



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Criteria for the accreditation of initial teacher education programmes in Wales

Teaching tomorrow's teachers

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## Guidance

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# Criteria for the accreditation of initial teacher education programmes in Wales

## Audience

Initial teacher education (ITE) providers including higher education institution (HEI) and primary, secondary and special schools; Education Workforce Council (EWC) Accreditation of Initial School Teacher Training Committee; the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW); the Universities and Schools Council for the Education of Teachers Cymru (USCET Cymru); Estyn; student teachers on ITE courses; all those considering ITE; local authorities; consortia; professional associations and teaching unions; central government education departments; other interested parties.

## Overview

The requirements for the provision of ITE to improve the quality and consistency of ITE provision and introduce a new approach to ITE. This document aims to help everyone involved in ITE to understand the aims and scope of the requirements.

## Action required

This document is relevant to anyone involved in ITE, including student teachers, ITE providers and those who employ and support newly qualified teachers (NQTs). All those directly involved in ITE and the planning of courses should have access to it and be aware of the statutory background.

## Further information

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## Additional copies

This document can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at [gov.wales/educationandskills](http://gov.wales/educationandskills)

## Related documents

*Teaching tomorrow's teachers* (2015)

*Qualified for life: An education improvement plan for 3 to 19-year-olds in Wales* (2014)

*A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life* (2015)

*Digital Competence Framework guidance* (2016)

# Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Ministerial foreword</b>   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Foreword by Professor John Furlong OBE</b>                       | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Executive summary</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| Programme structures and processes                                  | 5         |
| Programme inputs  | 6         |
| Programme outcomes  | 6         |
| <b>Section A – Vision</b>   | <b>7</b>  |
| 1. The policy context   | 7         |
| 2. Student teachers' learning experiences                           | 8         |
| 3. Schools and higher education institutions working in partnership | 10        |
| <b>Section B – Criteria for accreditation</b>                       | <b>12</b> |
| 4. Programme structures and processes                               | 12        |
| 4.1 The Partnership's leadership and management                     | 12        |
| 4.2 Criteria for the inclusion of schools in the Partnership        | 14        |
| 4.3 Roles and responsibilities in all partner schools               | 14        |
| 4.4 The roles of HEIs   | 16        |
| 4.5 The Welsh language  | 18        |
| 5. Programme inputs   | 19        |
| 5.1 Conceptual framework  | 19        |
| 5.2 Course aims   | 19        |
| 5.3 Course design and areas of study                                | 20        |
| 5.4 Entry requirements and selection procedures                     | 20        |
| 5.5 Core studies  | 21        |
| 5.6 Professional and pedagogical studies                            | 21        |
| 5.7 Subject studies   | 22        |
| 5.8 Well-being  | 23        |
| 5.9 School experience   | 24        |
| 5.10 The Equality Act 2010  | 24        |
| 5.11 Assessment of student teachers                                 | 25        |
| <b>Section C – Programme outcomes</b>                               | <b>27</b> |
| 6. Programme outcomes – standards for qualified teacher status      | 27        |
| 6.1 Fulfilment of the standards for qualified teacher status        | 27        |
| 6.2 Standards for induction   | 28        |
| <b>Glossary</b>   | <b>29</b> |
| <b>References</b>   | <b>31</b> |
| <b>Appendix 1: Estyn and the inspection of ITE in Wales</b>         | <b>32</b> |
| Inspection of ITE provision   | 32        |
| Inspection of schools where ITE is taking place                     | 32        |
| <b>Appendix 2: Entry requirements for student teachers in Wales</b> | <b>34</b> |

## Ministerial foreword

I want teaching to be a first choice profession so that we can attract the very best. For this to happen, we must get Wales' initial teacher education (ITE) offer right.

I recognise that the teaching profession can only make its proper contribution to raising standards of education in our schools, as set out in Successful Futures, if our ITE offers our future teachers the skills, knowledge and appetite to lead the change required.

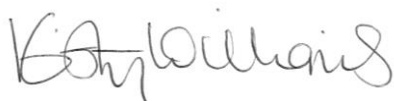
*Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers* recommended the development of a very different approach for accrediting programmes of ITE in Wales – recognising the value and the difference that a truly collaborative ITE system can make when universities and schools work in genuine partnership.

This Accreditation Criteria makes clear our expectations – our requirements – for fundamental change.

1. An increased role for schools;
2. A clearer role for universities;
3. Joint ownership of the ITE programme;
4. Structured opportunities to link school and university learning; and
5. The centrality of research

The way ITE is accredited is an essential factor in ensuring an improvement in educational performance in schools. Placing accountability on the professional body the Education Workforce Council (EWC) to accredit individual ITE programmes, will enable more specific consideration of how the programmes will raise the quality of provision and attract the right people with the right skills, qualifications and an aptitude for teaching to enter the profession.

This reconceptualised Accreditation Criteria along with new professional teaching and leadership standards, which set out rigorous expectations for entry to the profession, provide the cornerstone of a new teacher professionalism not only for initial teacher education but for career-long professional learning.



**Kirsty Williams AM**

Cabinet Secretary for Education

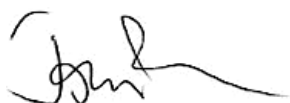
## Foreword by Professor John Furlong OBE

In the autumn of 2015, following the publication of the report *Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers: Options for the future of initial teacher education in Wales (2015)*, the Teacher Education Accreditation Group was established – to develop new criteria for accrediting initial teacher education (ITE) in Wales. The aim was to improve the quality and consistency of ITE provision and introduce a new approach to initial teacher education. This is essential if the government is to achieve its wider ambitions for educational reform in Wales.

Draft criteria were developed by the Teacher Education Accreditation Group and published for consultation 22 September to 14 November 2016. This document sets out the final criteria that have been revised as a result of that consultation. In future, all new and existing programmes of ITE will need to be accredited by the Education Workforce Council (EWC), through its Accreditation of Initial School Teacher Training Committee (“the Board”).

All aspects of this Criteria document are to read and understood as an integrated whole. The Criteria (Section B) are to be interpreted in the light of the ‘Vision’ (Section A). The Standards (Section C) are the outcomes that student teachers must achieve in order to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status. Accreditation will depend on ITE providers embodying the vision, meeting the criteria, and following the guidelines outlined here, in their ITE programmes.

The document is written for current and potential providers of ITE, but it should also be of interest to all those who are concerned with education in Wales: co-operating schools and teachers; Estyn; current and prospective student teachers; parents; teacher unions; the EWC; consortia and local authorities, and others.



**Professor John Furlong OBE**

ITE adviser to the Welsh Government

## Executive summary

In the autumn of 2015 a task and finish group was established to develop new criteria for accrediting initial teacher education (ITE) in Wales. Draft Criteria were published 22 September and were consulted on widely<sup>1</sup>; following the consultation, the draft criteria were revised. This document sets out the final version of the criteria that all new and existing programmes of ITE will be required to meet for accreditation in the future. The document is written for all current and potential providers of ITE, but it should also be of interest to all those who are concerned with education in Wales.

Under the new arrangements, Estyn will continue to have a vitally important role to play in maintaining and enhancing quality in ITE. Details of how Estyn will, in the future, work in tandem with the accreditation process are set out in Appendix 1.

The vision for ITE in Wales presented in this document is underpinned by the Welsh Government's future plans for education set out in their pending revision of *Qualified for life*<sup>2</sup>. Building the capacity of all practitioners and leaders is an essential pre-requisite to those plans. The new accreditation criteria will ensure that all courses of ITE meet the government's high aspirations.

Central to the vision underpinning the new criteria is the recognition that high quality professional education necessarily involves a number of different modes of learning. Some dimensions of teaching can only be learned experientially while other forms of learning are intellectually based. However, the largest part of all teacher education should be based on learning that is both rigorously practical and intellectually challenging at the same time.

