

Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics (SKTM): Secondary Non-specialist Maths Teachers Programme

EEF Trial 2025/26

Overview

The National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) is partnering with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) to evaluate the Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics (SKTM) Programme for Secondary Non-specialist Maths Teachers.

This is an exciting opportunity for your school to engage with a highly-regarded programme that supports non-specialist teachers develop their identity and practice as a mathematics teacher, while helping to address the challenge of recruiting maths teachers. In particular, the trial will assess the impact of the SKTM Programme on non-specialist teachers and the pupils of their Year 8 class.

Who is running the programme? Who is evaluating it?

Designed by the NCETM and funded by the DfE, SKTM will be delivered by accredited local leaders of mathematics education, through Maths Hubs. Sheffield Hallam University is running an independent evaluation of the SKTM Programme, with funding from the EEF. The evaluation will examine the impact of the programme on pupils and teachers, alongside its implementation in schools.

What does the programme involve?

The SKTM Programme comprises six days' worth of training for non-specialist teachers, spread across an academic year. Teachers engage in 18 topic-based sessions and work collaboratively on maths tasks (within a workbook) to explore subject knowledge, pedagogy, and common misconceptions among pupils. Teachers are also tasked with school-based challenges that encourage them to apply their training in their classrooms.

How does the trial work? What are the timelines?

The purpose of the trial is to evaluate the effectiveness of the SKTM Programme. It will examine the impact on the programme on Year 8 pupils' mathematics attainment, self-efficacy and their experience of opportunities to think, reason and discuss within their lessons.

February –
September 2025

Recruitment of schools
Schools sign up with their local Maths Hub and sign an MoU.

Teachers selected by schools
Schools put forward the name and contact details of the non-specialist teacher participating in the trial.

September 2025

Pupil data collected
Pupil data for the teacher's Year 8 class sent to the evaluation team (UPN, DOB, name and setting information for that class).

Pre-trial surveys
Non-specialist teachers and their maths subject lead complete a questionnaire.

October 2025

Random allocation
Each school is randomly assigned to either the intervention group or the control group.

October 2025 –
June 2026

Intervention group
Schools allocated to this group will receive £500 after completing the required evaluation activities.

Control group
Schools allocated to this group will receive £1000 after completing the required evaluation activities.

SKTM Programme
Non-specialist maths teachers attend six days (or equivalent) of SKTM training and engage with school-based tasks.

Usual support
Non-specialist maths teachers do not receive the SKTM Programme but receive the usual support provided by their school.

Case studies
Some schools will be invited to participate in a case study, involving interviews and observations. These schools will receive additional funding.

Summer 2026

Pupil impact evaluated
Non-specialist teachers' Year 8 classes complete one paper test.

Post-trial surveys
Non-specialist teachers, the pupils in their Year 8 class and their maths subject lead complete a questionnaire.

September 2026 –
June 2027

SKTM Programme
Schools that were in the control group receive the SKTM Programme (subject to continued DfE funding).

Summer 2027

Evaluation report published

Eligibility

To participate, schools must meet the following criteria:

- Be a state-funded secondary school or college within England
- Have a non-specialist teacher, who has not undertaken Initial Teacher Training in mathematics and is teaching a Year 8 class (if the class is shared, the non-specialist teacher needs to teach at least 50% of the lessons)
- Be able to release the non-specialist teacher for all training sessions
- Not be taking part in EEF's research trials on "Peer to Peer Coaching" or "Making Fluent and Flexible Calculations (HFL education)" in the same period of time.

What are the benefits of participating?

Over half of the schools in England have participated in an EEF trial. Participating schools, working with their local Maths Hub, will be contributing to the evidence base for interventions aiming to address the shortage of mathematics teachers within England.

This SKTM Programme aims to improve participants' subject and curriculum knowledge of secondary mathematics, with a particular emphasis on mathematical structures. Participants will increase their use of a range of pedagogic approaches consistent with teaching for mastery, leading to an improvement in pupils' knowledge of, understanding of, and attitudes towards mathematics.

Are there any costs involved?

The programme is fully funded by the DfE through the Maths Hubs Programme. Schools will need to ensure that there is staff cover for the non-specialist teacher to attend all the training.

How will data be used?

- The NCETM and SHU will treat all data securely, confidentially and in accordance with data protection law.
- Personal data will be collected and used to conduct the evaluation, with pseudonymised data being shared for archiving and further research at the end of the project.
- Your school, staff, and pupils will not be identified in any report arising from the research.

For further information, see the privacy notices via the links below:

<https://www.tribalgroup.com/privacy-policy>

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-research>

Interested in participating?

More information

[SKTM website](#)

Ask a question

mathshubs@ncetm.org.uk

Express your interest

[EOI form](#)