# DRIVING FORWARD PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS



The Standards for Registration: mandatory requirements for Registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland

December 2012

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# **The Standards for Registration**

http://www.gtcs.org.uk/revised-standards



Introduction

The Standard for Provisional Registration (SPR) and The Standard for Full Registration (SFR) are part of the suite of GTC Scotland's Professional Standards which also includes The Standard for Career-Long Professional Learning and The Standards for Leadership and Management. These standards are underpinned by the themes of values, sustainability and leadership. Professional values are at the core of the Standards for Registration. They are integral to, and demonstrated through, all our professional relationships and practices.

'Learning for Sustainability' is a whole-school commitment that helps the school and its wider community develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and practices needed to take decisions which are compatible with a sustainable future in a just and equitable world. Learning for sustainability has been embedded within the Standards for Registration to support teachers in actively embracing and promoting principles and practices of sustainability in all aspects of their work.

All teachers should have opportunities to be leaders. They lead learning for, and with, all learners with whom they engage. They also work with and support the development of colleagues and other partners. The Standards for Registration include a focus on leadership for learning.

The Standard for Provisional Registration specifies what is expected of a student teacher at the end of Initial Teacher Education who is seeking provisional registration with GTC Scotland. Having gained the SPR, all provisionally registered teachers continue their professional learning journey by moving towards the attainment of the Standard for Full Registration. The SFR is the gateway to the profession and the benchmark of teacher competence for all teachers. It must therefore constitute standards of capability in relation to teaching (with such reasonable adjustments as may be required under Equalities Legislation) in which learners, parents, the profession itself and the wider community can have confidence.

The scope of this document is limited to defining the SPR and SFR and does not address in detail how judgements will or should be made. It is not intended that the Professional Actions should be used as a checklist. In broad terms, the person reviewing the work of the teacher needs to be reassured that the capabilities described by the professional standard are achieved. Where it is thought that further development is needed, the Professional Actions provide a focus for what needs to be done.

Having attained the SFR teachers will continue to develop their expertise and experience across all areas of their professional practice through appropriate and sustained career-long professional learning. The Standard for Career-Long Professional Learning has been developed to support teachers choosing to reflect on this standard as part of their professional learning. As they progress through their careers this Standard will help them to identify, plan and develop their own professional learning needs and to ensure continuing development of professional practice.

The requirements of The Standard for Full Registration are in addition to, and follow the successful achievement of, The Standard for Provisional Registration. The purposes of The Standard for Full Registration are:

- \* a clear and concise description of the professional qualities and capabilities probationer teachers are expected to attain;
- a professional standard against which reliable and consistent recommendations and decisions can be made on the fitness of new teachers for full registration with GTC Scotland;
- a clear and concise description of the professional qualities and capabilities fully registered teachers are expected to maintain and enhance throughout their careers;
- a baseline standard of professional competence which applies to teachers throughout their careers.



Elements of all of the standards are organised into inter-related categories with Professional Values and Personal Commitment at the heart.

These elements are inherently linked to each other in the development of teachers, and one aspect does not exist independently of the others. It is this inter-relationship among all of the categories which develops a teacher's understanding, practice and professionalism.

During this early phase, there should be clear evidence of the development and consolidation of knowledge, understanding, skills and abilities.

# 1 Professional Values and Personal Commitment

The Professional Values and Personal Commitment should be read in conjunction with the GTC Scotland Student Teacher Code and Code of Professionalism and Conduct (COPAC).

Professional values are at the core of the Professional Standards. The educational experiences of all our learners are shaped by the values and dispositions of all those who work to educate them. Values are complex and are the ideals by which we shape our practice as professionals. Starting with us as individuals, values extend to all those for whom we are responsible and to the world in which we live.

They drive an unswerving personal commitment to all learners' intellectual, social and ethical growth and well-being. They are integral to, and demonstrated through, all our professional relationships and practices and all that we do to meet our professional commitments and obligations as teachers registered with GTC Scotland.

Professionalism also implies the need to ask critical questions of educational policies and practices and to examine our attitudes and beliefs. Values, and the connections between values and practices, need to be regularly re-appraised over the course of teachers' careers as society and the needs of learners change and as understanding develops. This is central to the adaptability, responsiveness and relevance of the profession.

The Professional Values and Personal Commitment core to being a teacher are:

# Social justice

- Embracing locally and globally the educational and social values of sustainability, equality and justice and recognising the rights and responsibilities of future as well as current generations.
- Committing to the principles of democracy and social justice through fair, transparent, inclusive and sustainable policies and practices in relation to: age, disability, gender and gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion and belief and sexual orientation.
- Valuing as well as respecting social, cultural and ecological diversity and promoting the principles and practices of local and global citizenship for all learners.
- Demonstrating a commitment to engaging learners in real world issues to enhance learning experiences and outcomes, and to encourage learning our way to a better future.