As the OECD<sup>3</sup> and others<sup>4</sup> now recognise, the very best examples of teacher education internationally are based on this dual form of learning. This is the form of teacher education that is going to be essential for Wales if the government's vision for its schools and its teachers is to be achieved. This has important consequences for both schools and universities and for how they work together.

If schools are to be given the task of providing systematic and structured training opportunities in relation to all of the core areas of the teacher education curriculum, then they will require the necessary resources, together with staff professional development, to take on that responsibility. It is likely that in the future a smaller number of schools will be involved in initial teacher education than at present but with greater numbers of student teachers involved in them in different ways.

If the primary task of universities is to give student teachers access to professional knowledge that is not normally available in schools, their education faculties will need to have the staffing structures, staff development strategies and the sort of 'scholarly culture' that will ensure that all of their teacher educators are equipped to make these contributions.

There are also implications for how schools and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) work together. At the programme level, programmes need to be devised so that there are structured opportunities for the different forms of professional knowledge provided by each

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<sup>1</sup> Welsh Government (2017). *Consultation – Summary of Response: Draft criteria for the accreditation of Initial Teacher Education programmes in Wales and the proposal for the Education Workforce Council to accredit initial teacher education*

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Government (2014). *Qualified for Life – An education improvement plan*

<sup>3</sup> OECD (2012). *Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education: Lessons from PISA for the United States*

<sup>4</sup> BERA:RSA (2014). *The Role of Research in Teacher Education: Reviewing the evidence - Interim report*

partner to be brought together. These types of engagement can be achieved in a wide variety of ways.

There are also implications for joint planning. Only if universities and a group of 'lead partnership schools' jointly engage in planning the programme as a whole will it have the coherence that is needed.

Finally there is a need for joint accountability. If truly collaborative teacher education is to be achieved then 'the Partnership' – the HEI together with all of their partner schools - must take joint responsibility for their contributions to the programme.

The new accreditation criteria are divided into three main parts, two in Section B and one in Section C.

## **Programme structures and processes**

In relation to the leadership and management of programmes, the criteria set out what is required of school-HEI partnerships. Programmes will be required to designate a number of 'lead partnership schools' which will contribute fully to the leadership and management of the programme, including the design and content of the programme and the selection of students; they will also play a full part in each programme's quality assurance and self-evaluation.

The criteria set out what is required of all partnership schools (both lead partnership schools and others) in terms of:

- the selection of schools
- the need to develop a 'whole school' approach to teacher education under the leadership of senior teachers
- school staffing and responsibilities for supporting student teachers' learning including mentoring and the provision of structured opportunities for students to reflect on their practice
- staff development opportunities
- school facilities
- schools' involvement in the joint management of the programme.

In relation to HEIs the criteria set out:

- required staffing levels, staff qualifications and requirements for staff to be 'research active'
- the responsibilities of HEIs for student teachers including the support they must provide to develop their skills in literacy, numeracy, digital competence and the Welsh language to ensure that they are well prepared for the teaching context that they are entering

- staff development opportunities
- HEI facilities and student welfare.

## **Programme inputs**

This section outlines the information that ITE programmes in Wales will be required to provide in relation to:

- the course's conceptual framework
- course aims
- course design and areas of study
- entry requirements and selection procedures
- core studies
- professional and pedagogical studies
- subject studies
- well being
- school experience
- the Equality Act 2010
- the assessment of student teachers.

## **Programme outcomes**

The Professional teaching and leadership standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) are fundamental for all those in education, providing a strong sense of shared purpose – they are the outcomes that students must achieve to be awarded QTS. Programmes will need to ensure that the outcomes achieved by their student teachers closely reflect these standards in relation to professional values, curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, the learning environment, the wider context, professional reflection and learning, leadership and student teachers' commitment to their future professional learning.



## Section A – Vision

### 1. The policy context

The vision for initial teacher education (ITE) in Wales set out in this document is underpinned by the Welsh Government’s future aspirations for education first set out in their document *Qualified for life*<sup>5</sup>:

Learners in Wales will enjoy teaching and learning that inspires them to succeed, in an education community that works cooperatively and aspires to be great, where the potential of every child and young person is actively developed (Welsh Government, 2014:1).<sup>6</sup>

As the government itself notes, essential to realising these aspirations is ‘building the capacity of all practitioners and leaders, including the ability to reflect on and evaluate their own practice, to design and create a relevant, challenging and stimulating curriculum, and to apply appropriate pedagogical principles and practice’ (Welsh Government 2015: 8)<sup>7</sup>.

Building professional capacity is one of the core purposes of ITE. The new accreditation criteria will ensure that all courses of ITE meet the government’s high aspirations<sup>8</sup>. They define what is essential for high-quality provision, including the need for program providers to:

- ensure higher education institutions (HEIs) and schools work closely as partners to design and facilitate ITE
- attract high-calibre entrants to the teaching profession
- attract high-calibre personnel as HEI and school-based teacher educators and to support their continuing professional development
- ensure consistency in the quality of provision for students across all ITE programmes, demonstrating high-quality professional practice that students can emulate in their own teaching
- prepare new teachers to:
  - understand the changing nature of society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and young people’s needs in education
  - instil in young people a love of learning, teaching them how to learn
  - foster inclusive classrooms which meet the needs of all pupils/students

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<sup>5</sup> Welsh Government (2014). *Qualified for Life – An education improvement plan*

<sup>6</sup> Welsh Government will continue to build on this in their pending revision of *Qualified for Life – An education improvement plan*

<sup>7</sup> Welsh Government (2015). *A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life*

<sup>8</sup> Under the new arrangements for the accreditation of programmes, Estyn will continue to have a vitally important role to play in maintaining and enhancing quality in ITE. Details of how Estyn will, in the future, work in tandem with the accreditation process are set out in Appendix 1

- participate in the continuum of teacher education, of which ITE is the foundation, fostering student teachers' commitment to life-long professional learning
- build a vibrant learning community, working co-operatively with colleagues, parents, pupils/students and others
- develop research knowledge and skills, both as consumers of research and as participants in it
- be innovative and creative in leading change in the curriculum, assessment and pedagogy
- exercise professional responsibility and accountability
- develop student teachers' competence in using ICT for teaching and learning
- foster student teachers' appreciation of the Welsh language and provide opportunities for them to develop their proficiency in Welsh
- develop student teachers' appreciation of cultural diversity in society and in the classroom
- ensure high standards in student teachers' own literacy and numeracy and digital competence, all of which are core elements of the new Welsh curriculum. the curriculum document, *Digital Competence Framework guidance (2016)* explains that: 'Digital competence is the set of skills, knowledge and attitudes that enable the confident, creative and critical use of technologies and systems...not to be confused with information and communication technology (ICT)...it focuses on developing digital skills which can be applied to a wide range of subjects and scenarios that are transferrable to the world of work.'<sup>9</sup>

## 2. Student teachers' learning experiences

Programmes of ITE need to be developed with a clear understanding of the way in which adults learn<sup>10</sup>. Central to the vision underpinning the new criteria is the recognition that high quality professional education necessarily involves a number of different modes of learning. On the one hand, there are dimensions of teaching, such as how to manage classrooms, which can only be learned experientially. Universities may provide opportunities for 'micro teaching' in the safety of a seminar room and good advice may be given by experienced practitioners but it is not until they actually begin to take on the responsibility of managing a large group of young people that student teachers really begin to engage with the complexity of teaching.

