



nace challenge AWARD

The NACE Challenge Award provides national recognition of school-wide high-quality provision for more able learners within a context of challenge for all. The award is part of the NACE Challenge Development Programme.

Gaining the award provides your school with:

- External validation of school-wide high quality provision for more able learners;
- Evidence of impact aligned to other school improvement and accountability measures;
- A clear action plan to help you identify and develop the right tools for your school, learners and staff;
- Ongoing expert support for continuous improvement;
- Invitation to join NACE's Leading Schools Network.

What does assessment consist of?

Stage 1: pre-assessment

(mandatory at first accreditation and optional for subsequent reaccreditations)

An assessor will visit your school and undertake a learning walk specifically focused on evidencing the quality of teaching and learning and assessment outlined in your school's self-evaluation and portfolio (against the NACE Challenge Framework). Interviews will also take place with the senior leadership team and more able coordinator. At the end of the visit the assessor will provide verbal feedback on your school's level of readiness to proceed to formal assessment which will be followed by a written report.

Stage 2: assessment

Once you have decided your school is ready to apply for assessment, you should complete the online application form. Typically, assessment will take place six to ten weeks from application.

The assessment day is based around a pre-agreed schedule and will include lesson observations, interviews with staff, governors and learners and further evidence scrutiny. Your school will be advised of the outcome at the end of the day and receive a written report shortly afterwards which will include recommendations for your school's ongoing action plan.

Who will undertake the assessment?

Spanning current school leaders, specialists in school improvement and advisers, NACE assessors have a broad range of expertise. They all undergo rigorous training. All assessment reports are centrally quality assured by NACE.

Reaccreditation

Maintaining accreditation is dependent on your school being successfully reaccredited every three years and maintaining NACE membership. At all stages of accreditation NACE would expect to see schools actively developing their approach to their more able policy and provision. By the time a school reaches third accreditation and beyond, it should be playing a role in partnership working and research to improve outcomes for more able learners.

Accreditation:	Expectations:
First accreditation	Your school meeting a majority of the framework criteria
Second accreditation	Your school building on the action plan produced at first assessment Innovation/best practice in aspects of education for more able learners
Third accreditation and beyond	Your school taking a lead role in partnership and research at a regional or national level to improve outcomes for more able learners.

For all stages of assessment schools must have an Ofsted good or outstanding judgement.

Ongoing support

Schools that gain the Challenge Award receive ongoing support from NACE. A "check-in" with a NACE assessor helps to ensure you are on track to meet the objectives within your action plan and that you can keep abreast of national more able developments. Schools are also invited to join NACE's Leading Schools Network.

NACE LEADING SCHOOLS NETWORK

Part of a growing community

On gaining the NACE Challenge Award your school will be invited to join the NACE Leading Schools Network with access to invitation-only events, opportunities to take part in research activities and more. The network recognises a school's sustained commitment and achievement in meeting the needs of more able learners in the context of challenge for all, and their interest in sharing that expertise regionally and nationally for the wider benefit of the educational community.

How will my school benefit?

You will gain access to a community of likeminded schools. NACE facilitates opportunities for schools to:

- Engage in more able consultation at a national level;
- Take part in research and publish results;
- Benefit from Leading School-only events including expert panel discussions, headteacher forums and networking;
- Present your school's work and ideas at NACE events.

What does it cost?

There is no additional cost to join the network. It is a NACE member benefit and recognition of your school's approach to more able policy and provision through its maintenance of Challenge Award accreditation.

For more information about all aspects of Challenge Award accreditation and reaccreditation, including costs, please visit www.nace.co.uk/challenge