

HMC Action Research Hub - FAQ

Q: What is action research?

Action research, or practitioner inquiry, is a type of small-scale qualitative research. In classroom settings, this will likely involve the design of an intervention to improve an aspect of teaching practice. It could also have a pastoral or co-curricular focus.

Q: How do I register my interest and apply?

A: You may wish to first watch one of the introductory webinars here: [Introduction to HMC's Action Research Hub](#). Additional live webinars will take place in September and October 2026. To make an application, please fill in this [application form](#) by 31 October 2026.

Q: Are there a limited number of participants?

A: Yes. We can offer up to 30 places in 2027.

Q: What is the programme cost?

A: The fee is £500 (plus VAT) per participant.

Q: Is any prior knowledge required to take part in the project?

A: No. Participants will receive training in research design, analysis, ethics and evaluation, so the project will provide a professional learning opportunity. It should also be of interest to those with existing research degrees, as new research questions can be designed based on current teaching practice, with regular opportunities to collaborate with others.

Q: Can schools outside of the HMC network take part?

A: Yes, and we encourage schools to work in partnership where they may have common research interests.

Q: Can more than one participant per school take part?

A: Yes. In some cases, teachers may wish to work together on collaborative projects; in other cases, they may have entirely different research questions. Either is fine.

Q: Who can I contact if I have any general questions about the Action Research Hub?

A: Emma Hellyer, Head of Assessment and Innovation, a member of the HMC Education Team, is leading this project. Please contact education@hmc.org.uk with any questions, and Emma will be pleased to discuss with you how the project may work for your school.