 Respecting the rights of all learners as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and their entitlement to be included in decisions regarding their learning experiences and have all aspects of their well-being developed and supported.

# Integrity

- Demonstrating openness, honesty, courage and wisdom.
- Critically examining personal and professional attitudes and beliefs and challenging assumptions and professional practice.
- Critically examining the connections between personal and professional attitudes and beliefs, values and practices to effect improvement and, when appropriate, bring about transformative change in practice.

# Trust and Respect

- Acting and behaving in ways that develop a culture of trust and respect through, for example, being trusting and respectful
  of others within the school, and with all those involved in influencing the lives of learners in and beyond the learning
  community.
- Providing and ensuring a safe and secure environment for all learners within a caring and compassionate ethos and with an understanding of wellbeing.
- Demonstrating a commitment to motivating and inspiring learners, acknowledging their social and economic context, individuality and specific learning needs and taking into consideration barriers to learning.

## Professional Commitment

- Engaging with all aspects of professional practice and working collegiately with all members of our educational communities with enthusiasm, adaptability and constructive criticality.
- Committing to lifelong enquiry, learning, professional development and leadership as core aspects of professionalism and collaborative practice.

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# 2 Professional Knowledge and Understanding

# 2.1 Curriculum

The Standard for Full Registration						
2.1.1 Have knowledge and understanding of the nature of the curriculum and its development						
Professional Actions						
Registered teachers:						
have secure and detailed understanding of the principles of curriculum design and can apply them in any setting where learning takes place;						
have secure working knowledge and detailed understanding of the processes of change and development in the curriculum;						
know how to identify and highlight connections with other curricular areas, stages or sectors, promoting learning beyond subject boundaries.						
2.1.2 Have knowledge and understanding of the relevant area(s) of pre-school, primary or secondary curriculum						
Professional Actions						
Registered teachers:						
have detailed knowledge and understanding of the theory and practical skills required in curricular areas, referring to local and national guidance;						
know how to match and apply the level of the curricular areas to the needs of all learners;						

- understand the importance of using and designing materials for teaching and learning to stimulate, support and challenge all learners;
- know how to use, design and adapt materials for teaching and learning which stimulate, support and challenge all learners;
- know how to develop realistic and coherent interdisciplinary contexts for learning, particularly in relation to sustainability.
- know how to work collaboratively with colleagues to facilitate interdisciplinary learning;
- know how to work with the local and global community to develop realistic and coherent interdisciplinary contexts for learning, particularly in relation to sustainability.

## 2.1.3 Have knowledge and understanding of planning coherent and progressive teaching programmes

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

# know how to plan for effective teaching and learning across different contexts and experiences;

know and understand how to justify what is taught within curricular areas in relation to the curriculum and the relevance to the needs of all learners.

### **Professional Actions**

### Registered teachers:

- know how to plan systematically for effective teaching and learning across different contexts and experiences;
- have a secure working knowledge and detailed understanding to justify what is taught within the curricular areas, in relation to the curriculum and the relevance to the needs of all learners;
- understand their role as leaders of curriculum development.

# 2.1.4 Have knowledge and understanding of contexts for learning to fulfil their responsibilities in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and interdisciplinary learning

#### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

know how to promote and support the cognitive, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of all learners in their care, and show commitment to raising these learners' expectations of themselves;

#### **Professional Actions**

# Registered teachers:

know how to promote and support the cognitive, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of all learners, and demonstrate a commitment to raising all learners' expectations of themselves;

- know how to apply knowledge and understanding of areas of the curriculum which contribute to personal and social development and health and wellbeing;
- have knowledge and understanding of current guidance on the use of digital technologies in schools and know how to use digital technologies to enhance teaching and learning;
- know and understand the content of the curriculum in relation to literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing as set out in national guidance;
- know and understand the methods and underlying theories for effective teaching of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing; and select the most appropriate methods to meet all learners' needs;
- have knowledge and understanding of current educational priorities such as learning for sustainability.

- have knowledge and understanding of areas of the curriculum which contribute to personal and social development and health and wellbeing;
- have secure knowledge and understanding of current guidance on the use of digital technologies in schools and know how to use digital technologies competently to enhance teaching and learning;
- have appropriate and increasing knowledge and understanding of the content of the curriculum in relation to literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing as set out in national guidance;
- have secure knowledge and understanding of the methods and underlying theories for effective teaching of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing; and effectively select the most appropriate methods to meet all learners' needs;
- have secure knowledge of current educational priorities such as learning for sustainability.

