



This is a peer-reviewed, final published version of the following document and is licensed under All Rights Reserved license:

Middleton, Tristan ORCID logoORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8111-3856> (2019) The National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCO): What do you need to know? Connect (17). pp. 30-31.

Official URL: <https://nasen.org.uk/resource/nasensep19combined-pdf.html>

EPrint URI: <https://eprints.glos.ac.uk/id/eprint/7104>

Disclaimer

The University of Gloucestershire has obtained warranties from all depositors as to their title in the material deposited and as to their right to deposit such material.

The University of Gloucestershire makes no representation or warranties of commercial utility, title, or fitness for a particular purpose or any other warranty, express or implied in respect of any material deposited.

The University of Gloucestershire makes no representation that the use of the materials will not infringe any patent, copyright, trademark or other property or proprietary rights.

The University of Gloucestershire accepts no liability for any infringement of intellectual property rights in any material deposited but will remove such material from public view pending investigation in the event of an allegation of any such infringement.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR TEXT.

Also
available
online

ISSN 2631-5696

nasen
C  **NNNECT**

SEPTEMBER 2019 / ISSUE 17

www.nasen.org.uk

THE SEND SYSTEM: measuring its success



**Ethnicity
and the
identification
of SEN**

**'Imagineering'
a sensory room**

**The Early
Career
Framework
and SEND**



The National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCO):

What you need to know

Tristan Middleton answers some of the questions that arise about the NASENCO.

Q What is the law relating to the NASENCO qualification?

Since September 2008 legislation has stated that all state-funded mainstream schools in England, including Academies, free schools, university technical colleges and maintained nurseries are required to employ a qualified teacher in a SENCO role.

Legislation in 2009 and the subsequent Children & Families Act (2014), went on to stipulate that every new SENCO in these settings would need to gain the NASENCO qualification within three years of taking up the post if they haven't held an equivalent post, from 1st September 2008 for a minimum of 12 months.

Q What is the Provider Partnership?

In 2014 the DfE ceased to accredit providers of the NASENCO course. In order to maintain the quality and integrity of the qualification the previously accredited providers joined together to form the NASENCO Provider Partnership. Thirty-three providers in all regions of England, including original and new providers, are now part of the Provider Partnership and further organisations have their membership pending.

“

As a new SENCO this course was essential. I now have a greater understanding of the legislation behind the SEND provision we have today.”

(NASENCO GRADUATE FROM REAL GROUP)



Q Why should I choose a NASENCO course from a provider that is part of the Provider Partnership?

Provider Partnership courses have been through a quality standards process to ensure that they fulfil the legal requirements of the NASENCO qualification. Furthermore, members of the Provider Partnership meet together regularly to discuss and work on matters relevant to SENCOs. This means that students have access to practitioners and academics who are working at the cutting edge in the field.

Q How do I know that a NASENCO course is part of the Provider Partnership?

A list of the courses which are part of the Provider Partnership are listed by nasen at <https://bit.ly/2YOXDmK>. Courses which have been through the quality standards process are entitled to carry the Provider Partnership logo.

Q What is the NASENCO qualification?

All NASENCO courses must be taught as a Masters level course. As such, when you achieve the NASENCO qualification, you will normally also gain a Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert). A PGCert is equivalent to one third of a Masters qualification. As such, many successful NASENCO graduates use this course as a springboard from which to go on to complete their Masters; find out more from individual providers.

Q What will I learn on a NASENCO course?

The content within all courses which lead to the NASENCO qualification is guided by the NASENCO Learning Outcomes. These learning outcomes were published by the National College for Teaching and Leadership in 2014 and can be found at <https://bit.ly/2bxgYWs>.

As the NASENCO course is at a Postgraduate Level, the study is of a specialist nature with an emphasis on linking SENCO practice with theory and research. As such, NASENCO



'It has given me confidence and a deeper understanding into SEN. I now enjoy my role so much more.'

(NASENCO GRADUATE FROM BATH SPA UNIVERSITY)



courses are not designed to teach you how to do the role of a SENCO nor how to complete specific tasks or paperwork. However, they will provide you with the theoretical underpinning and understanding of evidence and research to enable you to be a reflective and effective SENCO who can lead SEN provision in your setting, to provide the best outcomes for the children and young people you work with.

Q How will teaching on the NASENCO course take place?

Courses available from within the Provider Partnership include face-to-face teaching, blended and online approaches. Some are co-planned and delivered in partnership with local authorities or groups of schools. The length and start-date of the course will vary, however the majority of courses can be completed within a year.

Q What else will the NASENCO course provide me with?

SENCOs who are graduates from Provider Partnership NASENCO courses tell us that in addition to their qualification, they gain knowledge, understanding, confidence and kudos, which all support them to progress the SENCO role in their setting. Many graduates also report that the connections

and networks they make with fellow students are invaluable far beyond the completion of the course.

Q What are the entry requirements for a NASENCO course?

As the NASENCO course is at Post Graduate level, providers normally have the entry requirement of a good undergraduate degree. In addition, all of those who are part of the Provider Partnership will require applicants to hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills status (QTLS). Further details can be checked with individual institutions.

Q What can I do before I start a NASENCO course?

The Provider Partnership recently formed 'Leading Learning for SEND Community Interest Company' (LLESENDCiC) which recently created the SENCO Induction Pack for Whole School SEND. This pack, funded by the DfE, can be downloaded for free at <https://bit.ly/2XT8mQ7>.



BIO

TRISTAN MIDDLETON

Tristan Middleton is Senior Lecturer in Education and Joint Course Leader for the MA Education suite at the University of Gloucestershire. He is Chair of Directors of Leading Learning for SEND CiC which oversees the work of the NASENCO Provider Partnership and also a member of NurtureUK's Research, Evidence and Ethics Trustee Sub-Group.