

Meeting of the Teacher Supply Steering Group

07 July 2023 @12pm Via Teams

Minutes

In attendance:

Dalton Tattan, Asst. Secretary General, Department of Education (Chair)
Aoife Conduit, Asst. Secretary General, Department of Education
Tomás Ó Ruairc, Asst. Secretary General, Department of Education
Anne Looney, Executive Dean, Institute of Education, DCU
Séamus Keating, PO, Department of Education
Bríd Murphy, Teaching Council (for Lynn Ramsey)
Anthony Finn, University of Glasgow
Declan Kennedy, School of Education, UCC
Lewis Purser, Director of Learning & Teaching and Academic Affairs, IUA
Fergal Kelly, CPSMA (for Seamus Mulconry)
Áine Doyle, Minister's Adviser

Also in attendance:

Conor McCourt, APO, Department of Education
Tom Slevin, APO, Department of Education
John Egan, HEO, Department of Education

Apologies

Bernie McNally, Secretary General, Department of Education
Yvonne Keating, Chief Inspector, Department of Education
Deirdre Shanley, Asst. Secretary General, Department of Education
Lynn Ramsey, Director, Teaching Council
Seamus Mulconry, General Secretary, CPSMA
Antoinette Nic Gearailt, ACCS

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Update on specific actions:

Research into the motivations of retired teachers

The Group was informed that an independent researcher is currently working with the Retired Teachers Association of Ireland (RTAI) to recruit retired teachers as research participants. It was noted that a report is expected in late August/ early September.

Teacher sharing scheme pilot

The Group was informed that two schools have expressed an interest in forming a cluster for the purpose of the teacher sharing pilot scheme for 2023/24, with the possibility of a second cluster being formed in Dublin.

Turas Abhaile

The Group was informed of the enhanced *Turas Abhaile* service, which matches qualified Irish teachers who are working abroad with post primary teaching vacancies. *Turas Abhaile*, which is operated by the ACCS, is currently working with expatriate organisations to promote vacancies in Ireland.

Development of a recruitment portal for long-term teacher vacancies

The Group was informed that the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN) recruitment portal on educationposts.ie went live on 26 June. The enhanced portal will allow teachers, including those resident abroad, to apply for teaching positions and facilitate schools in administering the recruitment process. It is hoped that the portal will in the longer term provide an important source of data on teacher vacancies.

Teaching Transforms – update on most recent phase

It was noted that Communications Section and Teacher Supply Section have recently concluded a promotion campaign, coinciding with the lead in period to the CAO change of mind date (01 July), with media partners PHD. It was similar to previous campaigns and used radio, press, digital and social media.

3. Potential actions to be considered for inclusion in TSAP

Implementation of 2022/23 actions in 2023/24:

Suspension of restrictions applying to teachers on career break and job-sharing teachers and additional hours for post primary teachers

- Consideration is being given to a continuation of these measures in 2023/24.
- It is expected that decisions will be made in next few weeks, as it is important that schools are informed in early to mid-August to allow them make the appropriate arrangements.

Droichead arrangements for NQTs trained outside Ireland

- The Teaching Council will review the implementation of these arrangements and hopes to have an update for next meeting. Any decision to continue these arrangements beyond February 2024 will be informed by the review.

ITE providers supporting the availability of student teachers

The Group was informed that Teacher Education Section (ITE and Professional Development) met with ITE providers on June 6th and are waiting for feedback from the providers on their experience in 2022/23.

Consideration of existing terms & conditions, and non-statutory leave arrangements

The Group was informed that further consideration is being given internally by the Department to these arrangements.

Consideration of FE pathway to primary ITE

The possible expansion of FE entry routes to primary ITE was discussed. The Group was informed that an initial meeting with HEI representatives was positive and another meeting is scheduled. While the Group welcomed any action that would increase diversity in teaching, caution was urged in how such a pathway should be structured, supported and designed.

Review the role of various support roles

The Group was informed that consideration is being given to a review of various support roles.

Consideration of PME incentives

The Group was informed that consideration is being given to incentive options for those who undertake PME courses, while addressing teacher supply issues.

4. Response to the Ukraine crisis

The Group was informed that approximately 15,500 Ukrainian students are enrolled in Irish schools leading to the creation of almost 600 additional mainstream posts. Over 1000 EAL posts have also been created.

At this stage it is difficult to estimate the demand for teachers at a regional level for 2023/24. It was also noted that 126 Ukrainian teachers have registered with the Teaching Council.

5. AOB

The Group was informed that Statistics Section are working with the CSO on a “signs of life” analysis of teachers registered with the Teaching Council. It was noted that this has the potential of being a very useful source of data.

6. Next meeting

Thursday 21 September 2023 @2pm.