



Department
for Education

Developing a set of standards for Teaching Assistants

Call for evidence

Launch date 28 October 2014

Respond by 21 November 2014

Teaching Assistant Standards – Call for Evidence

An independent panel of leading professionals is seeking views on key areas to inform their thinking in developing a new set of standards for teaching assistants.

To Headteachers; School governors; Teachers; Teaching assistants; Union representatives; Local authorities; education establishments; Academy Trusts; parents and other interested parties

Issued 28 October 2014

Enquiries to If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on 0370 000 2288

or email: TAstandards.REVIEW@education.gsi.gov.uk

Contact details

If your enquiry is related to the DfE e-consultation website or the consultation process in general, you can contact the Ministerial and Public Communications Division by e-mail: consultation.unit@education.gsi.gov.uk or by telephone: 0370 000 2288 or via the GOV.UK ['Contact Us'](#) page.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Government is committed to raising the status and professionalism of teaching assistants. We want to ensure that the skills and experience of teaching assistants are used to best effect by schools.
- 1.2 Although previous [standards for higher level teaching assistants](#) were published in 2006, we know that they cannot be applied to all teaching assistants and that the current school landscape is now very different. More teaching assistants are employed in a wider range of roles in diverse school settings. These schools make their own decisions about how they are employed.
- 1.3 It is timely to establish new standards for all teaching assistants in schools that reflect the diversity of the existing schools landscape and encompass wide ranging responsibilities in a self-improving system. The new standards will take into account the different types of teaching assistant, working at all levels and across all phases of education with pupils. As well as covering all mainstream provision, they will also reflect effective working with pupils who require additional support eg pupils with special educational needs, disabilities and children with medical conditions.

2 Teaching Assistant Standards

- 2.1 This review is a significant step towards a self-improving system within education and gives teaching assistants a genuine opportunity to contribute to reviewing and setting their own professional standards. The aim of the review is to establish a set of standards for teaching assistants that :
 - are unequivocal, clear and easy to understand;
 - can be used to assess the performance of teaching assistants;
 - steer the professional development of teaching assistants at all levels;
 - are designed to inspire confidence in teaching assistants and ensure that schools use their skills and expertise to best effect; and
 - focus primarily on the key elements of their professional relationship with teachers to ensure that all pupils attain the highest possible standards.
- 2.2 The new standards will be designed by a small independent panel chaired by Kate Dethridge . As a first step, the Department for Education is launching this call for evidence on behalf of the expert panel to gather views and evidence from the sector.

- 2.3 The review group will provide a report including new draft standards to the Secretary of State in the spring.

3. Call for evidence

The expert panel sees this call for evidence as a great opportunity to engage with front line professionals and experts in order to gain useful insight that can inform the expert panel during the process of drafting new standards. The panel wants this review to be open and inclusive to ensure the new standards are as useful as possible for the profession.

4. How to respond

Consultation responses can be completed online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations

by emailing TAstandards.REVIEW@education.gsi.gov.uk

or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Teaching Assistant Standards Review (John Motley)

Department for Education – Ground Floor

Mowden Hall

Staindrop Road

Darlington

DL3 9BG

5. Additional copies

Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from GOV.UK DfE consultations.

6. Plans for making the results public

The results of the call for evidence and the Department's response will be [published on GOV.UK](#) in spring 2015.



Department
for Education

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