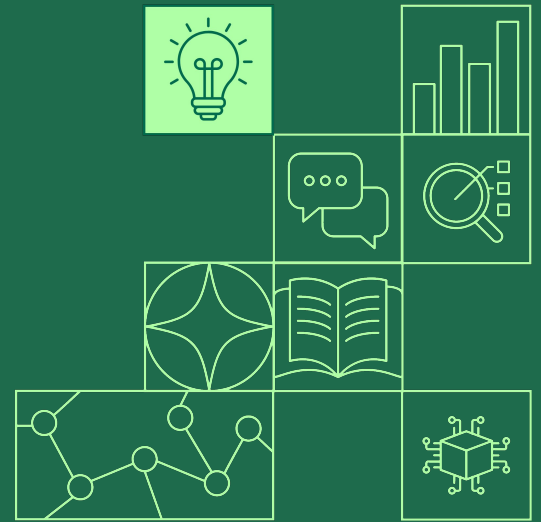




How will we know if the National School is achieving its aims?

Evaluation Strategy Summary



How we will evaluate the National School of Government and Public Services

We will use a theory-based, mixed methods evaluation approach to understand the impact the National School is having over time, and test our assumptions about how it can best achieve its intended impact and generate public value. We will regularly feed evaluation insights into decision-making and learning design, to drive continuous improvement.

An impact-led National School

Our theory of change sets out the impact we expect the National School to have, and how we expect that impact to be achieved. This provides the framework that will guide our evaluation activities. By using theory-based evaluation we are not only testing *whether* the National School is on track to achieve its intended impact, but also *why*, so we can learn lessons and refine our strategy, business model and activities over time.

We will prioritise our monitoring and evaluation activities to track and assess our progress and impact in a data-led way, and to address critical evidence gaps or assumptions.

Evidence enabled learning design and delivery

Research and evaluation carried out by our Evidence Centre will guide National School learning and development practitioners in knowing what works. By working in partnership with practitioners, stakeholders and users of the National School, we will make sure that our evidence is relevant, accessible and actionable. This will be a two-way dialogue in which practitioners' insights and learners' experiences meaningfully inform the questions we ask, the data we draw on, and how we interpret and communicate findings.

Coherent, efficient and modern data collection and analysis will enable practitioners to monitor

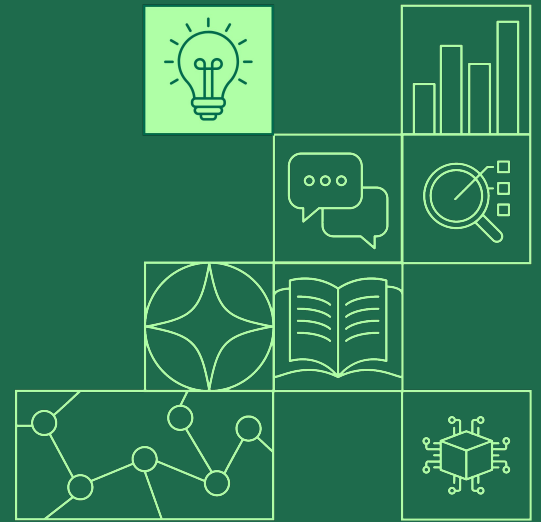
Delivering credible, relevant and actionable evaluation through partnership:

- Our **users, staff and stakeholders** will have the opportunity to define what 'value' for the investment in the National School looks like, to drive meaningful accountability.
- Our **College of Experts** will provide cutting edge advice and critical friendship on our research and evidence synthesis; monitoring and evaluation plans; and our approach to mobilising evidence into practice.
- We will work with **our Civil Service and public sector partners** to develop a monitoring and evaluation model that works for everyone - efficient, secure data flows; co-design of evaluation questions and approaches; and user-friendly outputs that support real world decisions.
- We will add to the stock of actionable knowledge on effective professional learning in government by **publishing evaluation plans and reports transparently**.

