



challenge development programme

Journey to accreditation

Schools with established more able provision can typically progress to Challenge Award application within **one year to 18 months**, while schools in early stages of provision should allow **up to two years**. Activities are led by SLT and/or more able coordinator (MACo) as appropriate.

Challenge Award accreditation

Term 1

- ✔ Free **1-2-1 telephone guidance** about the programme, support package options and costs e.g. **half-day SLT consultancy; Challenge Mentor; bespoke CPD**.
- ✔ Purchase selected package and log into **Challenge Hub**. Download **Challenge Framework** and **Handbook**.
- ✔ Explore NACE online **resource library**. MACo creates individual logins for staff.
- ✔ SLT/MACo conduct initial review using Framework. Create action plan with timescales and identified CPD.

Term 1/2

- ✔ Explore NACE **webinars** to support delivery of CPD.
- ✔ Share **introductory PowerPoint presentation** with staff and governors.
- ✔ Signpost key resources to staff e.g. **NACE Essentials** range, **identification criteria**, ideas to support **challenge in the classroom**.
- ✔ SLT/MACo monitor action plan implementation and consistency of whole-school challenge.
- ✔ Explore **case studies** in the Challenge Hub and decide on focus for your school's case study.
- ✔ Book **Challenge Award School Experience** visit.

Term 3

- ✔ Use **IEP guidance** to help support able outliers.
- ✔ Start to collect evidence of impact for each element and record in the **self-evaluation matrix**.
- ✔ Continue to monitor impact of action plan implementation and to identify and refine CPD needs.
- ✔ Continue to use Handbook for guidance. Share NACE monthly **newsfeed** and termly publications with staff.
- ✔ Book 1-2-1 **Challenge Clinic** appointment to help review progress.
- ✔ Evaluate action plan and revisit Framework to update plan for new academic year.

Term 4/5

- ✔ Create NACE login details for new staff members and provide induction using NACE **member resources**.
- ✔ Continue to monitor action plan implementation. Ensure Element non-negotiables have been achieved. Continue to identify and refine CPD needs.
- ✔ Continue to complete the matrix, gather evidence, and chart progress to meeting the criteria. Communicate progress to staff and governors.
- ✔ Use the **Handbook** to check readiness for pre-assessment. Apply for pre-assessment or extend action plan if appropriate.

- ✔ Half-day **pre-assessment visit**. Report outlines final actions or evidence needed and recommends accreditation timeframe.
- ✔ Apply for **Challenge Award accreditation**. Submit evidence portfolio, able pupil policy, action plan, case study and supporting documents ahead of **accreditation visit**.
- ✔ After accreditation, share and celebrate this whole-school achievement. Display **logo** and **certificate**.
- ✔ Use **accreditation report**, Framework and NACE resource library to action plan for continuous improvement and reaccreditation in a three-year cycle.
- ✔ **Challenge Check-In** for 1-2-1 phone support at mid-way point between accreditations.



Additional support and next steps

SLT consultancy

Tailored to meet the needs of your school or cluster, consultancy can be booked as a single half-day session for school leaders, or as a longer-term programme. The focus is on supporting school leaders to review practice against the Challenge Framework and identify strategies to help the school move on to the next stage.

Bespoke CPD

CPD sessions can be developed to focus on an identified area for development in provision for more able learners, and can be delivered for senior leadership, heads of department and/or teaching staff and assistants as appropriate.

Mentoring

As your school works towards an application for the NACE Challenge Award, you can choose to engage one of our experienced mentors who will support your audit and review of progress through each of the Challenge Framework Elements, providing ongoing guidance on whole-school implementation of your Challenge action plan.

All consultancy, CPD and mentoring sessions can be delivered on-site or remotely.

Find out more:

www.nace.co.uk/challenge-support

Challenge Clinics

Free 1-2-1 support for schools working towards the Challenge Award – helping you to review progress, identify next steps and gauge your readiness for accreditation. Clinics take place termly, via phone or video call.

Challenge School Experiences

Go behind the scenes and gain insights into high-quality teaching, learning and leadership at Challenge Award-accredited schools, focusing on the application and impact of the Challenge Framework. Remote and in-school experiences available, including school presentation, learning walk and Q&A.

Upcoming opportunities:

www.nace.co.uk/events

NACE Challenge Hub

Have you logged in yet? Visit our online Challenge Hub for supporting resources, including:

- Challenge Framework and Handbook
- Practical templates and exemplars
- Introductory PowerPoint presentations
- Webinars: in-depth guidance on each element
- Case studies from accredited schools

Log in for access:

www.nace.co.uk/challenge-hub

What happens after Challenge Award accreditation?

Celebrate your achievements

Add the Challenge Award logo to your school website and materials; display the certificate prominently in school; share the press release with local media; host a celebratory assembly and post the news on social media using #NACEChallenge

Support for ongoing school improvement

Your accreditation report, which includes highlighted strengths and recommendations for continuing improvement, can be used to support ongoing action planning and review. Accreditation is valid for three years, at which point you will be invited to apply for reaccreditation. At the halfway point, a free 1-2-1 Challenge Check-In helps to ensure you are on track to meet the objectives in your action plan, providing an opportunity to reflect on progress and discuss any challenges.

Professional development opportunities

Leading staff at accredited schools are invited to share and develop their expertise through contributions to NACE publications (online and in print); hosting Challenge Award School Experiences; delivering consultancy or CPD as a NACE Associate; training as a Challenge Award Assessor and/or Challenge Mentor; or leading a NACE Research and Development (R&D) Hub.

To see which schools currently hold the NACE Challenge Award, take a look at our [interactive map](http://www.nace.co.uk/challenge): www.nace.co.uk/challenge

Contact us to discuss appropriate support and next steps for your school or cluster.

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