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<sup>9</sup> Welsh Government (2016). *Digital Competence Framework guidance*

<sup>10</sup> Stephen Brookfield (2001). *Understanding and Facilitating Adult Learning* Brookfield suggests that teachers think carefully through the needs and the processes of becoming critically reflective about teaching, ensuring that this is a tool for ongoing personal and professional development with a focus on developing a more equal society. Teachers need to be taught to reflect upon and deliver these principles as adult learners among children

Another important dimension of the professional learning journey for student teachers is how they learn to find the person inside themselves that is their teaching self. This, too, cannot actually be taught out of context. It is an 'embodied' form of learning that can only be learned by actually doing the job of teaching. Only then can others help the novice teacher, through mentoring and coaching, to develop that aspect of their teaching identity.

At the other end of the continuum there are those forms of learning that are primarily, but not exclusively, intellectually based, where the aim is to enhance young professionals' knowledge and understanding of the complex world of teaching. For example, it is expected that newly qualified teachers will have some familiarity with the history of educational policy and practice in Wales. They are also expected to know something about contemporary Welsh society, for example, the fact that Wales is a bilingual society with some 23%<sup>11</sup> of young people educated in Welsh medium or bilingual settings; the fact that in Wales some 31%<sup>12</sup> of young people are classified as living in poverty (the highest proportion in the UK) and the ways in which that can impact on both teaching and learning in the classrooms where they work. Learning about these issues is clearly of relevance to the practice of new teachers but, at the same time, those links are complex and sometimes indirect.

Some aspects of ITE are, therefore, primarily based on experiential learning while others draw primarily on intellectually based learning. However, in a well-founded teacher education programme, both of these are minority forms of learning. The largest part of all teacher education programmes – those elements that deal with the core issues of curriculum, pedagogy and assessment – are or should be based on learning that is both rigorously practical and intellectually challenging at the same time.

In being prepared, for example, to differentiate their teaching effectively in relation to the learning needs of all school students in their classrooms, student teachers need to observe and teach alongside experienced and effective teachers as they plan and practise differentiation. Student teachers also need to be supported and coached in the process of differentiating their own lesson planning and teaching. To develop as full professionals however, they need to do much more than this. They need to know and understand well-tested theories about how young people learn and learn differently; they need to understand how young people develop intellectually and emotionally and develop differently; and they need to understand something about the structure of knowledge in the subjects they are teaching so that they can disaggregate key concepts and reconstruct them in different ways in order to facilitate the learning of *all* the pupils in their charge. Being prepared to differentiate one's teaching involves carefully planned practical experience, where practitioners both in HEIs and schools model good practice. It also requires that we provide student teachers with opportunities to engage with the best that is known from research, from theory and from practice elsewhere about these complex processes.

It is in the bringing together of these different forms of professional learning that student teachers as adult learners can begin to take control of their own practice. They learn to develop, reflect on and defend their own 'theories' of professional practice, and in doing so become true professionals in their own right.

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<sup>11</sup> Welsh Government (2016) School Census Results, 2016 SDR 87/2016 Table 2 and 3 Primary, Secondary and Middle Schools <http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2016/160727-school-census-results-2016-en.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Welsh Government (2015) *Child Poverty Strategy for Wales* <http://gov.wales/docs/dsijg/publications/150327-child-poverty-strategy-walesv2-en.pdf>

### 3. Schools and higher education institutions working in partnership

As the OECD<sup>13</sup> and others<sup>14</sup> now recognise, the very best examples of teacher education internationally are based on this dual form of learning. In countries such as Finland and Singapore, student teachers are offered programmes that provide rigorous, systematic practical experience that is then combined with opportunities for challenge and reflection through intellectual engagement with other forms of professional knowledge underpinning effective pedagogical practice: knowledge derived from theory, from research and from excellent practice elsewhere.

This is the form of teacher education that is going to be essential for Wales if the government's vision for its schools, set out in *A Curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life* (2015) and the pending revision of *Qualified for Life* (2014) is to be achieved. This, however, has important consequences for both schools and universities and for how they collaborate.

If schools are to be given the task of providing systematic and structured learning opportunities in relation to all of the core areas of the teacher education curriculum, it is clear they will need to have the training and the resources to take on that responsibility. A lead partner school will need to have or be willing to establish a culture where ITE is accepted as one of its core responsibilities. That culture will include an openness to examining and debating their own pedagogical and assessment practices in the light of evidence from research and from practice elsewhere. Given these expectations, it is likely that in future a smaller number of schools will be involved in ITE than at present but with greater numbers of student teachers involved in them in different ways.

There are implications for universities too. If the primary tasks of universities is to give student teachers access to professional knowledge that is not normally available in schools – that is, to research, to theory and to knowledge about excellent pedagogical practice across Wales and internationally – their schools of education will need to have the staffing structures, staff development strategies and the sort of 'scholarly culture' which will ensure that all of their teacher educators are equipped to make these contributions.

There are also implications for how schools and HEIs work together. Firstly, at the programme level, programmes need to be devised so that there are structured opportunities for the different forms of professional knowledge provided by each partner to be brought together. Student teachers need regular and well-structured mentoring within their schools; in their universities they need high quality lectures, seminars and workshops. But in addition they will need opportunities, while they are based in school, to engage with the forms of knowledge that are made available through universities; when they are in university they need opportunities to engage with forms of practical knowledge that are learned in school.

These types of engagement can be achieved in a wide variety of ways – through joint appointments, through joint supervision, through formal 'lesson study'<sup>15</sup> or 'learning rounds'<sup>16</sup>, through written assignments, through reflective journals. In a whole variety of ways, programmes should provide structured opportunities for student teachers to

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<sup>13</sup> OECD (2012). *Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education: Lessons from PISA for the United States*

<sup>14</sup> BERA:RSA (2014). *The Role of Research in Teacher Education: Reviewing the evidence - Interim report*

<sup>15</sup> 'Lesson Study is a Japanese model of teacher-led research in which a triad of teachers work together to target an identified area for development in their students' learning. Using existing evidence, participants collaboratively research, plan, teach and observe a series of lessons, using ongoing discussion, reflection and expert input to track and refine their interventions.' <http://tdtrust.org/what-is-lesson-study>

<sup>16</sup> 'Learning rounds' is a system of group observation that is currently being promoted as an approach to professional learning in Scottish schools. See <http://www.teachingscotland.org.uk/professional-update/professional-learning/33-a-group-perspective.aspx>

interrogate what is learned in these different contexts. They should be challenged and questioned and learn that there are no simple answers. It is through this process that they begin to articulate their own understandings, their own 'theories' of professional practice.

There are also implications for joint planning. Only if universities and a representative group of schools ('lead partnership schools') jointly engage in planning the programme as a whole will it have the coherence that is needed. Establishing collaborative programme planning procedures will require a sense of joint 'ownership' of programmes.

Finally there is a need for joint accountability. If truly collaborative teacher education is to be achieved then 'the Partnership' – the HEI together with its lead partner schools – must take joint responsibility for the programme. They need to work collaboratively and be willing to accept accountability to their students, to Estyn, to the EWC and to the HEI that validates their programmes.

## Section B – Criteria for accreditation

The criteria, which are to be interpreted in the light of the ‘Vision’ set out in Section A above, are organised as follows:

- Programme structures and processes
- Programme inputs
- Programme outcomes / Standards for Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

The section on **programme structures and processes** describes the roles and responsibilities of the HEI-school partnership and sets out the management structures that will be required if programmes are to be accredited.

The section on **programme inputs** outlines what ITE programmes in Wales should include.

The **programme outcomes** are aligned with the Welsh Government’s Professional teaching and leadership standards, at the level pertaining to the award of QTS.

### 4. Programme structures and processes

This section outlines the requirements for the leadership and management of ITE programmes. It is anticipated that in future all programmes will be led by a ‘Partnership’, that is a HEI working in close collaboration with a number of ‘lead partner schools’. It is this Partnership that will bring forward the programme for accreditation. In addition, the Partnership may work collaboratively with a number of other partner schools. In submitting their programme(s) for accreditation Partnerships will be required to describe their leadership and management structure, including how different types of partner schools and HEIs will work effectively together.