# 2.1.5 Have knowledge and understanding of the principles of assessment, recording and reporting

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

- know and understand that the principles of assessment, recording and reporting are integral to the process of teaching and learning;
- know and understand how to use the principles of assessment, record assessments appropriately, use assessment information to review progress, inform teaching and learning, identify next steps and produce clear, informed and sensitive reports.

### **Professional Actions**

- know and understand how to apply the principles of assessment, recording and reporting as an integral part of the teaching process;
- have extensive knowledge and a secure understanding of the principles of assessment, methods of recording assessment information, the use of assessment in reviewing progress, in improving teaching and learning, identifying next steps and the need to produce clear, informed and sensitive reports;
- have knowledge and understanding of the GIRFEC National Practice Model and how to apply this to support teaching and learning;

have extensive knowledge and a secure understanding of the assessment requirements of the major awarding and accrediting bodies.

# 2.2 Education Systems and Professional Responsibilities

The Standard for Provisional Registration	The Standard for Full Registration					
2.2.1 Have knowledge and understanding of the principal features of the education system, educational policy and practice						
Professional Actions	Professional Actions					
Student teachers:	Registered teachers:					
develop an understanding of the principal influences on Scottish education and develop awareness of international systems;	have an understanding of the principal influences on Scottish education and international systems and understand the contribution and impact of these systems on teaching and learning;					
develop an understanding of current, relevant legislation and guidance such as the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act (2000), Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, the Equality Act 2010 and GIRFEC;	have an understanding of current, relevant legislation and guidance such the Standards in Scotland's Schools etc Act (2000), Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, the Equality Act 2010 and GIRFEC;					
develop an understanding of the legal and professional aspects of a teacher's position of trust in relation to learners.	have an understanding of the legal and professional aspects of a teacher's position of trust in relation to learners and how these affect his/her daily responsibilities.					

# 2.2.2 Have knowledge and understanding of the schools and learning communities in which they teach and their own professional responsibilities within them

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

- develop an understanding of the sector and schools in which they are working, including: the role of education authorities, the organisation and management of schools and resources, improvement planning, professional review and development and how these connect to teachers' professional practice;
- have a working knowledge of the teacher's contractual, pastoral and legal responsibilities;
- have an awareness of and respect for a school's distinctive ethos;
- have an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all staff within the learning community.

### **Professional Actions**

- have secure working knowledge and detailed understanding of the sector and schools in which they are working, including: the role of education authorities, the organisation and management of schools and resources, improvement planning, professional review and development and how these connect to teachers' professional practice;
- have secure working knowledge and detailed understanding of their contractual, pastoral and legal responsibilities as teachers;
- understand the importance of making a commitment to the distinctive ethos in all areas of the learning community;
- have secure knowledge and detailed understanding of their own role and responsibilities as teachers in relation to all staff within the learning community, other partner agencies and parents' organisations.

## 2.3 Pedagogical Theories and Practice

### The Standard for Provisional Registration The Standard for Full Registration 2.3.1 Have knowledge and understanding of relevant educational principles and pedagogical theories to inform professional practices **Professional Actions Professional Actions** Registered teachers: Student teachers: ♦ have knowledge and understanding of the stages of learners' have secure knowledge and detailed understanding of the stages of cognitive, social and emotional development which they are able to learners' cognitive, social and emotional development which they are use to take account of all learners' needs: able to use to take an holistic account of all learners' needs; ♦ have knowledge and understanding of learning theories and the have secure knowledge and detailed understanding of learning importance of these in planning, teaching and learning; theories and draw on these systematically in planning, teaching and learning: have knowledge and understanding of the ways in which natural, have knowledge and understanding of the ways in which natural, social, cultural, political and economic systems function and of how social, cultural, political and economic systems function and of how they are interconnected to professional practice. they are interconnected. 2.3.2 Have knowledge and understanding of the importance of research and engagement in professional enquiry **Professional Actions Professional Actions** Student teachers: Registered teachers: \* know how to access and apply relevant findings from educational \* know how to access and apply relevant findings from educational research: research: know how to engage critically in enquiry, research and evaluation know how to engage appropriately in the systematic investigation of individually or collaboratively, and apply this in order to improve practice. teaching and learning.

