



## Frequently Asked Questions

### ● What is the *NACE Challenge Award Framework*?

The *NACE Challenge Award Framework* is a self-evaluation and school improvement tool with specific emphasis on provision for the more able and talented.

### ● What is the *NACE Challenge Award*?

The *NACE Challenge Award* is a nationally recognised quality mark given to schools that have developed good provision for more able and talented learners. It has a reputation for being one of the most purposeful, rigorous yet supportive awards that schools can achieve.

### ● How does our school use the *NACE Challenge Award Framework*?

### ● How does our school achieve the *NACE Challenge Award*?

The *NACE Challenge Award Framework* gives the school an objective standard by which to systematically and rigorously audit provision, critically evaluate this, and draw up an informed action plan for continuous whole school improvement.

Schools gain the award by using the *NACE Challenge Award Framework* as a self-evaluation and school improvement tool and by meeting the majority of the criteria for each element of the framework.

### ● How long does it take to achieve the *NACE Challenge Award*?

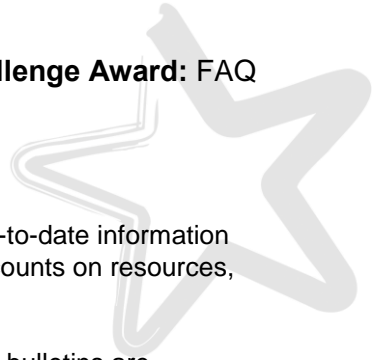
This depends on your starting point. If your school has been working on developing good provision and challenge for more able and talented pupils, then you may find that when you do your initial audit against the *NACE Challenge Award Framework*, you are nearly there and can complete developments within a year. Most schools take, on average, two years because of the requirement for a whole school ethos and consistency.

As this is an award that requires consistency in practice and understanding across the whole school, some schools have taken a little longer *but* have been delighted with their journey and the achievements made – leading presentations at conferences or hosting events to share their good practice.

### ● What happens when and in what order?

Once you have purchased the *NACE Challenge Award Framework*, you will gain access to the *NACE Challenge Award* area of the website which outlines the process for assessments. A flowchart is available on the NACE website which helps to guide schools through the process. Click [here](#) for flowchart.





● **Why do I need NACE membership if I have access to the NACE Challenge Award website?**

NACE membership offers you a wide range of benefits that ensures you have up-to-date information relating to good provision for more able and talented learners *and* significant discounts on resources, training and conferences.

Some of our Challenge Awarded schools have told us that the newsletters and E-bulletins are regularly shared and discussed with staff and that this has been a valuable aspect of on-going CPD.

● **What is a NACE Challenge Award Pre-assessment Visit?**

Many schools prefer to have a *Pre-assessment Visit* to test their readiness for applying to gain the *NACE Challenge Award*. NACE will appoint a Challenge Award Assessor who will work with the school's More Able and Talented lead/co-ordinator to review the folder of evidence (core documents and portfolio) and to discuss any gaps. The school will then receive a report with advice on when they are likely to be ready to apply for assessment to gain the award. As far as possible, the same assessor will then undertake the subsequent assessment.

● **What is NACE Challenge Award Re-accreditation?**

● **What happens at the NACE Challenge Award Re-accreditation assessment?**

*NACE Challenge Award* status lasts for a period of four years. The report you receive at the time of gaining the award identifies your next steps. It is important that you work on addressing these before you apply for re-accreditation. As a minimum, you should be starting to reflect on and work towards re-accreditation in the third year. In this way, if you have had staff changes, it also gives you time to check that whole-school consistency remains secure.

Please look at the *NACE Challenge Award* section of our website for key aspects. You will not be required to present a folder of evidence against the eight elements, but you will need to support what you have recorded in the matrices with evidence. The process also includes a learning walk, with short visits to classrooms, rather than the extended observations when you gained the award. This is because the focus is on examining if you have sustained consistency and improved as you have indicated.

● **How much does assessment for the NACE Challenge Award, Re-accreditation and Third Accreditation cost?**

[Assessment costs:](#)

● **Do I need a Pre-assessment Visit prior to completing NACE Challenge Award Re-accreditation?**

You do not need to have a Pre-assessment Visit but many schools choose this option because:

- i. they want to test out their readiness for re-accreditation
- ii. the school has had a period of challenge or significant change and they value the time to discuss and reflect on provision and outcomes before applying for re-accreditation.

NACE will appoint a Challenge Award Assessor who will work with the school's More Able and Talented lead/co-ordinator to review evidence of improvement (using the core documents including the Key Issues Matrix and 8 Elements Matrix). The school will then receive a report with advice on when they are likely to be ready to apply for assessment to gain the award.