Successful partnerships benefit everyone involved. Student teachers can be confident that all partners are making a planned, integrated contribution to their ITE. Schools and HEIs have the opportunity to engage with new ideas and draw on their experience and expertise in relation to student teachers. Teachers have fresh opportunities to reflect on and articulate their own practice and to engage in professional dialogue with fellow colleagues, student teachers and colleagues in the Partnership, be they HEI personnel or colleagues in other schools. HEI personnel have fresh opportunities to engage with schools at a deeper and more meaningful level, thus enhancing their understanding of the needs of student teachers in a changing education environment.

Lead partnership schools will play a prominent part in recruiting student teachers, developing the ITE curriculum and providing development opportunities for HEI staff. They will contribute to leadership within the Partnership and play a full part in each programme’s quality assurance and self-evaluation.

All partner schools have a key role in enabling student teachers to teach, research, reflect and evaluate; they are not to be viewed solely as venues for ‘teaching practice’.

#### 4.1 The Partnership’s leadership and management

To gain accreditation, all Partnerships will need a clearly defined strategic vision and a well-defined leadership and management structure. Partnerships should therefore show:

- how the HEI and lead partner schools share the development of programmes, including sharing accountability<sup>17</sup>
- the financial model for sustaining the Partnership
- how the proposed ITE programme fits within the HEI's overall strategic planning; how it relates to other programmes (both ITE and non-ITE) within the HEI, and how the HEI will support the remodelling of ITE
- how HEI decisions relating to the funding of each programme will be taken, and what the HEI accountabilities are in relation to budget allocations and spending plans
- how self-evaluation will contribute to the continuous improvement of provision<sup>18</sup>
- how data, including those on student teachers' entry qualifications, will be used to monitor provision and raise standards including the standards of entry
- how collaboration with other providers of ITE both in Wales and beyond is used to support and develop the programme and raise standards of ITE across the country as a whole
- how the views of student teachers and schools are gathered and used effectively to support programme development, quality improvement and self-evaluation
- how staff development needs are identified and how CPD is provided
- how the Partnership maintains internal controls to preserve the integrity of student teachers' records
- how quality assurance takes place, including mentor training and improving the quality of applicants.

All Partnerships will be required to show evidence of systematic and sustainable collaboration between schools and HEIs, for example, through work with the regional consortia. *Innovation will be encouraged.*

A jointly agreed Memorandum of Understanding should outline how the Partnership will work, including the respective roles and responsibilities of HEIs and schools. There should be a clear line of sight between HEI and school responsibilities.

Most effective agreements are the outcome of consultation in which the views of all partners are taken fully into account. They are clear, working documents that can be used by all partners, supplemented by documents containing more detailed information, e.g. course handbooks. Course handbooks for student teachers, university and school staff should set out the HEIs' and schools' respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities, as agreed by the Partnership. They are regularly reviewed and revised by members of the Partnership.

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<sup>17</sup>A collaboration model should be presented at submission

<sup>18</sup>Self-evaluation should include, routinely and at least annually, interrogation of external examiners' reports, the development and use of performance data and research, as well as other moderation and benchmarking

Schools and HEIs should enjoy a mutually respectful relationship, evidencing their shared vision for ITE through open channels of communication and their agreed, complementary roles in educating student teachers.

## **4.2 Criteria for the inclusion of schools in the Partnership**

Procedures and criteria for selecting schools to join the partnership should be clear.

In identifying lead partnership schools, the HEI should consider only effective schools that are recognised within their regions for high-quality provision. While it is up to individual Partnerships to define and justify what they consider to be 'effective' schools, such schools will normally have been identified as such by Estyn and/or the national categorisation process. Partnerships may like to work with consortia to identify these schools.

Overall, each Partnership should include schools of a range of types, sizes (including small schools, see 4.3.4) denominations, backgrounds and locations. Partnerships should offer each student teacher school experience across a minimum of two different types of schools.

All schools in which student teachers are placed should be committed to becoming a learning organisation<sup>19</sup> and to offering an environment for supportive teacher education. In addition, all student teachers should have the opportunity to undertake at least one half of their school experience in a school that is recognised for high quality provision.

## **4.3 Roles and responsibilities in all partner schools**

### **4.3.1 Whole-school approach**

- There should be a whole-school approach to supporting student teachers, under the guidance of the senior leadership team and other in-school leaders, including mentors
- In-school support should include mentoring, supervision, constructive feedback, and assessment of the extent to which student teachers have met the Standards during their school experience
- Student teachers should receive regular structured opportunities to reflect on and analyse their school experience, drawing on other forms of professional knowledge including theory, research and knowledge of practice elsewhere. This should involve the contribution of HEI staff.

### **4.3.2 School staffing and responsibilities for student teachers**

- In-school support requires all schools in the Partnership to designate trained senior staff, ideally senior managers, as co-ordinators. They also need to have a clear strategy for the selection and development of student-teacher mentors

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<sup>19</sup> OECD (2016). *What Makes a School a Learning Organisation? A Guide for Policy Makers, School Leadership and Teachers*



- Student-teacher mentors should be trained, experienced practitioners, either phase or subject specialists. Schools will set out how they select, support and monitor their mentors
- Mentors' time to work with student teachers should be protected
- Staff specifically assigned to the Partnership should be given protected time to undertake their responsibilities within it, including time for planning and management where necessary
- All school staff who are regularly involved in ITE should have access to high-quality mentor training programmes
- Staff in partner schools should identify their professional learning needs as teacher educators and arrange continuing professional development through the HEI, or elsewhere, as appropriate
- Schools should provide school-based development opportunities for HEI-based teacher educators, as requested
- In all school experience contexts, as well as observing a wide range of teaching, student teachers should plan and teach lessons or a series of lessons and receive constructive feedback
- Student teachers should have a graduated introduction to teaching. This should include carefully planned periods of observation as well as paired teaching with other student teachers and with established effective teachers. Student teachers should only be expected to undertake full responsibility for classes on a graduated basis. During the first period of school experience they should teach no more than a 30% timetable over all. During the final period of their school experience they should teach no more than a 75% timetable. In their submissions, Partnerships should set out their guidance to schools on these matters
- Student teachers should undertake a variety of non-teaching activities, including engaging with parents, carers, governors and colleagues
- Schools should support student teachers who are required to engage in action research during their school experience
- Schools should provide enhanced support for student teachers who need it, in line with the Partnership's procedures.

#### **4.3.3 School facilities**

- Student teachers will need access to appropriate work space and ICT resources, ideally at a level provided for full-time members of staff

- Schools will also need to ensure that private spaces are available for mentoring, small group work and seminars
- For specialist purposes, the HEI may require the use of school facilities to provide realistic settings for educating student teachers

#### **4.3.4 Small schools**

In order to reflect the Welsh education system's diverse settings, it is crucial that ITE providers prepare their aspiring teachers for careers in small and rural schools. It is therefore expected that Partnerships will include members that reflect the whole range of school settings.

In order to provide effective support for students placed in small schools, Partnerships should utilise collaborative models such as those currently being developed by the consortia and the Welsh Government. To provide the most effective support for aspiring teachers placed in small schools it is expected that the Partnership will present collaborative options for the mentoring and support of those students. This should include the means of providing students with opportunities for effective collaboration with others working in such schools to assist with the management of their workload. This will provide the breadth of experiences necessary for effective ITE.

