

Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) Programme

June 2023



Department
for Education

NCA Programme

The Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) methodology calculates the number of children a school can accommodate, based upon the size and use of spaces available. It was originally developed in 2001 and has since been used predominantly by Local Authorities.

The proposed NCA survey programme is planned to run for 2 years from 2023 and will work with a data collection organisation (DCO) to visit approximately 4,500 schools in England. These will include:

- All secondary schools (including academies)
- All special schools

Net Capacity Assessments – the benefits

- FOR SCHOOLS, RESPONSIBLE BODIES AND DIOCESES
- Making more efficient use of space
- Use of up-to-date information when planning the curriculum
- Independent verification of capacity for admissions and appeals

FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND DfE

Better information for pupil place planning, basic need funding, Free Schools planning

Pilot Programme: Nov 2021-Feb 2022



Testing the new methodology and tool



268 establishments - all types and sizes, focus on secondary academies.



Included some special schools and further education colleges

Summary of Pilot Data findings

(SCAP figures show the capacity figures returned through the annual School Capacity Survey)

- Significant amount of potential extra capacity identified in NCA Pilot: 7.4% extra potential capacity compared with figures reported through SCAP
- 69% of pilot schools had NCA capacity > SCAP capacity
- Increase of 2,800 places, around 1.4% ,between SCAP 21 and PROVISIONAL SCAP 22 (in pilot schools only)

In Planning Areas of Shortfall:

- Extra potential capacity of 5.2%
- 67% of pilot schools had NCA capacity > SCAP capacity
- Increase of 1,600 places, around 1.4% ,between SCAP 21 and PROVISIONAL SCAP 22 (in pilot schools only)

NCA Programme – how it works

Communication & Engagement

Prepare for NCA

Capture data

QA

Report

Information about the programme

Contact from VOA

Send previous data

Confirm site visit

Site visit

Check data

NCA report and feedback

Publication of Programme Guide and schedule of school visits (tranches)

Data Collection Organisation (VOA) contacts school

VOA request any previous NCA data and site plans

VOA and school confirm site visit

School provides access for site visit, answers queries from VOA

School checks room data. VOA / DfE quality assurance

NCA Report and feedback questionnaire issued

NCA Programme: Reporting and feedback process

- 1 Following site visit, VOA sends Net Capacity Assessment to DfE
- 2 Quality assurance of data and report
- 3 DfE share questionnaire (online link) and NCA report (attachment to email)
- 4 Shared at the same time with school, RB, LA and Diocese where appropriate
 - Short but reasonable turn around for response; assume happy if no reply
 - Opportunity for all to comment on report and the process
- 5 DfE triage any replies, process for replying and investigation

NCA Programme: Timing, Tranches and Notifications

6 tranches of visits starting summer 2023

- Each tranche roughly in line with school terms
- Small number of testbed schools before summer holiday period
- Local Authorities were invited to suggest priority schools, by exception
- Release of updated NCA tools – mainstream and special needs versions
- NCA Programme delivery 2023 to 2025

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> [Data collection and censuses for schools](#)

Guidance

Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) programme

Find out about the NCA programme and when school site visits will take place.

From: [Department for Education](#)

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for Education

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Programme Guide

This document provides an overview of the Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) programme.

June 2023

Strategy and Intelligence Division | Net Capacity Assessment (NCA) | tranche_list.xlsx | EBD OG-Leeds-2023_Agenda-Ove

