

Hands Up If You're Stuck!

When you first enter the world of education, it's easy to be a little taken aback by the huge range of schools and the bamboozling variety of acronyms. We've been in this business for almost 20 years now, and we still occasionally hear new ones that leave us scratching our heads.



As we exist to help you, here's a quick reference guide to what it all means.

DEFINITIONS

• **Academy Schools**

Schools that are autonomous from Local Authority control and have more control of their decision making

• **Secondary Schools**

Typically schools which teach pupils from the ages of 11-16, though many will also have attached sixth forms

• **Primary Schools**

Typically schools teaching pupils from the ages of 4-11

• **Independent Schools**

Schools that are often fee paying and entry is based on academic ability, or outstanding ability in some other areas, e.g. sport

• **Free Schools**

Similar to academy schools, they are free from Local Authority control and serve to meet a specific community need

• **Special Schools**

Specially designated establishments which help students with a range of needs including social, emotional and mental health, physical needs or learning needs

• **City Technology Colleges**

Free, independent schools run in urban areas and with an emphasis on science and technology

• **Faith Schools**

Religious based schools which follow the national curriculum but can choose what to teach in Religious Studies lessons.

ACRONYMS

IEP

Individual Education Plan
Usually for children with special needs

ITT

Initial teacher training

MFL

Modern foreign languages

NAHT

National Association of Head Teachers

NQT

Newly Qualified Teacher

OFSTED

Office for Standards in Education

PPA

Planning, preparation and assessment.

The Workload Agreement guarantees teachers in maintained schools in England and Wales 10 % of their timetabled teaching to be set aside as PPA time during the school day

PTA

Parent-teacher association

RARPA

Recognizing and recording progress and achievement

SEF

Self-evaluation form for schools.
Issued by Ofsted

SENCO

Special educational needs coordinator

SLD

Severe learning difficulty

TA

Teaching assistant

VA

Voluntary aided

INSET

In-service education and training

KS (key Stage)

KS1, Years 1-2 (5- to 7-year-olds)
KS2, Years 3-6 (8- to 11-year-olds)
KS3, Years 7-9 (12- to 14-year-olds)
KS4, Years 10-11 (15- to 16-year-olds)

MDL

Moderate learning difficulty

NASUWT

National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers

NUT

National Union of Teachers

PGCE

Postgraduate (or professional graduate) certificate in education

PRP

Performance-related pay

PRU

Pupil referral unit

PSHE

Personal, social and health education

QTS

Qualified teacher status

SACRE

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

SEN

Special educational needs

SIP

School Improvement Plan

SLT

Senior leadership team

TEFL

Teaching English as a foreign language

VC

Voluntary controlled



See what else we know

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