



## The General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland



## Building Dynamic Professional Communities





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The Council is the independent professional body for teachers in Northern Ireland. It is dedicated to enhancing the status of teaching and promoting the highest standards of professional conduct and practice. If you wish to teach in a grant-aided school in Northern Ireland you must be registered with the Council.

### The Council's Membership

Established under the auspices of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, the Council has a membership of 33, the majority of whom are teachers. The Council is constituted as follows: 14 members are elected directly by the profession with a further 5 members nominated by the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council. In addition, 10 members are nominated by broader interests within education including the Higher Education Institutions, Employing Authorities and other agencies. There are also 4 members appointed by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland.

The full Council meets quarterly and in addition to these meetings members serve on one of four committees:

- audit;
- general purposes and finance;
- policy; and
- registration.

## The Council's Responsibilities

The Council's key responsibilities are as follows:

- the registration of teachers;
- the development of a Code of Values and Professional Practice for the profession;
- disciplinary functions relating to professional misconduct; and
- the provision of advice to the Department of Education and Employing Authorities on:
  - the education, career development and performance management of teachers;
  - standards of teaching;
  - registration issues;
  - standards of conduct for teachers; and
  - other issues such as may be determined by the Department of Education.

## The Council's Work

The Council's core objectives are:

- to build a broad and dynamic 'professional community' and enhance the status of teaching as a profession;
- to provide an independent and authoritative voice for the profession on matters pertaining to teaching;
- to promote and maintain the highest standards of professional conduct and practice in collaboration with key partners; and



- to develop effective and cost efficient structures, processes and systems to support the delivery of the Council's objectives.

Achieving these objectives will ensure that the Council creates a system of professionally-led regulation, which is underpinned by explicit values and commitments and sustained within dynamic professional communities of practice.

The Council to date has established its Register of Teachers, developed and disseminated a Code of Values and Professional Practice and undertaken a fundamental review of the existing teacher competences and arrangements for CPD. In addition, it has published a 'Charter for Education' which has been endorsed by the wider education community in Northern Ireland.

**To find out more about the work of the Council or to register please contact us.**

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