

To: Local Authority Directors of Education, Head Teachers of Independent Schools.

By email

Date: 12 February 2026

Additional registration – guidance for employers of teachers

Dear Colleague

It is important that teachers teach who and what they are qualified to teach. This is fundamental to upholding the high standards we have for teachers in Scotland.

Teaching according to registration category is a legal requirement, set out in the [Requirements for Teachers \(Scotland\) Regulations 2005](#) and the Registration of Independent Schools (Prescribed Person) (Scotland) Regulations [2017](#). This section of our website was recently updated to provide more information for employers of teachers on requirements: [Employers](#).

A process exists for teachers who plan to, or are asked to, teach beyond their current registration. This has, over time, been referred to as 'professional registration'. We are now describing this process as 'additional registration' to support better understanding and, we hope, growth in its use. Additional registration is key to increasing flexibility while maintaining high standards.

The additional registration process allows fully registered teachers who have the required academic study to take an employment-based approach to gaining a further registration. It is also possible to follow this process in circumstances where teachers have some, but not all, of the academic study required where they, in parallel, take action to enhance their academic study.

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Each year around 50% of provisionally registered primary teachers begin their induction period having completed a postgraduate ITE meaning that they are likely to have academic study that supports registration in secondary subject specialisms.

Where primary teachers do not have the academic study required to consider additional registration, they should be supported to complete the study they need. This meets the needs of the system whilst supporting individual teacher career progression.

To help we have now updated our web content to more clearly set out arrangements for teachers to achieve additional registration: <https://www.gtcs.org.uk/knowledge-base/sections/additional-registration>

I trust you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline Stephen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Pauline Stephen
Chief Executive and Registrar

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