



Department
for Education

DfE policy statement regarding COVID-19 for all ITT partnerships

People already in teacher training

The following position has been agreed by DfE in relation to the potential impact of COVID-19 on Initial Teacher Training courses. It relates to programmes of ITT leading to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in England which are due to conclude at the end of the 2019/20 academic year.

As we ask people to stay at home to reduce the burden on the NHS and help it save lives, we would advise providers to, where possible, continue to deliver their ITT courses online by distributing resources. However, we recognise that there will be disruption to ITT courses due to the closure of schools and other institutions. Therefore, DfE will enable ITT providers to make judgements on trainees based on assessments already completed and each trainee's current trajectory of progress towards meeting the Teachers' Standards. Trainees making progress towards the Teachers' Standards should be recommended for QTS, where the ITT provider judges that the trainee would have completed their ITT course successfully.

Further guidance will be provided as soon as possible for those trainees not judged to be making adequate progress and who were unlikely to have met the Teachers' Standards by the end of their ITT course.

ITT providers must inform trainees of these arrangements and keep them informed of their status for the remaining duration of their course.

DfE is proposing amendments to legislation, subject to the will of Parliament, and to supporting guidance to enable this approach. This is alongside, but may not be limited to, changes to the ITT criteria and supporting advice to provide assurance that providers will not be found non-compliant when making judgements as described above. For example, the temporary removal of C2.4 (All accredited ITT providers must ensure that each trainee teacher has taught in at least two schools).

The ITT criteria and supporting advice can be viewed on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-training-criteria>.

Arrangements for assessments of academic awards such as PGCEs should be agreed with the awarding body.

Recruitment to training courses starting in the 20/21 academic year

As everyone stays at home to ease the pressure on the NHS and help save lives, we encourage ITT providers to continue recruiting to ITT courses due to start in the next academic year. Providers should consider how they can adapt their normal

recruitment practices to abide by social distancing guidance. For example, providers should consider remote interviews and the removal of any classroom exercises.

We will provide further advice and support on managing current trainees and recruitment to new ITT courses in due course.