



EDUCATION

Business Brain

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Anthony Finn, CEO of the General Teaching Council for Scotland, recognises that the high quality education of our young people, delivered by a well qualified teaching workforce, is key to business growth and a strong economy.

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The key to business growth and a strong economy is the education of young people who are prepared for the challenges of the future. In short, young people need to be well-qualified and to have skills which both meet today's needs and are sufficiently flexible to prepare them for those of tomorrow.

As Scotland develops a new curriculum and assessment model, appropriately called Curriculum for Excellence, the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTC Scotland) is closely involved with its partners promoting quality in our schools.

The development of skills for learning, life and work across all curriculum areas and in all the contexts and settings where young people learn is relevant from nursery to the senior phase of education. The curriculum will therefore provide pupils with a sound basis for their development as lifelong learners in their adult, social and working lives.

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GTC Scotland is an important part of the framework that ensures this high quality provision within Scotland's schools and colleges. Established in 1965, GTC

The General Teaching Council for Scotland is the independent professional body for teachers which maintains and enhances teaching standards and promotes and regulates the teaching profession in Scotland. It strives to be a world leader in professional educational issues and is recognised as the guardian of both teaching professionalism and teaching standards in Scotland.

Scotland was the first Teaching Council in the world. Forty five years later, all Scotland's teachers are now highly qualified graduates, with teaching qualifications specifically targeted at the teaching of their subject or stage.

Good teaching is central to the promotion of high standards of learning. GTC Scotland accredits all university training courses for teachers and sets the standards which must be attained by those qualifying as teachers. Newly qualified teachers are supported by the Teacher Induction Scheme, an unique school-based training programme, described by OECD as world class, which offers a guaranteed one-year paid appointment, with time for set aside for professional development and regular access to an experienced teacher mentor. It is only when teachers successfully complete this programme and attain the Standard for Full Registration that they may apply for a permanent post as a teacher in Scotland.

GTC Scotland is also responsible for the professional standards required of teachers throughout their careers. Through the Standard for Chartered Teachers, an opportunity is available for excellent teachers who wish to stay in the classroom to hone their skills before contributing constructively to the development of learning of their colleagues; the Standard for Headship provides guidance for those aspiring to be school leaders; the Code of Professionalism and Conduct offers advice to teachers on how they should act in the classroom or in the community; and through Professional Recognition, teachers can now have their learning in important areas such as enterprise education recognised and valued.

As many other countries look to Scotland as a model for the development of professional regulation systems, it has now been announced that GTC Scotland will soon become the world's first independent, self-regulating professional body for teaching, ensuring that the high standards for which Scotland's teachers are known across the world can be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Enterprise Education is developed in schools in a number of ways. The Government's 'Determined to Succeed' programme helps young learners to develop their knowledge and understanding of enterprise in its widest sense.

Teachers help their pupils to develop the skills they will need in later life. For example, they can help pupils understand the link between education and the world of work; they can contextualise learning and make it relevant to the pupils' own lives; and in today's global society, teachers can assist Scottish pupils to understand the complexity of our world, making them more prepared to contribute in their own way to the economy of their country and, indeed, to the world economy.

Every teacher takes into class not only the benefit of their degree and education as a teacher but also their core values and personal skills. They use these skills to engage in specific enterprise activities which are relevant to their own subject expertise and/or to the opportunities offered to them by the curriculum. Sometimes, these will activities based in one classroom; on other occasions, they will arise from a planned programme which will have created an ethos of enterprise across a school.

An enterprise activity can include a novel way of learning, using innovative and exciting skills; it can involve pupils in, for example, a project to promote fair trade projects across a community, setting up a small business or enterprise group or even helping to organise a school or community event or show. These days, too there are opportunities to be more adventurous, encouraging online involvement with other countries and partners.

Whatever the context for learning, the role of the committed teacher in promoting opportunities for development is important; and pupils will draw great benefit, educationally and socially, from a variety of different curricular activities which will extend their horizons and assist them to contribute more to society in later life.



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