single Central Record
SDP	School Development Plan
SEAL	Social and Emotional Aspects to Learning
[New] SEF	[New] Self-evaluation Form
SEMH	Social Emotional Mental Health
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SIMS	Schools Information System
SI	School Improvement
SIP	School Improvement Partner
SMSC	Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulties

SLT	Senior Leadership Team
SoW	Scheme of Work
SPaG	Spelling and Punctuation and Grammar
SPAW	School Performance Award Scheme
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty
SSE	School Self Evaluation
SSF	School Standards Fund
STA	Standards and Testing Agency
[New] STEM	[New] Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
STPCD	School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document
STRB	School Teachers Review Body
TA	Teaching Assistant
TDA	Training and Development Agency for Schools
TEFL	Teaching English as a Foreign Language
TLG	Training Link Governor
TLR	Teaching and Learning Responsibility
TP	Teachers' Pensions
TTA	Teacher Training Agency
TUC	Trade Union Congress
[New] TUPE	[New] Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)
UCAS	University and Colleges Admissions Service
UIFSM	Universal Infant School Meals
ULN	Unique Learner Number
UPN	Unique Pupil Number
UPR	Upper Pay Range
URN	Unique Reference Number
VA	Voluntary Aided

[New] VAT	[New] Value-added Tax
VC	Voluntary Controlled
VRQ	Verbal Reasoning Quotient
WBL	Work Based Learning
YIST	Youth Inclusion and Support Team
YOT	Youth Offending Team
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YTS	Youth Training Scheme