### **4.4 The roles of HEIs**

#### **4.4.1 HEI staffing and staff development**

- The ratio of teaching staff to student teachers funded by the Partnership should be one full-time equivalent (FTE) member of teaching staff for every 15 student teachers. These should be distributed between HEIs and schools as appropriate in order to achieve the specified criteria. Accreditation submissions should set out and justify the distribution of staffing resource across the partnership
- The ratio of full-time to part-time staff should be at a sufficient level to maintain a high-quality programme. Accreditation submissions should justify the ratio and set out how the HEI ensures that its part-time staff are fully integrated into the teaching programme and the department/faculty of education more broadly
- Teaching staff should have a qualification at a higher level than the accreditation level of the course on which they are teaching; if not, they should be working towards it. HEIs will be required to set out their plans to ensure that all such staff achieve a relevant qualification within five years. In the main, all lecturers and tutors should have been successful school teachers Partnerships will be required to set out how all of those engaged in ITE maintain an up-to-date knowledge and experience of schooling
- Lecturers and tutors involved in school experience should participate regularly in staff development, including school-based development, to support student

teachers, maintain high standards and inform equitable assessment. Additionally, HEI staff should be active in professional development programmes relevant to their role within ITE

- The HEI should facilitate the professional learning that school staff might require to support student teachers effectively
- All HEI lecturers and tutors should normally be research active and take lead roles in assimilating, conducting, publishing and supervising research. Partnerships will be required to evidence how HEI teaching staff are supported to be research active and to show how their research will inform the development of their ITE programmes.

#### **4.4.2 The responsibilities of HEIs for student teachers**

- HEIs' prime responsibility is to ensure that student teachers experience a high-quality ITE programme which enables them to become confident, competent, committed, newly qualified teachers
- HEIs should support student teachers to construct and maintain a professional portfolio, using the Professional Learning Passport online tool developed by the EWC and Welsh Government<sup>20</sup>
- HEIs should support student teachers to develop their skills in literacy, numeracy, digital competence and the Welsh language (see 4.5)
- HEIs should provide enhanced support for student teachers who need it, in line with the Partnership's procedures.

#### **4.4.3 HEI facilities**

Appropriate facilities should be available to support teaching and learning, and research. These should normally include:

- appropriate location, quality and number of lecture halls and resource rooms, such as laboratories
- access and accommodation for all programmes, appropriate for all students
- appropriate teaching resources and equipment for all curricular areas
- library facilities and resources, including digital resources, to cater for student teachers and staff
- ICT facilities which support effective collaboration with all partners.

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<sup>20</sup>The Professional Learning Passport is an e-portal, hosted on the EWC website. This Passport will underpin practitioners' career pathways and will support them to record, reflect on and identify the most appropriate professional learning opportunities so that they continue to develop and deepen their practice at every stage of their career

#### 4.4.4 Safeguarding and student teachers' welfare

- The Partnership should provide advice, support and guidance, including counselling, as well as medical and careers services.
- There should be clarity around safeguarding and whistle-blowing.

#### 4.5 The Welsh language

As Wales moves towards reformed ITE, Partnerships should be clear about activity included in their programmes for the development of the Welsh language. Such considerations should be addressed in the following two ways.

##### 4.5.1 Partnership provision in Welsh for those wishing to pursue careers in Welsh medium or Bi-lingual schools

Where Partnerships wish to provide ITE for students intending to work in the Welsh medium and bi-lingual schools sectors, there should be clear identification of:

- proposed activities to build the pedagogic skills of trainees to work through the medium of Welsh (including the development of subject specialisms through the medium of Welsh)
- arrangements to ensure that the Welsh language skills of future practitioners are developed during their ITE to ensure that they reach an agreed level of competence prior to being qualified to work in the sector.

In order to secure effective pedagogic skill development, Partnerships might wish to work nationally to ensure groupings of sufficient numbers of student teachers in minority disciplines to ensure effective delivery to such groups of students through the medium of Welsh<sup>21</sup>. In their submissions, Partnerships will be required to propose clear arrangements to ensure sufficient opportunities for student teachers to develop their skills in viable groups – even if those groups are at times virtual or other and organised jointly across more than one Partnership.

##### 4.5.2 Partnership provision to improve Welsh language skills of all ITE students

*Curriculum for Wales, Curriculum for Life* and the government's future strategy for the Welsh language indicate a significant departure from past expectations. The teaching profession will play a key role in ensuring the continued survival and growth of the Welsh language. The expectations of *Curriculum for Wales, Curriculum for Life* make it clear that pupils, regardless of the medium of their instruction, should expect to be at least transactionally competent in the Welsh language by the time they complete the stage of their studies at age 16.

In order to ensure this, schools that do not currently use Welsh as a language of instruction will need to use the language increasingly in their work with learners. Such a shift requires greater numbers of teachers and others who are confident users of Welsh.

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<sup>21</sup> The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is happy to provide guidance on any aspects related to Welsh medium provision and the wider Welsh context.

To achieve these national goals, ITE Partnerships should ensure that they have clear plans for provision that can ensure that all student teachers are afforded the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. In applying for accreditation, Partnerships will need to identify how they will assess the standards of Welsh of all student teachers upon entry and how they propose to deploy a range of methodologies for building upon those skills during the student's ITE experience.

## **5. Programme inputs**

In presenting their programmes for accreditation, Partnerships will be required to provide details of the following:

- the conceptual framework
- course aims
- course design and areas of study
- entry requirements and selection procedures
- core studies
- professional and pedagogical studies
- subject studies
- well being
- school experience
- the Equality Act 2010
- assessment of student teachers.

These are discussed below.

### **5.1 Conceptual framework**

Programmes of ITE should be supported by a clearly articulated conceptual framework informed by values, principles and research. This framework should be consistently visible in all programme components, such as content selection, teaching and learning strategies, assessment processes and the intended effect of the programme on the teaching and learning of school students. The framework should be developed collaboratively by HEIs and schools.

### **5.2 Course aims**

The overall aim of a programme of ITE is to prepare student teachers to become competent, thoughtful, reflective and innovative practitioners who are committed to providing high-quality teaching and learning for all pupils/students. They need to be prepared to achieve the relevant professional standards for registration with the EWC in Wales.

Student teachers should develop the values, knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet national priorities such as literacy, numeracy, digital competency and social inclusion and to work collaboratively with colleagues, co-professionals and parents. They should be committed to their own life-long professional learning, including engaging actively with educational research.

### 5.3 Course design and areas of study

As well as the course aims, submissions for accreditation should specify how different course elements are to be provided, such as face-to-face, online or through blended learning. Submissions should also explain how student teachers' learning from schools and HEIs is integrated.

ITE programmes should establish a set of high-level beginner competences for student teachers that they can build on through their careers. Programmes should focus on students' personal development and resilience, together with preparation for life in the classroom and for active engagement in the wider education community. Courses should be designed in such a way that all student teachers are prepared to teach across at least two consecutive curriculum age ranges. Courses should also prepare student teachers to take responsibility for teaching a class, or classes, over a sustained and substantial period of time.

Core studies, professional and pedagogical studies, school experience and subject studies should be carefully planned and integrated. They should be effectively balanced in the programme and their inter-relationships should be explicit.

On standard **one-year postgraduate programmes**, school experience should comprise approximately two thirds of the programme; on **three-year programmes**, subject studies and school experience should constitute approximately one third each of programmes<sup>22</sup>. More specific requirements on school experience requirements are as follows:

- 32 weeks for all four year primary undergraduate programmes
- 24 weeks for all two and three year undergraduate programmes
- 24 weeks for all secondary postgraduate programmes
- 24 weeks for all primary postgraduate programmes.

Partnerships should ensure that each student teacher has experience in a minimum of two contrasting school settings.

### 5.4 Entry requirements and selection procedures

Full details of entry requirements for ITE programmes are set out in Appendix 2.

The selection of student teachers must involve both the HEI and schools and must always include an individual interview at which both the HEI and schools are represented. The process must determine candidates' personal aptitude for teaching, as well as their intellectual and academic abilities.

Partnerships must also satisfy themselves that candidates have appropriate knowledge and skills in numeracy, literacy and digital competency.

