



NAPE

National Association for Primary Education

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Media Release

Qualified Teacher Status and the Future

This association with a first concern for the quality of primary education welcomes the assurance given by Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education, at the Inaugural Conference of the College of Teaching that Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) will not be scrapped or replaced “on my watch”. Teachers and parents everywhere are supportive of the Secretary of State’s further affirmation that keeping and strengthening QTS is vital because it is the foundation stone for the teaching profession to build on.

A strengthened QTS will be introduced in September 2019 and the National Association for Primary Education offers the following advice for the consideration of the DfE.

Initial training should be a full time two year university centred course for students possessing graduate or equivalent status. Approximately half the course should be spent in schools which partner the universities in providing supervised experience in the classroom. Qualified teacher certification should be awarded following the successful completion of a third induction year. The status of students engaged in the second year of post graduate study should be equivalent to that of junior doctors but they should only teach when supervised. The induction year should be monitored and probationer student teachers may teach unsupervised on condition that the mentor is on easy call.

While current staffing problems persist the government should consider the introduction of the emergency training of mature students, preferably those with substantial and relevant work experience such as teaching assistants, extending over a university centred year of 46 weeks of study. A further induction year of successful teaching as a probationer would be required before the award of qualified teacher certification. We strongly advise that Early Years teachers in schools should continue to be required to have QTS.

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