
Headteacher standards

The [professional standards of excellence for headteachers](#) (GOV.UK website) are to help improve the practice and development of:

- Headteachers
- Governing boards
- Aspiring headteachers

The standards, created by the profession, for the profession, are designed to empower and inspire heads, drive aspiration, promote excellence and reflect the greater decision-making powers heads now enjoy.

The 'standards of excellence' set out the skills, knowledge and behaviour headteachers should aspire to, including:

- Raising the bar for all pupils, overcoming disadvantage and instilling a strong sense of accountability in staff for the impact of their work on pupils' success
- Boosting teacher quality through high-level training and sustained professional development
- Identifying talent and coaching current and aspiring leaders of the future.

Related services

[School improvement support services for primary and special schools 2025/26](#)

[School improvement bespoke support for high schools 2025/26](#)

[School workforce development support 2025/26](#)

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