#### 5.4.1 Health and physical capacity to teach

Partnerships must ensure that all entrants to ITE Programmes have met the requirements of the Education Health Standards<sup>23</sup>, confirming their health and physical capacity to undertake a teacher's responsibilities.

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<sup>22</sup>Ensure that all student teachers are provided with at least 60 days of HEI/school led training activity per academic year

<sup>23</sup> Education Health Standards (Wales) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004 No. 2733) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2004/2733/contents/made>

Partnerships must also have due regard to the relevant regulations, and to their statutory obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) as amended. The latter may require making reasonable adjustment or adaptation as necessary to enable an individual to undertake an ITE course, even if this results in more favourable treatment. In this regard, in the selection of entrants to ITE Programmes, Partnerships will need to ensure that selection procedures and policies do not discriminate unfairly against applicants with disabilities or special educational needs. To that end, relevant staff members must have up-to-date information to meet their obligations under the DDA and the statutory requirements placed on institutions by the disability equity duty.

### **5.5 Core studies**

Core studies will draw explicitly on a range of theories, research and other intellectual resources to develop student teachers' knowledge and understanding of, *inter alia*, the following:

- theories and research about pedagogy, human development and learning
- the role of assessment in teaching and learning
- the complex influences of personal, social and cultural factors on teachers and learners<sup>24</sup>
- the diverse and changing nature of the school population in Wales and the relevance of this to teaching and learning
- current legislation, including an understanding of the Curriculum Cymreig and Welsh language requirements. (Further information on Welsh language requirements at 4.5)
- school students' rights, including their right to a voice in matters that relate to their lives
- the contractual, pastoral and legal responsibilities of teachers
- the history of education and of education policy in Wales
- the current organisation and management of schools in Wales and the tiers of accountability within the system
- the Welsh Government's newly developed ALN Transformation Programme which aims to transform expectations, experiences and outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs.<sup>25</sup>

### **5.6 Professional and pedagogical studies**

Professional and pedagogical studies should draw on theory, research and student teachers' direct experience in schools to develop their knowledge, understanding and practical skills in relation, *inter alia*, to the following:

- classroom management and organisation

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<sup>24</sup> R. Bishop and T. Glynn (2003). *Culture Counts: Changing Power Relationships in Education*

<sup>25</sup> <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/pupilsupport/additoinal-learning-needs-reform/?lang=en>

- the principles of curriculum design
- curriculum planning to meet the needs of *all* learners
- teaching literacy and numeracy effectively
- subject pedagogies and pedagogical content knowledge
- effective communication, including questioning
- the design and use of materials for teaching and learning to stimulate, support and challenge *all* learners
- the use of digital technologies
- meeting the needs of pupils from diverse cultural, linguistic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds to ensure equity
- meeting the needs of pupils with additional learning or other special needs to ensure equity
- the principles of assessment and how to use assessment effectively to support and report on pupils'/students' learning
- the use of data, research evidence and professional enquiry in the development of effective practice
- working collaboratively in the classroom and with colleagues.
- safeguarding

## **5.7 Subject studies**

### **5.7.1 Areas of Learning and Experience**

The new national curriculum in Wales has six Areas of Learning and Experience: expressive arts; health and well-being; humanities; languages, literacy and communication; mathematics and numeracy; and science and technology. All student teachers need to be familiar with these curricular areas, together with their purposes, namely that children and young people develop as:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.<sup>26</sup>

Individual teachers, including subject specialists in secondary schools, will draw upon the different Areas of Learning and Experience in their planning. Teachers should be encouraged to work creatively and collaboratively across subject boundaries, in the context of the four curriculum purposes, aiming to avoid compartmentalisation in subject teaching.

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<sup>26</sup> Welsh Government (2015). *Qualified for life: A curriculum for Wales – a curriculum for life*.



Teachers should be able to help children and young people to make links across their learning, bringing together different aspects to examine, for example, important topics such as citizenship, enterprise, financial capability and sustainability.<sup>27</sup>

Programmes of ITE, therefore, need to ensure that student teachers' subject knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge are at the level they need to engage with the Areas of Learning and Experience and to ensure that pupils/students experience high-quality education.

### 5.7.2 Subject studies content

Subject studies should include:

- knowledge of content appropriate to student teachers' chosen age-phase or subject specialism, including the subject's key concepts, substance and structure
- pedagogical content knowledge, appropriate to age-phase or subject specialism.

Applications for accreditation need to specify how they identify areas of weakness in student teachers' subject knowledge and the explicit support they provide to remedy such weaknesses.

### 5.7.3 Subject studies in different programmes

- Programmes for **primary** teachers must include sufficient study in each of the six areas of learning in the primary school curriculum to equip them to teach across the years of the chosen specialism
- **Undergraduate secondary** programmes must provide sufficient depth and breadth of knowledge for the area or areas that the student teacher intends to teach. These programmes must also include discipline-specific curriculum and pedagogical studies for each area the graduate intends to teach
- **Secondary postgraduate** programmes should prepare student teachers to teach their specialist subject(s) across the full age-range of the secondary school.

## 5.8 Well-being

It is expected that Partnerships will develop approaches to assist aspiring teachers to manage their own wellbeing, as well as their ability to contribute to the wellbeing of the pupils in their care. For both groups, it is important they are supported to overcome barriers to their learning and to help them in having positive physical, social and mental states. For both aspiring teacher and pupil, it is essential that they have a sense of purpose, that they feel able to achieve important personal goals and are able to participate effectively in the life of their school. To ensure this, Partnerships should ensure support for their aspiring teachers with developing effective approaches to safeguarding, supportive personal and school relationships, contributing to strong and inclusive schools, good health, personal security and creating healthy classroom environments.

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<sup>27</sup> Donaldson, G. (2015), *Successful futures – Independent review of curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales*.

ITE programmes should include opportunities for understanding the role of wellbeing in effective learning, including the ability to identify pupils who are at risk of experiencing poor wellbeing, and should provide opportunities for students to examine the most effective models deployed by schools and their partners to improve the wellbeing of all learners.

### **5.9 School experience**

School experience, as with other areas of the ITE programme, should be designed jointly by the HEI and its lead partner schools. It provides a vital opportunity for student teachers to develop their practical teaching skills and to test and develop their own personal theories of teaching and learning. It is therefore an integral part of the teacher education programme.

As far as practicable, student teachers should teach pupils/students in different age groups, including those who have a range of special and additional educational needs, and become familiar with schools across a range of socio-economic, linguistic and cultural contexts. In summary, the school experience will incorporate the following opportunities for student teachers:

- **Teaching**
  - observing and teaching alongside effective teachers
  - teaching jointly with other student teachers, where appropriate
  - increasingly undertaking teaching on their own, particularly in the final period of school experience. Joint teaching is a legitimate and rich method of learning throughout a teacher's career but an ability to teach independently by the end of the ITE program is expected.
- **Mentoring**
  - being provided with a trained mentor
  - being observed and receiving regular feedback.
- **Reflection and Professional Development**
  - having structured opportunities to develop their understanding of whole-school issues
  - affording regular formal opportunities (through, for example, 'learning rounds' or 'lesson study') to interrogate their own and others' teaching in the light of other forms of professional knowledge derived from theory, from research and from practice elsewhere
  - providing opportunities to record their reflections and their own emerging 'theories' of practice in a journal/portfolio.

### **5.10 The Equality Act 2010**

Student teachers should be familiar with the Equality Act 2010, particularly the aspects of it, such as curriculum delivery, which have relevance to schools. ITE programmes must ensure topics are taught in a way that does not subject pupils/students to discrimination and

actively tackles key inequalities. Student teachers should be encouraged to think about the ways they teach so they do not inadvertently discriminate against any pupils/students.<sup>28</sup>

### **5.11 Assessment of student teachers**

Assessment of student teachers is aimed at establishing whether they, student teachers, are developing as fledgling teachers, as intended in the Vision for ITE which underpins the Criteria for ITE programmes. Student teachers' personal and professional growth through their ITE programme is demonstrated in their fulfilment of the Standards for Qualified

Teacher Status (QTS), set out in the Welsh Government's Professional teaching and leadership standards.