# 3 Professional Skills and Abilities

# 3.1 Teaching and Learning

The Standard for Provisional Registration	The Standard for Full Registration					
3.1.1 Plan coherent, progressive and stimulating teaching programmes which match learners' needs and abilities						
Professional Actions	Professional Actions					
Student teachers:	Registered teachers:					
plan appropriately for effective teaching and in order to meet the needs of all learners, including learning in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and skills for learning, life and work.	plan appropriately, in different contexts and over differing timescales, for effective teaching and learning in order to meet the needs of all learners, including learning in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and skills for learning, life and work.					
3.1.2 Communicate effectively and interact productively with learners, individually and collectively						
Professional Actions	Professional Actions					
Student teachers:	Registered teachers:					
model appropriate levels of literacy and numeracy in their own professional practice;	model appropriate levels of literacy and numeracy in their own professional practice;					
use communication methods, including a variety of media, to promote and develop positive relationships and to motivate and sustain the interest of all learners;	use a range of communication methods, including a variety of media, to promote and develop positive relationships to motivate and sustain the interest and participation of all learners;					
<ul> <li>communicate appropriately with all learners, and promote competence and confidence in literacy;</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>communicate appropriately with all learners, and promote competence and confidence in literacy;</li> </ul>					
demonstrate effective questioning strategies;	demonstrate effective questioning strategies varied to meet the needs of all learners, in order to enhance teaching and learning;					

- communicate the purpose of the learning and give explanations at the appropriate level(s) for all learners;
- stimulate learner participation in debate and decision-making about issues which are open-ended, complex, controversial or emotional;
- \* reflect on the impact of their personal method of communication on learners and others in the classroom.
- communicate the purpose of the learning and give effective explanations at the appropriate level(s) for all learners;
- create opportunities to stimulate learner participation in debate and decision-making about issues which are open-ended, complex, controversial or emotional;
- reflect on the impact of their personal method of communication on learners and others in the learning community.

### 3.1.3 Employ a range of teaching strategies and resources to meet the needs and abilities of learners

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

- demonstrate that they can select creative and imaginative strategies for teaching and learning appropriate to learners as individuals, groups or classes;
- demonstrate that they can select and use a wide variety of resources and teaching approaches, including digital technologies and outdoor learning opportunities;
- demonstrate the ability to justify and evaluate professional practice, and take action to improve the impact on all learners.

### **Professional Actions**

- consistently select creative and imaginative strategies for teaching and learning appropriate to the interests and needs of all learners, as individuals, groups or classes;
- skilfully deploy a wide variety of innovative resources and teaching approaches, including digital technologies and, where appropriate, actively seeking outdoor learning opportunities;
- justify consistently and evaluate competently professional practice, and take action to improve the impact on all learners;
- create opportunities for learning to be transformative in terms of challenging assumptions and expanding world views.

# 3.1.4 Have high expectations of all learners

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

- develop tasks and set pace of work to meet the needs of learners, providing effective support and challenge, seeking advice appropriately;
- demonstrate an awareness of barriers to learning, recognising when to seek further advice in relation to all learners' needs.

### **Professional Actions**

## Registered teachers:

- ensure learning tasks are varied, differentiated and devised to build confidence and promote progress of all learners, providing effective support and challenge;
- identify effectively barriers to learning and respond appropriately, seeking advice in relation to all learners' needs as required;
- show commitment to raising learners' expectations of themselves and others and their level of care for themselves, for others and for the natural world.

## 3.1.5 Work effectively in partnership in order to promote learning and wellbeing

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

- ensure learners contribute to planning and enhancement of their own learning programmes;
- demonstrate an ability to work co-operatively in the classroom and the wider learning community with staff, parents and partner agencies to promote learning and wellbeing.

### **Professional Actions**

- establish a culture where learners meaningfully participate in decisions related to their learning and their school;
- create and sustain appropriate working relationships with all staff, parents and partner agencies to support learning and wellbeing, taking a lead role when appropriate.

3.2 Classroom Organisation and Management

The Standard for Provisional Registration	The Standard for Full Registration					
3.2.1 Create a safe, caring and purposeful learning environment						
Professional Actions	Professional Actions					
Student teachers:	Registered teachers:					
plan and provide a safe, well organised learning environment, including effective use of display;	ensure their classroom or work area is safe, well-organised, well-managed and stimulating, with effective use of display regularly updated;					
make appropriate use of available space to accommodate whole- class lessons, group and individual work and promote independent learning;	plan and organise effectively available space to facilitate whole-class lessons, group and individual work and promote independent learning;					
use outdoor learning opportunities, including direct experiences of nature and other learning within and beyond the school boundary;	use outdoor learning opportunities, including direct experiences of nature and other learning within and beyond the school boundary;					
organise and manage classroom resources and digital technologies to support teaching and learning;	enable learners to make full use of well-chosen resources, including digital technologies to support teaching and learning;					
know about and be able to apply health and safety regulations as appropriate to their role.	know about and apply appropriately health and safety regulations as an integral part of professional practice.					
3.2.2 Develop positive relationships and positive behaviour strategies						
Professional Actions	Professional Actions					
Student teachers:	Registered teachers:					
demonstrate care and commitment to working with all learners;	demonstrate care and commitment to working with all learners;					
demonstrate knowledge and understanding of wellbeing indicators;	demonstrate a secure knowledge and understanding of the wellbeing indicators;					

