



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

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Call for evidence: review of mandatory qualifications for specialist teachers of children and young people with sensory impairment

Call for evidence: review of mandatory qualifications for specialist teachers of children and young people with sensory impairment

To Professionals and stakeholders involved in the education of children and young people with sensory impairment

Issued 10 November 2014

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

e-mail: MQreview.CONULTATION@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 Department's '[Contact Us](#)' page.

1 Summary

1.1 NCTL is undertaking a review of the Mandatory Qualification (MQ) to ensure that it:

- Reflects the changing landscape
- Is sufficiently flexible to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the profession and children and young people with sensory impairment.
- Aligns with DfE and NCTL priorities to ensure schools, Higher Education Institutions and others across the sector working collaboratively on the design and delivery of training.

The outcomes of the review will inform a set of options and recommendations to be put to Ministers in spring 2015 for the future model of the MQ and the process for identifying and approving providers to deliver the MQ.

This consultation document provides background to the Mandatory Qualification, an overview of work already undertaken in 2014, and the rationale for, and scope of this consultation.

Part 1 of the document sets out:

- The background to the review and the purpose of the consultation

Part 2 of the document sets out:

- The assumptions underpinning the review
- The scope of the review
- Two questions that are the focus of the consultation

We would like to hear your views on the two questions.

2 Executive Summary

Part 1 - Background

- To teach a class of pupils with hearing impairment (HI), vision impairment (VI) or multi-sensory impairment (MSI), a teacher is required to hold a Mandatory Qualification (MQ) approved by the Secretary of State as well as qualified teacher status. This is part of the statutory requirements for Qualified Teacher Status set out in the regulations governing QTS¹. In addition, paragraph 6.6.1 of the Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years² states that:

Schools should work closely with the local authority and other providers to agree the range of local services and clear arrangements for making appropriate requests. This might include schools commissioning specialist services directly. Such specialist services include, but are not limited to:

- educational psychologists
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- specialist teachers or support services, including specialist teachers with a mandatory qualification for children with hearing and vision impairment , including multi-sensory impairment, and for those with a physical disability. (Those teaching classes of children with sensory impairment **must** hold an appropriate qualification approved by the Secretary of State. Teachers working in an advisory role to support such pupils should also hold the appropriate qualification.)
- therapists (including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists)
- The MQ is underpinned by a specification and assessment is outcomes based.
- The Secretary of State delegated responsibility to the TDA (now National College for Teaching and Leadership, NCTL) to approve providers to deliver courses leading to the award of the MQ³.
- In 2009 the TDA approved 8 providers to deliver programmes leading to the award of the MQ for a 5 year period, ending on 31st August 2014. Those providers who are delivering programmes leading to the award of the MQ for a

¹ Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003, also amended in 2012.

² Statutory guidance for organisations who work with and support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities July 2014

³ The National College for Teaching and Leadership (NCTL) is an executive agency of the Department for Education. It supports the achievement of DfE priorities through enabling and supporting the development of a self-improving, school-led system in line with DfE objectives

further cohort from September 2014 are listed on our website.

- In 2014 we worked in partnership with DfE colleagues and a national stakeholder group including NatSIP (National Sensory Impairment Partnership), provider representatives and other experts to undertake a light touch review of the 2009 MQ specification in time for programmes being delivered from September 2014. (Phase 1 of the current project). The main changes made were:
 - Updating the specification to reflect Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) reforms and the revised SEND Code of Practice
 - Updating the specification with new knowledge and understanding of sensory impairment and innovations in practice and;
 - Improving consistency and 'read-across' between the three different specifications, HI, MSI and VI.

Part 2 – The consultation

Purpose of the consultation

- Phase 2 offers a timely opportunity to undertake a wider review of the Mandatory Qualification to ensure that it:
 - Reflects the changing landscape
 - Is sufficiently flexible to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the profession and children and young people with sensory impairment.
 - Aligns with DfE and NCTL priorities to ensure schools, Higher Education Institutions and others across the sector working collaboratively on the design and delivery of training.
- We are holding a consultation during autumn 2014, the outcomes of which will inform a set of options and recommendations to be put to Ministers in spring 2015 for the future model of the MQ and the process for identifying and approving providers to deliver the MQ.
- The aim is to ensure that the MQ remains a high quality qualification that is sufficiently flexible in content and delivery model to meet the needs of the sector within a changing landscape.

Assumptions underpinning the review

The consultation is underpinned by the following assumptions:

- There is, and will continue to be, no central funding attached to delivery of the qualification
- The specification that underpins the MQ is, and will continue to be recognised as, the minimum requirement for teachers of children and young people with VI, MSI and HI. It will continue to be an expectation that those approved to deliver the qualification will draw on their own expertise and that of partners and the wider sector to ensure that their programme is based on cutting edge research, latest scientific and technological advances and best practice. This will enable the detailed programme content to develop and maintain currency as the landscape continues to change and knowledge/expertise within the specialisms evolves.

Scope of the review

The consultation is time limited and will focus on the:

- Structure of the qualification
- Broad content of the specification in the context of it as a minimum requirement
- Delivery approaches
- The following issues will not form part of the consultation:
 - The equivalence of international qualifications
 - Continuous professional development

4 How To Respond

- 4.1 Consultation responses can be completed online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations by emailing MQreview.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to:

Jane Muir
National College for Teaching and Leadership
Learning and conference centre
Triumph Road
Nottingham
NG81DH8

Other ways to respond

NCTL is hosting five consultation events.

- Monday 24 November - Frank Barnes School, Camden
- Friday 28 November – DfE St Paul Place, Sheffield
- Tuesday 2 December – WESC Foundation, Exeter
- Thursday 4 December – Seashell Trust, Manchester
- Monday 8 December – DfE Learning and Conference Centre, Nottingham

To apply for one of the events, email MQreview.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk.

If for exceptional reasons, you are unable to use the online system, for example because you use specialist accessibility software that is not compatible with the system, you may download a word document version of the form and email it or post it.

5 Additional Copies

- 5.1** Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at:
www.education.gov.uk/consultations

6 Plans for making results public

- 6.1** The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in Spring 2015.