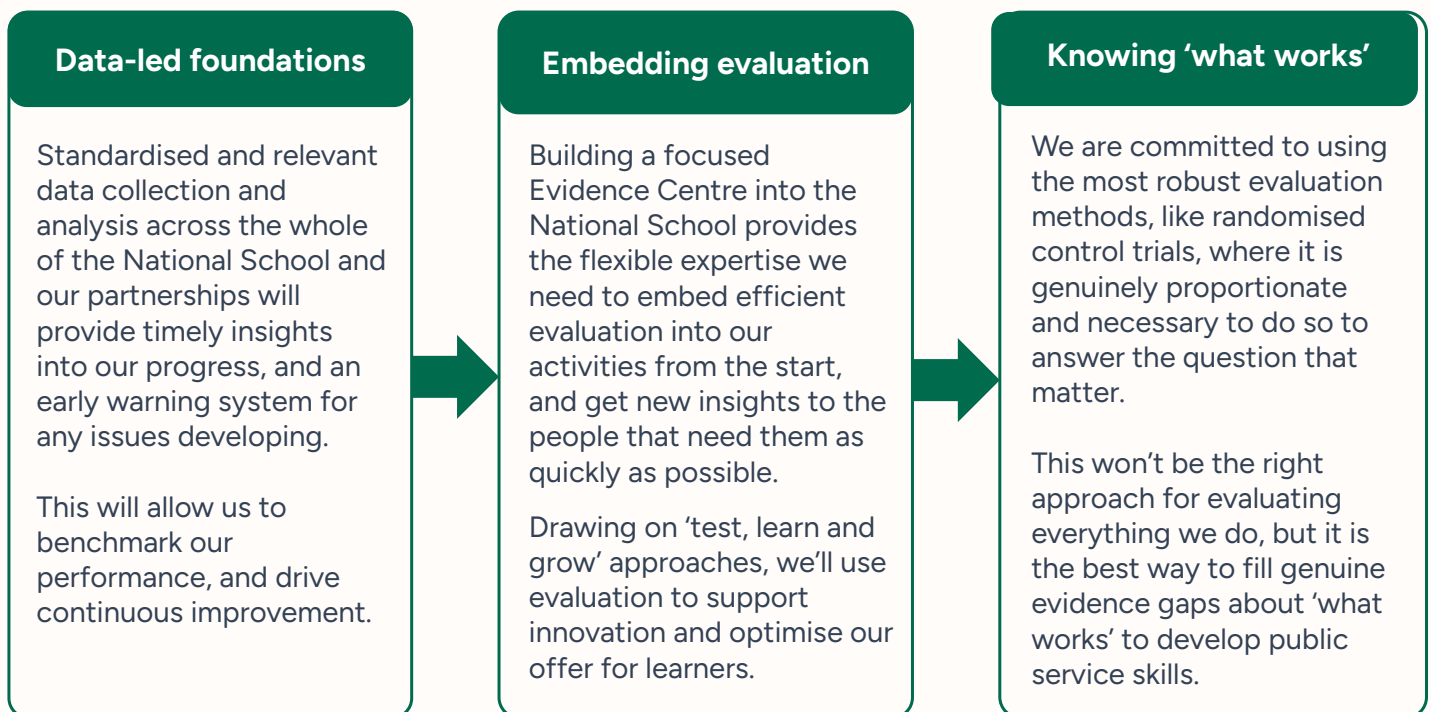


How will we know if the National School is achieving its aims?

Evaluation Strategy Summary



A proportionate approach



We will evaluate: The National School as a whole | our business and operating model | our curriculum and learning offer

Foundations for success

1. We are not starting from scratch. Our activities **build on previous research and evaluation** of learning and development carried out by the Civil Service; public sector partners; academic experts; and research organisations. This ensures our activity is focused on genuine evidence gaps.
2. Our **Evidence Centre** will bring together the right expertise and relationships, and will balance the use of tried and tested research and evaluation approaches with innovation, all guided by the [Magenta Book](#) and [Cabinet Office Evaluation Strategy](#).
3. We are informed by the **'What Works' model**, focusing on improving the way government accesses, creates, shares and uses high quality evidence on skills, learning and development to drive the positive development of the Civil Service and public sector workforce.
4. Our **governance, management and advisory structures** ensure strategic and operational alignment with the work of the National School. We will develop, embed and share best practice principles to guide all elements of our work, ensuring quality and consistency.