

A large, light grey stopwatch graphic is centered on the page. Inside the stopwatch's circular face is a light blue circle containing a white play button icon. Overlaid on this graphic is the main title text in a large, bold, black sans-serif font.

Professional Update is coming...

... get yourself ready

Professional Update will be introduced for all teachers in August 2014. It aims to support, maintain and enhance teachers' continued professionalism

THE KEY PURPOSES OF A SYSTEM OF PROFESSIONAL UPDATE ARE:



To maintain and improve the quality of teachers as outlined in the Professional Standards and enhance the impact they have on pupils' learning.



To support, maintain and enhance teachers' continued professionalism and the reputation of the teaching profession in Scotland.

Turn over to find out more >>


CHECKLIST

From August 2014, engagement in the Professional Update process will be a requirement for registration with GTC Scotland. To remain a fully registered teacher, you are required to:

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS EVERY YEAR

 The easiest way to do this is via your MyGTCS account. To create an account, go to www.gtcs.org.uk/mygtcs and follow instructions to sign up.

ENGAGE IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

 Professional learning is what teachers do to ensure their professional knowledge and practice is informed, up-to-date and stimulating. It is important that professional learning provides rich opportunities for teachers to develop and enhance their professional knowledge and practice, in order to progress the quality of learning and teaching and school improvement. www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-learning

We know that some supply teachers can have difficulty accessing aspects of professional learning and the Professional

Review and Development (PRD) process. We are monitoring this as part of the pilot programmes, and will publish further guidance for supply teachers prior to the national roll out of Professional Update in August 2014.

Equally, some registered teachers who are working outwith the education system may not have access to appropriate professional learning. We are working on guidance for such teachers, to help ensure that they will be able to participate in the Professional Update process. This will be published on www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update

SELF-EVALUATE USING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS


 The GTC Scotland Professional Standards offer support for teachers as they develop their professional knowledge and skills through on-going self-evaluation and professional learning. The Standards for Registration provide a gate-keeping function for entry into teaching in Scotland and Full Registration continues to be the



Above: Professional Learning is key to the Professional Update process

baseline Professional Standard for competence. For teachers who have achieved the Standard for Full Registration, we have developed the aspirational Standard for Career-long Professional Learning and the Standards for Leadership and Management to support their ongoing development. As the revised Standards have been designed to meet the needs of teachers at all career stages working in Scotland's schools, all aspects of the Standards may not be relevant to teachers working outwith the school system – we are developing further guidance notes and support materials to cover these circumstances. www.gtcs.org.uk/standards

DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN THE PRD PROCESS

 Professional Update is based on effective, consistent PRD and high-quality professional learning focused on outcomes for a teacher's own development as well as aiming to improve outcomes for children and young people. We know that, where PRD operates successfully, it provides a valuable opportunity for teachers to reflect on their practice and to consider how they can improve their professional skills and knowledge. GTC Scotland has a validating role in this process, helping to ensure

that local authority PRD systems are robust and that teachers are enabled to demonstrate the skills they already have as well as to learn new ones. Guidelines are available on the Education Scotland website: www.educationscotland.gov.uk


MAINTAIN A RECORD

 Maintaining a record of Professional Learning, along with a portfolio of evidence, is an integral part of the Professional Update process. We are currently exploring a range of possibilities for recording professional learning, including an online profile linked to MyGTCS. We are working to ensure this process is neither bureaucratic nor time consuming.

The system of recording that you will use for the purposes of Professional Update will vary depending on where you are currently employed. Teachers employed in local authorities will receive further information from their employers about the systems in place in their authority.

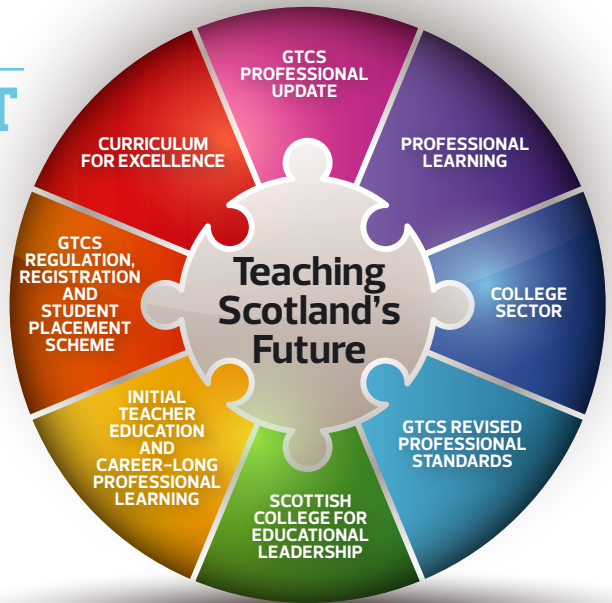
We are also looking at how these may be used by supply teachers working across a number of local authorities and by teachers currently employed in roles outwith the education system.

FIVE-YEARLY CONFIRMATION OF THIS ENGAGEMENT

 Engagement in Professional Update is an ongoing process, with professional learning and PRD at its heart. Every five years, teachers will be required to confirm their engagement in this process with GTC Scotland. Like the professional learning record, this will be completed in a number of ways depending on the system applicable to you – MyGTCS or another online system (e.g. Gateway, SOPRA). We recognise that there will be circumstances which may make completion of the process within the designated timescale difficult, such as career breaks or extended leave, and we are developing clear guidelines for deferral processes.

THE CONTEXT

Professional Update is aligned to a number of changes being made in Scottish Education to build a world-class system for all children and young people.



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?



There are documents, resources and frequently asked questions available on our dedicated website:

www.gtcs.org.uk/professional-update



You can also look out for regular features and updates in GTC Scotland's Teaching Scotland magazine and

www.teachingscotland.org.uk