



AN CHOMHAIRLE MHÚINTEOIREACHTA

The Teaching Council

THE PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR TEACHING



*Upholding
Standards*

*Registering
Teachers*

*Promoting
the
Profession*

*Regulating
Teaching*

*Conducting
Research*

Welcome

This leaflet provides a brief introduction to the Teaching Council. The Council is the statutory body for teaching which was established under the Teaching Council Act, 2001, in March 2006,

- to regulate the teaching profession
- to establish and promote the maintenance and improvement of standards of
 - teacher education
 - teaching, knowledge, skill and competence
 - professional conduct of teachers, and
- to promote teaching as a profession and to promote the professional development of teachers.

Mission

The Teaching Council aims to promote and maintain the highest standards of teaching, learning and professional conduct in our schools.

Vision

The Teaching Council will be at the heart of teaching and learning, promoting, supporting and regulating the teaching profession. It will serve the best interests of education, in partnership with other interested parties, by being an authoritative, respected voice for the profession and a guardian of teaching standards, establishing best practice at all stages on the continuum of teacher education.

Responsibilities

The Council's statutory responsibilities are aligned with the professional journey of a teacher as a lifelong learner, beginning with initial teacher education and entry to the profession, followed by induction, probation and continuing professional development. Each stage on the journey is characterised by high professional standards and the Council will ensure that these standards are upheld in the interests of young people and society and, also, for the purpose of maintaining the reputation of the profession.

The Teaching Council's principal functions, which are all interrelated, are:

- ***To protect standards of entry to the profession***
The Council is mandated to review and accredit programmes of teacher education, to establish procedures in relation to induction and probation and to maintain a Register of Teachers.
- ***To maintain and improve standards of professional practice and conduct***
The Council has published Codes of Professional Conduct for Teachers which include standards of teaching, knowledge, skill and competence. Through its disciplinary role, the Council will ensure that the highest standards of professional conduct are maintained. The Council will review and accredit programmes of continuing professional development.
- ***To establish and maintain the Register of Teachers***
The Council maintains the Register of Teachers. Registration will be mandatory for all teachers wishing to teach in recognised schools* where salaries are paid from State monies. Entry to the register is dependent on satisfying the Council's registration conditions which include teacher qualification requirements.
- ***To promote research and establish procedures for the exchange of information with teachers, organisations involved in education and the public***
The Council commissions research and consults regularly with the partners in education and the wider education community on professional matters. Through its research bursary schemes, the Council promotes and facilitates research by registered teachers as part of their professional development. It also supports others carrying out research in the areas of teaching, learning and assessment.
- ***To advise the Minister for Education and Science on teacher supply and a range of professional matters***
The Council, based on its research and consultation activities, and the extensive range of information held on the Register of Teachers, will advise the Minister on teaching supply and a range of professional matters.
- ***To promote teaching as a profession***
The Council publicly acknowledges, and aims to reinforce, the quality of teaching in Ireland. It uses a variety of methods and opportunities to ensure that high calibre entrants continue to be attracted into the profession.

* Recognised in accordance with Section 10 of the Education Act, 1998.

Membership of Council

The Teaching Council is made up of 37 members acting in a voluntary capacity as non-executive directors of the Council. These are representative of the partners in education, as follows:

- 11 primary teachers (nine elected and two union nominees)
- 11 post-primary teachers (seven elected and four union nominees)
- 2 nominated by Colleges of Education
- 2 nominated by specified third level bodies
- 4 nominated by school management bodies (two primary and two post-primary)
- 2 nominated by parents' associations (one primary and one post-primary)
- 5 nominated by the Minister for Education and Science, including one representing each of IBEC and ICTU.

The Council's work is supported by a team of staff under the leadership of a chief executive officer known as the Director.

Council Funding

The Teaching Council is an autonomous, self-financing body, funded primarily through annual registration renewal fees paid by registered teachers. In this respect, it is similar to other professional bodies in Ireland such as the Medical Council and An Bord Altranais, and to teaching councils in other countries.

Contact details

The Teaching Council's website www.teachingcouncil.ie is a valuable resource which is updated on a regular basis. Teachers and others with an interest in the teaching profession are advised to keep in touch with the Council's work via the "What's New?" page of the site.

A bi-lingual newsletter, Oide, is available free of charge and is published twice each year. Oide can be downloaded from the "News" page of www.teachingcouncil.ie.

For any queries, please contact info@teachingcouncil.ie or phone the LoCall number 1890 224 224.