The assessment of student teachers should:

- take place throughout the course, with clearly specified progression stages
- include formative and summative assessment
- use a range of measures including observation, discussion, written assignments and action research projects
- involve assessors/examiners internal to the Partnership and independent, external assessors/examiners appointed by the Partnership
- provide for a variety of approaches, e.g. joint evaluation by the student and the teacher educator, self-evaluation and peer evaluation.

Partnerships must ensure that rigorous internal and independent external assessment moderation procedures are in place to assure the reliability and accuracy of assessments. To that end, assessment is underpinned by a system of evidence-based checks and balances within the Partnership, in consultation with external assessors, to ensure that student teachers in different settings are assessed consistently and fairly.

Student teachers must meet the required standards of the school experience element of their ITE Programme if they are to gain their qualification. Student teachers who fail to do so should be offered teaching enrichment and further mentoring before being afforded one further school experience opportunity. A student teacher may have only two opportunities to pass each school experience.

Partnerships should make explicit provision for careers guidance for student teachers who do not reach the expected standard during the programme.

#### **5.11.1 Career entry profile's role in assessment of student teachers**

The Career entry profile (CEP) reflects a combination of individual assessment by the Partnership's teacher educators, joint assessment between teacher educators and student teachers and self-assessment by student teachers.

The CEP is designed to be used flexibly and to support or form part of the recording, reflection and planning processes which arise naturally during ITE. The CEP will help

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<sup>28</sup>Adapted from Equality and Human Rights Commission (2014). *What equality law means for you as an education provider in Wales: guidance for schools*

student teachers, in discussion with their teacher educators, to think about their experience before and during their formal ITE programme, and to identify the key points in relation to their teaching. It also helps them to think about where the focus of their individual future professional development should concentrate in order to:

- reflect and build on the strengths in their practice
- develop aspects of the teacher's role in which they are particularly interested
- provide more experience, or develop expertise, in areas that they have developed to a more limited extent so far.

#### **5.11.2 Improvement through assessment**

Assessment of student teachers provides an opportunity for Partnerships to identify strengths and weaknesses in their programmes. Partnerships need to ensure that internal and external assessors relate the strengths and weaknesses they observe in individual student teachers to possible strengths and weaknesses in the quality of their teacher education programme as a whole. In that context, Partnerships must ensure that issues concerning quality, raised through internal and external assessment, are investigated and addressed to improve student teachers' experiences on the programme.

As well as safeguarding the standard of QTS, assessment should provide evidence to help Partnerships evaluate their own performance and devise plans for improvement. They also need to ask external assessors to make specific recommendations for improvement. They can then use this evidence, together with evidence from other sources, e.g. inspection reports, performance data and student teachers' feedback, to inform their action planning and targets for improvement.

## Section C – Programme outcomes

### 6. Programme outcomes – standards for qualified teacher status

The Welsh Government's Professional teaching and leadership standards are fundamental for all those in education, providing a strong sense of shared purpose. The ITE **programme outcomes** are aligned with the Standards, at the level pertaining to the award of Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). They form the foundation for the continuum of teacher education.

The fulfilment of the Standards for QTS should be considered, understood and assessed in light of the integrated approach to ITE espoused in the Vision for teacher education under Section A of this document. The outcomes of ITE programmes should reflect the Vision for ITE in relation to professional values, curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, the learning environment, the wider context, professional reflection and professional learning networks, leadership and student teachers' commitment to their future professional learning.

#### 6.1 Fulfilment of the standards for qualified teacher status

The professional teaching and leadership standards identify clearly the requirements for entry into the profession and set expectations for development throughout a professional career. Throughout the ITE Programme firm evidence collected will inform judgements about meeting the requirements for QTS Standards. Only those who fulfil the requirements for QTS are awarded QTS. In that context Partnerships will need to consider how they monitor student teachers' progress, give them feedback, review and meet their individual needs, and encourage them to take responsibility for their own development.

The professional teaching and leadership standards are based on five **dimensions** of practice; pedagogy, innovation, collaboration, leadership and professional learning. Each of the five **dimensions** of practice is divided into a number of **elements** which summarise the main focus of the **dimension**. In turn, each **element** is expressed through two **descriptors**. The first descriptor describes the professional practice required on entry to the profession. Professional teaching and leadership standards encourage thought, consideration and conversation about the complexity of the processes of teaching. This allows Standards to be considered more holistically to assess a student teacher against a number of elements and descriptors. For example, observation and discussion of a lesson planned and taught by a student teacher could provide an occasion to assess: aspects of professional disposition and values; teacher-student relationships; subject content knowledge and subject pedagogical knowledge; planning, teaching and assessment strategies, including differentiation; classroom management processes. On the other hand, some Standards will require assessors to look at other evidence e.g. written work, portfolios recording prior achievement, presentations or contributions to tutorials, or observation reports.

Deciding whether a student teacher fulfils the Standards for QTS is a matter of professional judgement, taking into account the student teacher's performance as a whole and all the other relevant evidence.

Questions for ITE Partnerships to consider in relation to the Standards for QTS:

- Do we give student teachers constructive feedback on their progress against the QTS Standards?

- Do opportunities for assessment cover all the QTS Standards?
- Do those carrying out assessment have sufficient evidence to make sound judgements about student teachers' ability to meet the QTS Standards in a range of contexts?
- Do we assess groups of QTS Standards together to avoid an atomistic approach?
- Which QTS Standards can be demonstrated wholly or partly in the classroom or other educational settings?
- Which Standards can be demonstrated by other means, including written assignments?
- Do we monitor student teachers' progress and adjust the ITE Programme where necessary?
- Have all teacher educators engaged in relevant professional development to enable them to assess accurately and consistently against the QTS Standards?

## **6.2 Standards for induction**

During the first year of teaching, the newly qualified teacher (NQT) engages in a statutory Induction process<sup>29</sup> which combines an individualised programme of professional development with an assessment against national Induction standards. Like ITE, Induction is both a distinct phase of professional development and part of the continuum of teacher education.

The Partnerships must ensure that all those who are assessed as meeting the QTS Standards are informed about the induction arrangements for NQTs, and have been helped to prepare for their role in the process. For that purpose, towards the end of an ITE programme, student teachers will be supported in completing a Career Entry Profile (CEP). The CEP is designed to give emergent NQTs a focus for their thinking about how they are developing as teachers, what they have achieved and how they will develop and progress. It also affords a way of drawing on this thinking at the start of the Induction period, and considering it alongside other factors when planning an induction programme. The professional teaching and leadership standards more closely links ITE and induction so that these stages are a process rather than two separate and distinct phases – ensuring that continuity and progression of professional experience is enabled.

The value of the CEP lies in the thinking and discussion about professional development which it supports, not in what is written on the form. It is intended to help student teachers and NQTs to make constructive connections between the beginning phases of their careers, on their journey of life-long learning. They will develop their learning as reflective practitioners who use research in evidence based practices. Accordingly, NQTs are enabled to understand how they can build on progress and evidence from their award of QTS to fulfil the requirements that teachers must meet by the end of their statutory induction.

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<sup>29</sup> The Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (Wales) Regulations 2015

## Glossary

**Accreditation:** The professional accreditation of a Programme of Initial Teacher Education recognises that the programme fulfils the requirements [the accreditation criteria] of the body which admits entry to the teaching profession, i.e., the Education Workforce Council of Wales. It is separate from, but follows, the academic validation of the programme by the qualification awarding body, i.e., the HEI/University.

**Blended Learning:** Blended learning is a term used to describe a combination of face-to-face learning and on-line learning.

