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| **Consultation**  **Launch Date 30 March 2012** **Respond by 18 May 2012** **Ref: Department for Education** |
| Proposed changes to allow initial teacher training (ITT) in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from September 2012 This consultation concerns the proposal to amend regulations to recognise ITT in PRUs including allowing trainee teachers to carry out practical teaching experience for the purposes of an ITT course and for trainees on an employment-based teacher training scheme to be employed to teach in this setting from September 2012.  This will require minor amendments to the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003. Subject to this consultation and to the parliamentary process, we are aiming to bring amending regulations into force from September 2012. The consultation also covers the closer involvement of PRUs and AP Academies in ITT through School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and School Direct and asks for feedback on how to encourage PRUs and AP Academies to apply to become teaching schools. |
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| Proposed changes to allow initial teacher training (ITT) in Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) from September 2012 | |
| **A Consultation** | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **To** | PRUs, teacher training providers, Teaching Schools and other interested parties. | | **Issued** | 30 March 2012 | | **Enquiries To** | If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact the Department on:  Telephone: 0370 000 2288  or by email:  [Initial.Teachertraining@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Initial.Teachertraining@education.gsi.gov.uk) | | |
|  | Contact Details |
|  | If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Public Communications Unit (PCU) by telephone: 0370 000 2288  or via the Department's ['Contact Us'](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus) page. |
| 1 | Introduction |
| 1.1 | A PRU is a school set up by a local authority which is specifically organised to provide education for children who do not receive suitable education for any period, for reasons such as exclusion, illness, or are otherwise unable to attend a mainstream or special maintained school. |
| 1.2 | All PRUs have a Teacher in Charge, similar to a mainstream school's headteacher, and a management committee, which acts like a school's governing body. All PRUs must have a management committee established according to regulations and guidance. |
| 1.3 | Although PRUs do not have to cover the full National Curriculum, they are required to have a balanced and broadly based curriculum and should offer a basic curriculum which includes English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) and ICT. |
| 2 | Argument |
| 2.1 | To teach as a qualified teacher in maintained schools and non-maintained special schools in England, a person must hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) and must currently be registered with the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE) (although the requirement to be registered will cease from 1 April 2012 upon the abolition of the GTCE). To achieve QTS, the person needs to successfully complete a course of ITT and meet the Teachers' Standards. |
| 2.2 | There are various routes to achieve QTS. This consultation specifically deals with recognising ITT in PRUs including allowing trainees to undertake practical teaching experience and work-based training in these settings in order to achieve QTS. |
| 2.3 | Currently regulations specifically exclude accredited providers of ITT to use PRUs for the purpose of meeting the requirement to provide trainee teachers with a specified number of days of practical teaching experience. The regulations also specifically exclude a teacher employed in a PRU to undertake a programme of employment-based ITT. |
| 2.4 | In 2010/11 Ofsted inspected 129 PRUs. Of these, 19 were judged to be outstanding, and 65 good. This represents 65% of those inspected being judged to be at least good, compared to 55% of primary schools, and 52% of secondary schools inspected in the same period. |
| 2.5 | The current situation leaves PRUs at a disadvantage when it comes to the training, recruitment and retention of staff who wish to qualify as a teacher. Allowing ITT to take place in PRUs would address this and also allow trainees from mainstream schools to benefit from the excellent training that the best PRUs can offer. Encouraging PRUs and AP Academies to become teaching schools would underpin an even greater sharing of effective practice and no longer place them at a disadvantage compared with other settings such as maintained schools. |
| 3 | Other Relevant Consultation |
| 3.1 | To take forward other recommendations made by Charlie Taylor in his report there is a separate consultation on Alternative Provision which will be available at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/) |
| 4 | Summary of our Proposed Changes |
| 4.1 | We are seeking feedback on our proposals to make the following changes from September 2012. |
| 4.2 | **1)         That the school teachers' qualifications regulations should be amended to allow:**  **a) Practical teaching experience for the purposes of a course of ITT to take place in PRUs**  **b) Work-based training for the purposes of an employment-based teacher training scheme to take place in PRUs**              This will allow trainees to be trained to teach whilst being employed by a PRU.  **Following these regulatory changes PRUs will also be able to:**   * Offer SCITT programmes which are designed and delivered by groups of schools and colleges. * Bid for School Direct training places. This will allow them to recruit trainees and train them in partnership with an accredited provider of ITT.   AP Academies are treated as Academies for the purpose of these regulations and as such are not currently excluded from providing trainees with teacher placements or offering work-based routes of ITT leading to QTS. |