- show awareness of educational research and local and national advice, and demonstrate the ability to use a variety of strategies to build relationships with learners, promote positive behaviour and celebrate success;
- apply the school's positive behaviour policy, including strategies for understanding and preventing bullying;
- know how and when to seek the advice of colleagues in managing behaviour;
- demonstrate the ability to justify the approach taken in managing behaviour.

- show in-depth awareness of educational research and local and national advice, and use in a consistent way, a variety of strategies to build relationships with learners, promote positive behaviour and celebrate success;
- implement consistently the school's positive behaviour policy including strategies for understanding and preventing bullying, and manage pupil behaviour in and around the school, in a fair, sensitive and informed manner;
- seek and use advice from colleagues and promoted staff, as appropriate, in managing behaviour;
- evaluate and justify their approaches to managing behaviour and, when necessary, be open to new approaches to adapt them;
- recognise when a learner's behaviour may signify distress requiring the need for further support, and take appropriate action.

# 3.3 Pupil Assessment

# **The Standard for Provisional Registration**

# The Standard for Full Registration

# 3.3.1 Use assessment, recording and reporting as an integral part of the teaching process to support and enhance learning

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

- use a range of approaches for formative and summative assessment purposes, appropriate to the needs of all learners and the requirements of the curriculum and awarding and accrediting bodies;
- enable all learners to engage in self-evaluation and peer assessment to benefit learning;

### **Professional Actions**

- systematically develop and use an extensive range of strategies, approaches and associated materials for formative and summative assessment purposes, appropriate to the needs of all learners and the requirements of the curriculum and awarding and accrediting bodies;
- enable all learners to engage in self evaluation and peer assessment to benefit learning;

- record assessment information to enhance teaching and learning;
- use the results of assessment to identify strengths and development needs which lead to further learning opportunities.
- record assessment information in a systematic and meaningful way in order to enhance teaching and learning and fulfil the requirements of the curriculum and awarding bodies;
- use the results of assessment to identify development needs at class, group and individual level and as a basis for dialogue with learners about their progress and targets;
- produce clear and informed reports for parents and other agencies which discuss learners' progress and matters related to personal, social and emotional development in a sensitive and constructive way.

# 3.4 Professional Reflection and Communication

The Standard for Provisional Registration	The Standard for Registration					
3.4.1 Read and critically engage with professional literature, educational research and policy						
Professional Actions	Professional Actions					
Student teachers:	Registered teachers:					
read and analyse a range of appropriate educational and research literature;	read, analyse and critically evaluate a range of appropriate educational and research literature;					
use what they have learned from reading and research to challenge and inform practice.	systematically engage with research and literature to challenge and inform professional practice.					

## 3.4.2 Engage in reflective practice to develop and advance career-long professional learning and expertise

### **Professional Actions**

### Student teachers:

- reflect and engage in self evaluation using the relevant professional standard;
- adopt an enquiring approach to their professional practice and engage in professional enquiry and professional dialogue;
- evaluate their classroom practice, taking account of feedback from others, in order to enhance teaching and learning;
- engage where possible in the processes of curriculum development, improvement planning and professional review and development;
- work collaboratively to share their professional learning and development with colleagues;
- maintain a record of their own professional learning and development, culminating in an Initial Professional Development Action Plan.

### **Professional Actions**

- reflect and engage in self evaluation using the relevant professional standard;
- demonstrate an enquiring and critical approach to their professional practice and development and engage in systematic professional dialogue;
- evaluate, and adapt their classroom practice rigorously and systematically, taking account of feedback from others, to enhance teaching and learning;
- demonstrate constructive participation and engagement with curriculum development, improvement planning and professional review and development;
- work collaboratively to contribute to the professional learning and development of colleagues, including students, through offering support and constructive advice and through disseminating experience and expertise, seeking opportunities to lead learning;
- maintain an effective record and portfolio of their own professional learning and development and a professional development action plan, including analysis of impact on learners and on own professional practices.

GTC Scotland aims to promote equality and diversity in all its activities

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