**Competences:** Teacher competences encompass the interrelated knowledge, skills, attitudes and dispositions embodied in the teacher's work, the holistic development of which begins during engagement with the programme of initial teacher education.

**Conceptual Framework:** The conceptual framework elucidates the principles, beliefs and values, informed by research and practice, which underpin the design and facilitation of the programme of initial teacher education by the HEI/School Partnership personnel.

**Continuum of Teacher Education:** The continuum of teacher education denotes the journey of lifelong learning by teachers, incorporating initial teacher education, induction into the profession, early years and continuing professional development, with seamless transitions spanning the teaching career.

**Digital Competence:** Digital competence is the set of skills, knowledge and attitudes that enables the confident, creative and critical use of technologies and systems.

**Initial Teacher Education:** Initial Teacher Education (ITE) refers to the first formal programme of preparation for the role of being a teacher, the first step on the continuum of teacher education.

**Mentor:** A mentor is a member of the partner school staff who guides, supports, supervises and provides feedback to student teachers. The mentor, usually a senior member of the school, will be a trained, experienced practitioner either as a phase or subject specialist. Protected time is provided for mentors to undertake the responsibilities and fulfil the duties of their role.

**National Categorisation Process:** The National School Categorisation System in Wales takes into account the leadership, teaching and learning that goes on in Welsh schools, both primary and secondary, based on performance measures, self-evaluation from schools and corroboration of the school's self-evaluation by education consortia Challenge Advisers. The outcome of the performance data and self-evaluation generates a categorisation for each school, determined by consortia, discussed with the school and moderated by a quality assurance and standardisation group to ensure consistency within and across consortia.

**Partnership:** The partnership model of initial teacher education represents a formal arrangement between HEIs and lead partnership schools, underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding, whereby they agree to work collaboratively, as equal partners, in designing and facilitating the programme of initial teacher education.

**Partner Schools:** Lead partner schools will play a prominent part in recruiting student teachers, developing the ITE curriculum and providing development opportunities for HEI staff. They will contribute to leadership within the partnership and play a full part in each programme's quality assurance and self-evaluation. All partner schools have a key role in enabling student teachers to teach, research, reflect and evaluate; they are not to be viewed solely as venues for 'teaching practice'.

**Pupil/Student:** Children and young people in school

**Consortia:** The four school consortia in Wales were formed to help local authorities streamline their school improvement services from 22 to four and to reshape local school improvement functions around four regional consortia and system leaders. Working through a consortia approach adds value to what local authorities can achieve on their own, allowing them to share good practice, knowledge and skills, magnify local strengths and build capacity. The four formal Education Consortia in Wales cover: North Wales; South West and Mid Wales, Central South Wales and South East Wales.

**Student Teacher:** A student teacher, sometimes referred to as a "trainee", is a person who has embarked on a programme of initial teacher education.

**Teacher Educators:** Teacher educators are HEI and school personnel who are engaged in the facilitation of a programme of initial teacher education.



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## **Appendix 1: Estyn and the inspection of ITE in Wales**

Estyn has a unique contribution to make to the maintenance and enhancement of quality of all forms of educational provision in Wales including initial teacher education. It does this in two ways: firstly through its direct inspection of ITE provision itself; secondly through its inspection of schools where ITE is taking place. After the new accreditation procedures outlined in this document have been implemented, Estyn's role in relation to ITE will continue with some modifications to current procedures.

### **Inspection of ITE provision**

Estyn Inspections of ITE provision will be undertaken every five years, ideally one year prior to reaccreditation with the Education Workforce Council (EWC) so that inspection reports can feed into future accreditation exercises. Inspections will be undertaken using a revised inspection framework and guidance that explicitly takes into account the EWC's accreditation framework. The inspection will cover the contribution of all partners in relation to the part they play in the programme for ITE. It will therefore take account of the strengthened levels of responsibility of schools including their role in enabling student teachers to meet the Professional Standards. It will also cover a school's role in the planning and development and joint leadership and management of the ITE programme.

Inspection outcomes will be reported to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and to the Accreditation of Initial School Teacher Training Committee ("The Board") of the EWC.

In addition, Estyn will make an annual visit to all ITE providers. These visits will have distinct purposes depending on the accreditation status of the provider.

Where a particular programme has been granted 'provisional' accreditation by the Board, the inspection will be a formal one, with particular focus on those issues identified as in need of further development before full accreditation is given by the Board. Estyn will report directly to the Board which will then consider whether or not to grant full accreditation. Once a programme has been granted full accreditation by the Board, Estyn will conduct annual 'monitoring' visits. These visits will be conducted on a collegial basis, reporting to the Board. If during these visits, Estyn had serious cause for concern, Estyn may undertake a full inspection.

One further type of inspection may also be undertaken by Estyn: 'Thematic Reviews'. Such reviews, which might be confined to ITE provision or a combination of ITE and school provision, will focus on particular issues such as the teaching of early literacy or responding to additional learning needs. Estyn will not formally report its findings from these reviews to the Board, but they would be made available to them in order to contribute to any ongoing review of the Accreditation Criteria.

### **Inspection of schools where ITE is taking place**

As was noted in the report *'Teaching Tomorrow' Teachers – options for the future of initial teacher education in Wales*, the ability of Estyn fully to recognise the contribution of schools to ITE during school inspections is a key issue in the future development of provision. Under new arrangements for school inspections currently being developed by Estyn, this will now be possible.

From September 2017, Estyn is introducing new, more flexible inspection arrangements for schools, including a slimmer common core inspection model. Under these arrangements,

Estyn inspectors would judge the impact of professional development (including contributions to ITE) on staff effectiveness and on the development of provision. In addition, under 'leadership and management', Estyn would consider how well leaders work with other providers to develop a culture of collaboration and improvement within and across providers. Where relevant, this would include inspecting the school's arrangements for ITE.

The new model will also include a thematic focus. Each year, Estyn will chose themes in areas of national importance to provide a Wales-wide picture for the annual report and to inform thematic reports and advice to the Welsh Government. The thematic focus would provide opportunities for schools providing initial teacher education to demonstrate how they are contributing to the national focus through the professional development of new teachers when relevant.

## Appendix 2: Entry requirements for student teachers in Wales<sup>30</sup>

On entry all accredited ITE course providers must be satisfied that prospective student teachers:

- have the aptitude, capability, and resilience to meet the required QTS outcomes by the end of their ITE programme
- possess the appropriate personal and intellectual qualities to become excellent practitioners
- have achieved the minimum qualification entry requirements for their phase of study/subject including a standard equivalent to a grade B in the GCSE examination in English and/or Welsh and in mathematics to support the Welsh Government's Literacy and Numeracy Framework
- For foundation phase/primary age range ITE programmes of study have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade C in the GCSE examination in a science subject
- Have been vetted to ensure they don't have a criminal background which might prevent them working with children or vulnerable young people, or as an education practitioner; and ensure that student teachers have not previously been barred or excluded from teaching or working with learners (VBS); (safeguarding is a legal requirement)
- can read effectively and is able to communicate clearly and accurately in spoken and written English and/or Welsh
- are assessed on entry as having the appropriate personal functional skills in literacy and numeracy applicable in a professional teaching and learning context
- if undertaking postgraduate courses of ITET hold a first degree of a United Kingdom higher education institution or equivalent qualification<sup>31</sup>
- as part of the selection procedures, and in conjunction with partnering schools, have taken part in aptitude testing and group and individual interview to assess their suitability to become excellent teachers.

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<sup>30</sup> The student entry and selection requirements are minimum standards. Individual accredited ITET providers may have additional criteria they wish to use and can do so providing the minimum criteria are met or exceeded.

<sup>31</sup> Applicants with a Foundation Degree will need to supplement this qualification with at least 60 credits at HE Level 3.