

Terminology within school settings

Educational jargon is frequently used by professionals in a school environment. It is handy to know what some of these acronyms mean. You can refer back to this section, whenever you need to.

1 Plan

1 plan / One plan, widely used in Essex schools, is a non-statutory written record to inform practitioners on how to support a child or young person on a day-to-day basis.

AT - Attainment Target (in the National Curriculum)

By the end of each key stage, children are expected to know, apply and understand the skills and processes specified in the National Curriculum.

CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

CAMHS is the name for the NHS services that assess and treat young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties. You might also see CYPMHS used which stands for Children and Young People's Mental Health Services.

Cited from Young Minds

CPD - Continuing Professional Development

This can be explained as any type of learning that you undertake which increases your knowledge, understanding and experiences of a subject area or role. CPD is an ongoing and planned learning and development process. Check out the trainee and ECT CPD resources we have available in this category.

DBS - Disclosure and Barring Service

DBS checks in education are an essential safeguarding tool to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people. If a person is to work in a nursery, school or college, they will require an Enhanced DBS and a child barred list check no matter what their role is.

DfE - Department for Education

["The Department for Education"](#) is responsible for children's services and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education policy, apprenticeships and wider skills in England."

DT or D&T – Design and Technology

This is a curriculum subject that teaches children about the design of a range of objects, how certain working parts are made and how to join, fix and use materials effectively. Children learn to assemble, disassemble, plan, construct and evaluate.

Cited from [Twinkl](#)

EAL - English as an Additional Language

A learner of English as an additional language (EAL) is a pupil whose first language is other than English. 'First language is the language to which the child was initially exposed during early development and continues to use this language in the home and community.

ECT - Early Career Teacher

The term early career teacher replaced the term NQT (newly qualified teacher) in 2021. An ECT will have completed their initial teacher training and can then begin their ECT induction period of two years.

EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage

The early years foundation stage sets the framework for education for children from birth up to 5 years. It ensures children are kept healthy and safe and have the knowledge and skills they need to start school.

EHCP – Educational Health Care Plan

EHCP is a legal document that sets out a child or young person's special educational, health and social needs and how those needs should be met. It sets outcomes that the child or young person wants to achieve in life.

IEP - Individual Education Plan

An IEP is a detailed plan that sets out targets and strategies to help a child learn. It will usually contain three or four individual, short-term targets for the child to focus on.

ITT - Initial Teacher Training

Initial Teacher Training is a university-led approach to becoming a teacher, and focuses on study and practical time in school. You could also apply to a School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) programme, which is a postgraduate route that's delivered by groups of neighbouring schools and colleges.

LA - Local Authority

A local authority is an organisation that is officially responsible for all the public services and facilities in a particular area. This includes schools, social care and planning.

MFL - Modern Foreign Languages

Modern foreign languages (MFL) is studied by UK children within secondary schools and most primary schools from Year 3. Children might be undertaking Spanish, French or other language chosen by the school to ensure the National Curriculum standards are being met.

OFSTED - Office for Standards in Education

Ofsted inspect schools and other services providing education services to learners of all ages.

PGCE - Postgraduate Certificate of Education

A PGCE is a popular higher education course in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. It provides training to graduates looking to become teachers in maintained schools.

PSHE - Personal, Social and Health Education or RSHE - Relationships, Sex and Health Education

As a subject, PSHE/RSHE aims to provide children with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves happy, healthy and safe, as well as to prepare them for life and work.

QTS - Qualified Teacher Status

This is a legal requirement to teach in many schools in the UK and comes after successfully completing initial teacher training.

RE - Religious Education

Religious education is an essential part of education for children, as it opens their minds to different beliefs and mindsets that different people and cultures have around the world. It's extremely important for students to understand that their world-view is one of many.

SACRE - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

SACRE is an independent body in the United Kingdom that considers the delivery of religious education in the area under the jurisdiction of its Local Authority.

SEND - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

A pupil is identified as having Special Educational Needs if they are finding it harder than other pupils to make progress.

This may be due to a specific learning difficulty, a recognised disability such as a hearing impairment, emotional, mental health or social difficulties, or speech and language difficulties.

Some pupils will only receive support for SEN in school for a short time, others may receive support for their entire time in education. Schools have a SEN register that records all SEND pupils, and schools are expected to track the progress of these pupils closely.

SENCo - Special Educational Needs Coordinator

SENCo stands for Special Educational Needs Coordinator. You may hear the name referred to in full, as its acronym (sometimes also written as SENDCo, standing for special educational needs and disabilities coordinator), or as SEN Coordinator.

SENCos are members of teaching staff who are responsible for special educational needs within a school. Every school in the UK is required to have a SENCo to ensure that every child who has SEN are supported, as well as to help them reach their full educational potential.

SLT - Senior Leadership Team or SMT – Senior Management Team

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT)/ Senior Management Team (SMT) take care of the daily management of a school and can include the headteacher as well as assistant and deputy heads.

SM - Special Measures

Ofsted can apply the term special measures to schools under their jurisdictions when they consider the school has failed to provide an acceptable standard of teaching, has poor facilities, or otherwise fails to meet the minimum standards for education.

If a school is in special measures, they are subject to regular short-notice inspections to keep track of their progress.

SoW - Scheme of Work

A scheme of work is a kind of plan that outlines all the learning to be covered over a given period of time (usually a term or a whole school year). For independent schools, the content of a scheme of work is left largely up to individual teachers and the head of department, whereas in state-sponsored schools, they're designed to cover the National Curriculum learning outcomes.

TEFL - Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Usually, this refers to English being taught in a Non-English speaking country but may also refer to any situation where English is being taught to a speaker of another language.

Other educational language you may hear in the classroom:

Behaviour Management

Behaviour management is the process of supporting learners to make positive choices that are conducive to learning. Behaviour management is a complex process, and it's ongoing. We have videos with helpful advice to improve your behaviour management skills, which you can find in our e-learning zone ([link here](#)).

Differentiation

Differentiation is the process of making sure that students with different needs and abilities have equal access to learning. This can be done by using strategies to make sure every student feels individually challenged and supported.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and welfare are the terms that are used in the UK that mean to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all individual people - especially including children and vulnerable adults.

The responsibility of safeguarding and welfare falls on whoever comes into contact with these individuals.

Teachers' Standards

The Teachers' Standards are a set of professional standards for teachers and trainees that are expected to be maintained when they gain QTS (qualified teacher status). They apply to trainee teachers, ECTs and teachers in maintained schools.

ECT Mentor

An ECT mentor plays an important role in supporting an Early Career Teacher's progress and development. They will provide coaching, support and motivation through regular meetings with their ECT during the induction period.