



General Teaching Council  
for Northern Ireland

Promoting Teacher Professionalism

## TEACHER ELECTIONS 2019

### SERVING ON THE GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND GUIDANCE FOR PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES

#### About the GTCNI

1. As a professional body the GTCNI (the Council) provides teachers in Northern Ireland with the opportunity to play a major role in regulating their profession and shaping its future. The Council advises the Department of Education and the employing authorities on a wide range of issues, including: the education, career development and performance management of teachers; standards of teaching; and standards of conduct for teachers. The Council has established and disseminated teacher competences in its publication 'Teaching: the Reflective Profession'. As with other professional bodies, the Council has also developed a Code of Values and Professional Practice expected of registered teachers and, since the 1 April 2015, has been given the power to remove a teacher from the Register if he/she is found guilty of professional misconduct.
2. The Council has 33 members of whom 14 are directly elected by the profession. A majority of the Council are serving teachers or people with recent teaching experience. This teacher majority is balanced and enriched in terms of knowledge, skills and experience by those representatives of bodies with a stakeholder interest in education and those representatives of the wider public interest. The composition of the Council is as follows:

#### Elected Members

- 1 teacher (whether or not a principal) in a nursery school;
- 1 teacher (whether or not a principal) in a special school;
- 5 teachers in primary education who are not principals;
- 5 teachers in post-primary education who are not principals;
- 1 principal in primary education; and
- 1 principal in post-primary education.

#### Appointed Members

- 5 members appointed by the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council;
- 2 members appointed by the Education Authority;
- 2 members appointed by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- 1 member appointed by Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta;
- 1 member appointed by the Governing Bodies Association;
- 1 member appointed by the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education;
- 1 member appointed by the Transferors' Representative Council;
- 1 member appointed by the Archbishop of Armagh and the Bishops of Clogher, Derry, Down and Connor, Dromore and Kilmore acting jointly (as representatives of the trustees of Catholic maintained schools);

www.gtcni.org.uk  
Tel: 028 90333390 Email: info@gtcni.org.uk



General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland  
3rd Floor Albany House • 73 - 75 Great Victoria Street • Belfast BT2 7AF



- 1 member appointed by the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (Northern Ireland); and
- 4 members appointed by the Department of Education, one of whom is representative of industry and commerce and three of whom are representative of such other interests as, in the opinion of the Department, will enable the Council to carry out its functions more effectively.

### Can you make a difference?

3. Being a member of the Council will give you the opportunity to contribute to an organisation which is at the heart of the education system and which has an important role in helping shape the education service of the future. Your professional perspective will enable you to have a central role in ensuring that the GTCNI speaks with real authority on behalf of the profession over a wide range of professional issues. You will also be able to play a key role in ensuring that the high standards of professional conduct and competence, which you and the public expect from members of your profession, are maintained.

### Term of Office

4. Elected members of the Council shall serve for a four year period of office.

### Criteria for Standing

5. To stand for election a candidate must comply with the requirements set out in the Annex to the Council's Election Scheme. A copy of the 'Scheme' is available on the Council's website [www.gtcni.org.uk](http://www.gtcni.org.uk) and in addition a copy has been supplied as part of the candidate nomination pack.

### Time Commitment

6. A significant amount of the Council's work is conducted through its committees which meet 4 times

per year, in addition the full Council meets 4 times per year. Therefore, the time commitment in respect of attendance at meetings is approximately 8 days per year.

7. The number of days devoted to Council work overall is more difficult to estimate. In order to make a full contribution to the work of the GTCNI, prospective members might expect to devote up to 16 days per year to Council business; this includes attendance at Council, committees, training, interviews and working groups of the Council. The exact time commitment will depend upon the number and type of sub-committees on which a member chooses to serve.

### Personal Financial Implications

8. Council members will not be paid for their services but will be reimbursed for travelling, subsistence and other expenses related to their membership of the Council.

### Support

9. Council members will be supported and advised by GTCNI staff under the direction of the Registrar (the Chief Officer) of the Council.

### Support for the School

10. Elected members will be out of the classroom on GTCNI business for a number of days during the year. Where it is necessary to employ a substitute teacher, the school will be reimbursed.
11. As a matter of courtesy, you should inform your principal and governing body about your intention to stand for election and provide them with a copy of this leaflet. You do not, of course, need their permission to stand for election.
12. If you have any queries about this guidance, please contact Mr Gerry Devlin, Senior Education Officer on 028 9033 3390.