

TACKLING THE SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS: THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES

The number of teachers in schools in England is in crisis, with problems recruiting and retaining high quality teachers.

Universities are central to tackling this. Universities deliver teacher education at scale, taking pressure off schools and grounding teacher education in the evidence of how best to enhance pupil learning

Teacher supply in England is in crisis. There are many causes, but if government does not fix this, children will suffer. Without action, the crisis will worsen as larger numbers of children are entering the school system. Persistent and worsening under-recruitment of trainee teachers over the last decade alongside more staff leaving the profession is creating a national catastrophe.

GETTING MORE PEOPLE INTO TEACHING

More people need to be encouraged into the teaching profession and supported to succeed in their training. We know that financial support through scholarships and bursaries increase applications and provide support for students to complete their studies. Would-be teachers also worry about the extra debt that they will leave university with which puts many off paying for teacher training.

- **Provide all teacher training students with a bursary and announce bursary levels two years before students apply**
- **Provide teacher training students with additional financial support for extra placement costs**

ENSURING ENOUGH HIGH QUALITY TRAINING PLACES ARE AVAILABLE

Universities are essential to the education and supply of teachers. But recent teacher education reforms have taken accreditation away from a significant number of universities. Parts of the country are now without any accredited teacher training provider. Delivering teacher education has also become ever-more expensive with fixed fees eroded by inflation.

- **Encourage universities back into teacher training and support them to deliver high quality education in partnership with schools**
- **Provide teacher training institutions with sufficient funding to cover the costs of delivering teacher education**

RETAINING EXISTING TEACHERS

Retaining good teachers is vital. Professional development, especially in the use of new technologies, drives teacher retention. We need a much stronger early years workforce: other countries train their early years teachers much more than we do. Universities are delivering professional development for teachers throughout their careers.

- **Write-off student debt for teachers who teach in state-maintained schools for a particular period of time**
- **Enable access to ongoing professional development for all teachers**
- **Ensure all early years educators are on a route to graduate status**

SECURING A LONGER TERM APPROACH

Teacher supply matters to us all. It needs a long-term professional and strategic approach, overseen by an independent body. Ensuring teacher training provision remains high quality is essential. Inspection matters and plays a key role in disseminating high quality.

- **Create a new non-departmental public body to have oversight of teacher supply and quality**
- **Focus inspection on the continued improvement of teacher education rather than single grade outcomes**

This manifesto for teacher education has been produced by GuildHE in close association with university providers of teacher education across the sector. It focuses on the role of teacher education and ensuring a strong pipeline into the profession and the role of universities in this process.

Distinction and Diversity
in Higher Education

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