

# CfEM

## Whole College Approach

### Self-Assessment Tasks: General Guidance

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There are four self-assessment tasks, each of which is described more fully in a separate document:

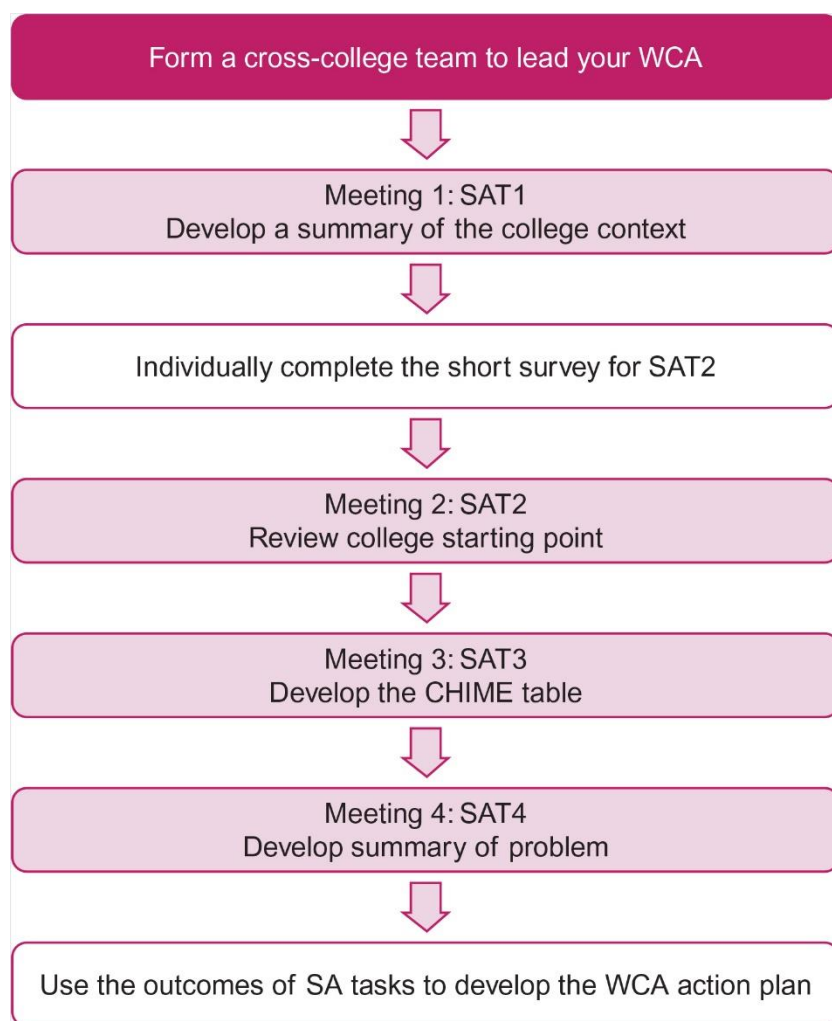
SAT1: Understanding your College Context

SAT2: Understanding your College Starting Point

SAT3: Examining the Issues

SAT4: Analysing the Problem

The tasks are designed to support a college through the initial stages of developing a Whole College Approach (WCA) and should stimulate a period of extended discussion to explore what the problems are before developing an action plan to address the priority areas that emerge. The chart below provides an overview of the process that a college should expect vocational and maths staff to follow in order to use these self-assessment tasks effectively.



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In the CfEM WCA pilot, the tasks were used over a period of several months – what was termed the ‘discovery phase’ of the WCA programme. Colleges highlighted the importance of this slow exploration in the WCA process, emphasising the need to take time to explore the issues carefully and thoroughly by using the tasks as intended.

The tasks are intended for use by a cross-college team that should typically comprise the following:

- A senior leader
- A Head of Mathematics (or equivalent)
- A vocational manager
- A mathematics teacher
- A vocational teacher

This team needs to be in place before using the self-assessment tasks. Colleges typically focus on one or two vocational areas in the first year of developing a WCA and this will affect which vocational staff join the team.

The tasks work best when used in face-to-face meetings. It is recommended that colleges arrange a series of meetings to work on the self-assessment tasks, one meeting for each task, and allow a space of 2–3 weeks between meetings.

One person needs to chair each meeting. It is best if this is someone from another area of the college who is impartial and has good skills in facilitating discussions. The role of the chair is very important to the project in order to keep all participants equally involved in the self-assessment process.

Please note that before SAT2, all team members will need to complete a short questionnaire. The questions for this are provided, but the college will need to decide on the best way of completing them, bearing in mind that the task works best if individuals remain unidentifiable and a summary of anonymous responses can be produced for the meeting.

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