

What does GTCS do for me?

We work closely with our partners and stakeholders in order to achieve all of our strategic objectives

The General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) was one of the first teaching councils in the world when it was set up in 1965. In 2012, legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament made it the world's first independent, self-regulating body for teaching.

Funded by annual registration fees paid by teachers, lecturers and other education professionals, we:

- Maintain the register of teachers in Scotland
- Set the Professional Standards expected of all teachers
- Investigate and adjudicate on the Fitness to Teach of registrants through our robust and fair regulation processes
- Support the successful operation of the Teacher Induction Scheme
- Manage the scheme of Professional Update, which launched in August 2014
- Operate and promote Professional Recognition to support teachers' expertise and experience
- Operate and maintain the Student Placement System
- Accredit programmes leading to the award of GTCS Standards, including Initial Teacher Education at Scottish universities
- Advise the Scottish Government on matters relating to Scotland's teachers
- Promote and support the profession through a range of seminars, conferences and research
- Offer a dedicated MyGTCS account to all registrants enabling them to log professional learning and access a range of support tools.

Strategic Objective 1

Act in the public interest to ensure confidence in our registrants

Every teacher in a Scottish state school must be registered with GTCS. This is an essential component in helping reassure the general public, parents, children and employers that teachers meet the high standards expected of professionals. We process thousands of applications each year from students, people returning to teaching and teachers who qualified outside Scotland.

During registration we check that you are a member of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. This is an essential component of ensuring our children and young people are safe and secure.

Once registered you pay an annual registration fee, which is set by the Council of GTCS. Keeping your contact details up-to-date with GTCS is required if you are to remain on the register.

For more on registration, visit: www.gtcs.org.uk/registration or email registration@gtcs.org.uk

Fitness to Teach

Our Fitness to Teach processes are built around several important values – protecting young people and their educational wellbeing, the reputation of Scotland's teachers, lecturers and other education professionals, and the public's trust in the teaching profession.

We regulate teachers in line with best regulatory practice principles and in the public interest.

As part of our duties we publish a Code of Professionalism and Conduct that sets out behavioural standards for the whole profession. And when it is required we operate a fair and transparent Fitness to Teach process, which includes investigations and hearings.

For more on Fitness to Teach, visit: www.gtcs.org.uk/fitness-to-teach or email fitnesstoteach@gtcs.org.uk

Strategic Objective 2

Set standards and promote high-quality professional learning for registrants at all stages of their careers

Our suite of Professional Standards supports teachers in their day-to-day work and career aspirations. Today's teachers must be critically informed, possess professional values and knowledge, and take action that has a positive impact on learners and learning. These principles shape our Standards, which aim to reflect changes in education and society.

For more on our Professional Standards, visit: www.gtcs.org.uk/standards or email standards@gtcs.org.uk

The Standards are:

- The Standards for Registration
- The Standard for Career-Long Professional Learning
- The Standards for Leadership and Management.

The principles and values laid out in our Professional Standards provide a framework and benchmarks that allow teachers to manage their development throughout their careers.

Strategic Objective 3

Strengthen our role in enhancing professionalism in education

We have forged a comprehensive support network for people entering the teaching profession. As well as working with universities, we provide support and guidance for students, probationers and early phase teachers. We administer the Teacher Induction Scheme which gives a guaranteed one-year training post to every eligible student who graduates with a teaching qualification from a Scottish university.

For more on this work, visit: www.in2teaching.org.uk

Professional Update launched in August 2014. With its focus on continuous improvement, its aim is to support, maintain and enhance teachers' continued professionalism through professional learning. We also award Professional Recognition, recognising the expertise and experience of teachers, and we offer access to a range of education research publications via the EBSCO service on MyGTCS.

For more on Professional Update, visit: www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update

Strategic Objective 4

Continue to improve our organisational effectiveness and capability

We are an engine for change, playing a leading role in developing education in Scotland and maintaining its excellent reputation across the world. We accredit Initial Teacher Education programmes in Scottish universities, making sure graduates have the skills and values to become successful teachers.

By providing data and analysis from our register of teachers, we help the development of the profession.

We are active in various cross-agency groups, working to support and improve education in Scotland, such as the National Implementation Board for Teaching Scotland's Future.

And we share our pioneering work with countries across the UK and the rest of the world, helping them develop their own professional practice while learning ourselves in the process.

For more on this work, visit: www.gtcs.org.uk

Active and engaged

We offer a range of support services to teachers, including three informative websites and Teaching Scotland magazine, which issues five times a year to everyone on the teaching register.

We host regular events, including our National Lecture, which brings inspirational speakers to the profession, and on a weekly basis our staff attend seminars and conferences across the country leading sessions and answering questions about our work.

For more online news and features, visit: www.teachingscotland.org.uk

The Council's pivotal role

GTCS is governed by a Council made up of 19 elected teachers, 11 nominees from stakeholder groups and seven appointed lay members. Council members serve for four years and election/reappointment processes take place every two years when half of the members step down. The Council sets GTCS policy.

For more on the GTCS Council, visit: www.gtcs.org.uk/council

How the registration fee is spent

GTCS registrants are eligible to claim tax relief on their registration fee. More information can be found on the HMRC website: www.hmrc.gov.uk