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	URN	Establishment Name	LA	Affiliated Diocese	Trust Name	Region	LA Ref	Phase	Tranche	
2	137377	Abbey College, Ramsey	Cambridgeshire		ABBEY COLLEGE, RAMSEY	East of England	873/4603	Secondary	4	
3	119052	Abbey Court Foundation Special School	Medway			South East	887/7053	SEND	1	
4	139974	Abbey Hill Academy	Stockton-on-Tees		HORIZONS SPECIALIST AC	North East	808/7029	SEND	3	
5	124500	Abbey Hill School and College	Stoke-on-Trent			West Midlands	861/7007	SEND	3	
6	116774	Abbey Park Middle School	Worcestershire			West Midlands	885/2906	Middle	3	
7	145744	Abbey Park School	Swindon		THE PARK ACADEMIES TR	South West	866/4005	Secondary	6	
8	142768	Abbey School	Rotherham		NEXUS MULTI ACADEMY	Yorkshire and the Humber	372/7002	SEND	3	
9	138858	Abbeyfield School	West Northamptonshire		CREATIVE EDUCATION TR	East Midlands	941/4007	Secondary	2	
10	131969	Abbeyfield School	Wiltshire			South West	865/4000	Secondary	4	
11	139067	Abbeywood Community School	South Gloucestershire		THE OLYMPUS ACADEMY	South West	803/4000	Secondary	1	
12	124449	Abbot Beyne School	Staffordshire			West Midlands	860/4500	Secondary	5	
13	104736	Abbot's Lea School	Liverpool			North West	341/7025	SEND	3	
14	136663	Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College	Havering		LOXFORD SCHOOL TRUS	London	311/5401	Secondary	6	
15	105560	Abraham Moss Community School	Manchester			North West	352/4271	All-through	4	
16	145477	Academy 360	Sunderland		THE LAIDLAW SCHOOLS	North East	394/4003	All-through	4	
17	139290	Academy@Worden	Lancashire		ACADEMY @ WORDEN	North West	888/4140	Secondary	2	
18	135649	Accrington Academy	Lancashire		UNITED LEARNING TRUS	North West	888/6905	Secondary	5	
19	137421	Accrington St Christopher's Church of England H	Lancashire	Diocese of Blackburn	ACCRINGTON ST CHRISTO	North West	888/4630	Secondary	4	
20	147064	ACE Tiverton Special School	Devon		TRANSFORMING FUTUR	South West	878/7009	SEND	1	
21	145774	Acklam Grange School	Middlesbrough		THE LEGACY LEARNING T	North East	806/4136	Secondary	5	
22	100053	Acland Burghley School	Camden			London	202/4285	Secondary	5	
23	138758	Acle Academy	Norfolk		THE WENSUM TRUST	East of England	926/5405	Secondary	6	
24	135347	Acorns Primary School	Lancashire			North West	888/7119	SEND	2	
25	145724	Ada Lovelace Church of England High School	Ealing	Diocese of London	TWYFORD CHURCH OF E	London	307/4002	Secondary	5	
26	100748	Addev and Stanhope School	Lewisham			London	209/4600	Secondary	4	

Valuation Office Agency – the Data Collection Organisation (DCO)

- The VOA is a public sector executive agency of HMRC
- This exercise is a cross-government partnership between VOA and DfE agreed through a Memorandum of Understanding
- The project is run by DVS the commercial arm of the VOA who are property specialists to government and local authorities across Great Britain and undertake various national property projects every year.
- Because of the scale of this task the wider agency has provided us with property assessors with the relevant experience and specialist skills to deliver this task to a high standard.
- The VOA has full geographic coverage providing property assessors based in more than 30 regional offices.

School Visit Process

- All assessors will be Enhanced DBS Checked
- All assessors are receiving comprehensive training on the updated methodology, IT solution provided by DfE and the measuring requirement from the NCA project
- Assessors will work in pairs
- Assessors will generally contact the schools a month before we intend to inspect but will work with schools to accommodate as much as possible.
- Prior to a visit assessors will contact the Schools, Local Authorities and other relevant bodies to collate as much information about a school as possible before a visit. (Plans, old NCA's, schedules of accommodations).
- Assessors will carry 2 measuring lasers, iPads, mobile phones and identity documents when visiting a school.
- They will visit every room in a school to measure and record use on the on the DfE IT Solution (this includes all space including utility spaces and circulation spaces).
- We anticipate visits may on average be spread over 2 days but particularly large schools may take longer.
- On return a robust Quality Assurance process will be undertaken by our Project Leads.
- After completing the site visit the information will be provide to the school to review and 2 weeks will be given for feedback before submitting to DfE.

VOA Contact with Local Authorities

- Prior to any visit VOA will be in contact with Local Authorities (or other Responsible Bodies where relevant). This contact will be to:
 - Request contact details for the school where we have not been provided them.
 - Request Plans or accommodation Schedules
 - To Request Previous Net Capacity Studies
 - To inform you, in the case of LA schools, that a site visit date has been agreed with a school.

Useful Information

Web page:

[Net Capacity Assessment \(NCA\) programme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

• Comments and queries:

DFE.NCAProgramme@education.gov.uk