| 4.3 | **2)**         **That PRUs and AP Academies should be encouraged to apply to become teaching schools.**  This will mean that: PRUs and AP Academies will have a leading role in the training and professional development of teachers, support staff and head teachers, as well as contributing to the raising of academic standards through school-to-school support. |
| 5 | Proposed Changes |
| 5.1 | **1a)**      **The school teachers' qualifications regulations should be amended to allow practical teaching experience for the purposes of a course of ITT to take place in PRUs.**  This proposal will allow: |
| 5.2 | Trainees to train in PRU settings and be provided with the opportunity to teach, while being supported by a trained mentor.  Trainees can then carry out their second training placement in another school.  As a result trainees will be able to benefit from the training that these PRUs can offer, especially around handling various behavioural matters, improving quality and dealing with diversity in a different setting.   **Question 1:** Do you agree with the proposal to allow practical teaching experience for the purposes of a course of ITT, to take place in PRUs? |
| 5.3 | **1b)**      **The school teachers' qualifications regulations should be amended to allow work-based training for the purposes of an employment based teacher training scheme to take place in PRUs.**  This proposal will allow: |
| 5.4 | Suitably qualified and experienced individuals to train to teach whilst being employed at a PRU. It will also place PRUs in a better position to recruit, train and retain good non-teaching staff by offering them a route into teaching that allows them to continue to be employed in that PRU. However, they might need significant training in a mainstream setting or settings in order to be able to demonstrate that they have met all of the Teachers' Standards, including those relating to their subject(s) and curriculum knowledge.  **Question 2:** Do you agree with the proposal to allow work-based training for the purposes of an employment based teacher training scheme to take place in PRUs? |
| 5.5 | **Following on from these regulatory changes PRUs will also be able to offer SCITT programmes and bid for School Direct places.** |
| 5.6 | PRUs will be able to forge a partnership with existing SCITTs within their area. Alternatively, the PRU may seek to be part of an alliance of schools, typically with a Teaching School at the centre that is seeking a new accreditation as a SCITT. |
| 5.7 | PRUs will also be able to bid for School Direct, which will give them a greater say in the development and delivery of teacher training courses. They will be able to control access to funding for ITT and become closely involved in the selection of trainees. |
| 5.8 | **2)**         **That PRUs and AP Academies should be encouraged to apply to become teaching schools.**  This proposal will allow PRUs and AP Academies to: |
| 5.9 | a) Play a greater role in training new entrants to the profession.  b) Lead peer-to-peer professional and leadership development.  c) Identify and develop leadership potential.  d) Provide support for other schools.  e) Designate and broker Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs).  f)  Engage in research and development.  More information about the role of teaching schools can be found at: <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index/professional-development/teachingschools.htm>  **Question 3:** How can we encourage PRUs and AP Academies to apply to become teaching schools? |
| 5.10 | **Amendments to the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003**  To implement Charlie Taylor's recommendations in respect of the proposals in paragraph 4.2 (1a and 1b) above the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003 will need to be amended as follows. |
| 5.11 | **Schedule 2 - Qualified Teacher Status Requirements - Part 1 - Paragraph 7 (c)**  Currently a person can undertake any period of practical teaching experience for the purposes of ITT wholly or mainly in a school, city college, academy, independent school or other institution except in a PRU in England. We propose to remove the exception for PRUs. |
| 5.12 | **Schedule 2 - Qualified Teacher Status Requirements - Part 1 - Paragraph 10 (3)**  The employment-based teacher training scheme allows a person to undertake ITT in order to obtain qualified teacher status while being employed to teach at a school, city college, Academy, independent school or other institution except a PRU. We propose to remove the exception for PRUs. |
| 6 | How To Respond |
| 6.1 | Consultation responses can be completed online at [www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations)   by emailing: [Initial.Teachertraining@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Initial.Teachertraining@education.gsi.gov.uk)  or by downloading a response form which should be completed and sent to: Consultation,  Supply Division,  Department for Education,  Level 4, Sanctuary Buildings,  Great Smith Street,  London  SW1P 3BT |
| 7 | Additional Copies |
| 7.1 | Additional copies are available electronically and can be downloaded from the Department for Education e-consultation website at:  [http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations%20) |
| 8 | Plans for making results public |
| 8.1 | The results of the consultation and the Department's response will be published on the DfE e-consultation website in summer 2012. |