

# APPENDIX 5 - Report

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| Report to:       | <b>Education Resources Committee</b>            |
| Date of Meeting: | <b>21 May 2024</b>                              |
| Report by:       | <b>Executive Director (Education Resources)</b> |

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| Subject: | <b>Response to Consultation on proposed changes to the GTCS Memorandum on Entry Requirements to Programmes of Initial Teacher Education in Scotland</b> |
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update Committee on the response to the consultation on the proposed changes to the GTCS Memorandum on the Entry Requirements to Programmes of Initial Teacher Education (ITE) in Scotland.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) to note the response to the Consultation on proposed changes to the GTCS Memorandum on Entry Requirements to Programmes of Initial Teacher Education in Scotland.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. As the independent registration and regulation body for teachers in Scotland, the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) sets the standards for entering and remaining on the register of teachers.
- 3.2. Since 1965, a Memorandum on Entry Requirements for Initial Teacher Education (ITE) programmes in Scotland (the Memorandum) has been published. Originally this was done on an annual basis but latterly it was issued less frequently.
- 3.3. The Memorandum sets the minimum entry requirement for students' entry to ITE programmes in Scotland.
- 3.4. GTC Scotland ensures that these requirements are met through the application of the Memorandum and through the subsequent accreditation of all programmes of ITE in Scotland.
- 3.5. The current version of the Memorandum was issued by the GTCS in 2019. By engaging positively and proactively with Higher Education Institutions and others, GTCS gain insight into how the Memorandum is working in practice, and where changes could bring improvements.
- 3.6. The GTCS have recently concluded a review of informal feedback from partners and interested parties on potential changes to the Memorandum. Informed by this, in

September 2023 local authorities were asked to engage in phase 1 of their review - targeted formal consultation with partners around the proposed changes.

- 3.7. Following phase 1 of their review, a draft of the new Memorandum, accompanied by an Equality Impact Assessment, will be developed and presented to GTC Scotland's Council for their consideration and approval. Thereafter, the draft of the new Memorandum will go out for public consultation.

#### **4. GTCS Memorandum on the Entry Requirements to Programmes of Initial Teacher Education in Scotland**

- 4.1. GTCS are proposing limited changes to the Memorandum to ensure:

- the Memorandum remains relevant and fit for purpose;
- the content of the Memorandum is sufficiently comprehensive and clear to all stakeholders;
- that ITE applicants can use the Memorandum confidently to determine whether they meet with the minimum entry requirements when applying to join an ITE programme; and
- ITE providers can provide up to date information in their literature to guide potential applicants on the expectations of the minimum entry requirements for ITE programmes.

- 4.2. The response to the consultation can be found below.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. None

#### **7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. None

#### **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. None

#### **9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1. None

**Carole McKenzie**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

1 May 2024

#### **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Education and learning: inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships

#### **Previous References**

None

## **List of Background Papers**

None

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Jacqueline Wallace, Head of Education (Early Years and Primary)

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## **Review of the Memorandum on Entry Requirements to Programmes of ITE in Scotland Consultation on proposed changes to the Memorandum**

### **Privacy Statement**

For this consultation we intend to publish a summary report of the responses that we receive. If we quote from individual responses in our summary report, these will be unattributed. Please be mindful not to share any personal information in your response.

Further information on how we process your personal data in relation to this consultation is set out in our privacy notice, which can be found on our website.

[www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ITE-Consultation-Privacy-Notice-2024.pdf](http://www.gtcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ITE-Consultation-Privacy-Notice-2024.pdf)

### **Personal data**

1. Please confirm that you have read and understood the privacy notices and consent to personal data being processed as set out in the notices.

I confirm and consent

### **Literacy and Numeracy**

2. Do you agree that there should be no change to the current literacy requirement?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

3. If not, please explain why.

4. Do you agree that there should be no change to the current numeracy requirement?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

5. If not, please explain why.

### **Sections 1 to 5 of the Memorandum**

6. Do you agree that we should include a recommendation to interview applicants?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

7. If not, please explain why.

8. Do you agree that the changes we are proposing to the list of personal specifications better reflect the skills, dispositions and attributes required of student teachers?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Don't know

9.If not, please explain why.

10.Do you have any other comments on proposed changes to the Memorandum set out in points 6.1 to 6.5 in the consultation paper?

**Secondary subjects with specific requirements**

11.Do you agree that the changes we have made to the entry requirement information for the bullet point list of subjects in section 6.6 make the provisions easier to understand and apply?

Yes

No

Don't know

12.If not, please explain why.

13.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for Art and Design?

Yes

No

Don't know

14.If not, please explain why.

15.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for Business Education?

Yes

No

Don't know

16.If not, please explain why.

17.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for Dance?

Yes

No

Don't know

18.If not, please explain why.

19.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for Drama?

Yes

No

Don't know

20.If not, please explain why.

21.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for English?

Yes

No

Don't know

22.If not, please explain why.

23.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for History?

Yes

No

Don't know

24.If not, please explain why.

25.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for Home Economics?

Yes

No

Don't know

26.If not, please explain why.

27.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the entry requirements for Languages?

Yes

No

Don't know

28.If not, please explain why.

29.If you have any further comments about the changes we are proposing to the entry requirements for any of these subjects, please include them here.

### **Appendices and general comments**

30.Do you agree with the proposed changes to the table in Appendix A?

Yes

No

Don't know

31.If not, please explain why.

32.Is there anything else you would like to mention in relation to this consultation that we haven't specifically asked about?

### **Respondent Information**

33.Are you responding as an individual, group or an organisation?

Individual

Group

Organisation

34.If responding as an individual or group, which of the following best describes your role in the education system?

Teacher / Lecturer / Practitioner

Student / prospective teacher

School / Centre Leader

Local Authority / Regional Officer

National Agency Officer

35.Which (if any) sector within the education system do you represent? (select all that apply)

Primary - local authority

Primary - independent sector

Secondary - local authority

Secondary - independent sector

Further / Higher education

36.We may want to contact you about some of the points you have raised in your response. If you are happy for us to do this, please provide your name and email address:

