

Getting your ACT together

All kinds of membership news

Grief that finds no vent in tears makes other organs weep.

Dr Henry Maudsley, British psychiatrist

GTCE Code of Conduct

Principle 8 of the Code for registered teachers: Demonstrate honesty and integrity and uphold public trust and confidence in the teaching profession.

- Exercise their responsibilities in relation to the examination and assessment of achievement and attainment in a fair, transparent and honest way.
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity in management and administrative duties, including the use of school property and finance.
- Understand that their duty to safeguard children and young people comes first, but otherwise acknowledge the rights of children and young people, families and colleagues to confidentiality, in line with statutory requirements and school policies.
- Represent their professional status accurately and avoid taking advantage of their professional position.
- Maintain reasonable standards in their own behaviour that enable them to maintain an effective learning environment and also to uphold public trust and confidence in the profession.

More details at gtce.org.uk

Fifty-six per cent of children and young people went to church in 1904. Today, that figure has dropped to only four per cent. But ninety-nine per cent of children and young people are in school. Christian teachers, schools workers and volunteers are vitally and strategically placed to draw children and young people into relationship with God.

Scripture Union 2009 Annual report

Children from some of our poorest communities start school with such a huge weight of deprivation on their shoulders, it can be incredibly hard to counteract the effects.

Lesley Ward, ATL union president

National Family Week 2010

National Family Week 2010 is 31 May to 6 June. There will be thousands of opportunities to participate. The website invites families to run their own events. 'Whether it's a private affair with your family and friends or a public event to raise money for a charity, or just for fun – it's the perfect time to get the family together. You can register events in the Partner Zone which means your event will be publicised if you wish – plus you'll find helpful tips and tricks, tool-kits and event packs to help make the occasion a success!' nationalfamilyweek.co.uk

Ageing workforce

A report from the Institute for Employment Studies identifies skills' shortages, an early retirement culture and the prospect of a pensions crisis, as prolonging the labour market participation of older workers. Work-life balance policies and flexible employment can provide the means of prolonging labour market engagement. Changes in retirement behaviour will therefore originate primarily from the demand side – ie employers' policies. Schools are advised to review their policy on this matter.

I know the power of faith-based institutions to get stuff done.

Barack Obama, Saddleback Civil Forum, August 2008

£23,000 debt

... is what the average student beginning a degree today could expect to graduate with, rising to over £30,000 for some London students. The Bible views debt as undesirable – Jesus, for example, frequently uses it as an image for sin in the parables. Debt was considered a last resort, rather than a way of extending our income, as it can easily be viewed in our age of still relatively easy credit. But Old Testament law also placed strict limits on lenders. Loans were to be forgiven every seven years: Deuteronomy 15:1-11, meaning that no-one was kept in long-term debt. Combined with the biblical prohibition on charging interest, Leviticus 25:35-37 – perhaps the most radical financial law in the Old Testament – this command ensured that 'there should be no poor among you', Deuteronomy 15:4. Today, in contrast, debt can all too easily be a way for companies to make money by keeping others in poverty. The greater the loan, the higher and longer-term the repayments.

Source: The Jubilee Centre

Safeguarding: what you must disclose



Teacher trainees

Teaching is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, so trainees must disclose details of convictions or cautions in connection with an application for training, no matter how irrelevant or how long ago it took place. The training provider will decide whether the trainee will be accepted, suspended, excluded or allowed to continue.

The provider may decide to terminate training if information is withheld.

NQTs or teachers moving jobs

Information about convictions or cautions must be disclosed with any application. The head will decide whether to appoint.

Qualified teachers

All convictions and cautions will be passed on to the GTC. Inform your head as soon as possible, ideally with a union representative or colleague present. If the GTC believes the offence is relevant to a teacher's registration, disciplinary procedures will be put in place. If the GTC finds a teacher guilty of unacceptable professional conduct, incompetence or a relevant criminal offence, it may issue a reprimand, conditional registration order, suspension order or prohibition order. As part of the hearing, the media may pick up on the case.

With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.

Corinthians 15:58 *The Message*

Understanding tax

Tax Matters is the title of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) new, free online resource for teachers. Designed for years seven to thirteen in PSHE, Business Studies and Citizenship, the

Tax Matters resource contains three new teaching modules: Income Tax, National Insurance and Tax and Society, to help pupils gain an understanding of how tax is raised, what the main taxes are and for what they ultimately pay. There are also ready-made lesson plans for each module available online, for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils – with ideas for using **Tax Matters** with students. All of the materials are available free by visiting taxmatters.hmrc.gov.uk

Teacher refuseniks

About 255,000 people who have passed through the training process have chosen not to work in the classroom. Of these, 88,600 never even entered the profession, according to DCSF statistics. This means that there is one qualified, but non-working, teacher for every two who currently do the job in England, 61% of whom were trained to work in the secondary sector. More than 130,000 teachers in the fifty to retirement age bracket are not teaching, while about 11,900 people who qualified before the age of twenty-nine have never worked as teachers.

Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century school system

... is an aspirational DCSF publication. The chapter titles are:

- 1 Our ambition for every child: an education that prepares them for the challenges of the 21st century.
- 2 In every school: excellent teaching and the extra help each child needs.
- 3 Every school working in partnership: because no school can do it alone.
- 4 Every school improving: strong accountability and rapid intervention when it is needed.
- 5 Every school and school leader supported: the right roles for local and central government.
- 6 In every school: a well-led and highly skilled workforce.

Tick box mentality

In an interview with the TES, Gillian Low, President of the Girls' Schools Association, warns that the tidal wave of regulation which is engulfing education does nothing to create good schools, and stops staff in the private and state sectors from thinking out of the box. 'Regulation isn't a means to school improvement. We have to be accountable; some laws are important, especially regarding safeguarding, for example, but I question whether the level of regulation is necessary or conducive to running good schools.'

For about one per cent of children, conventional attainment targets are simply unachievable – and therefore, no indicator of life chances.

Chris Goodey, Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education, Bristol

One to One Tuition Programme

This programme helps children gain understanding in English and maths. Designed for key stages two, three and four pupils who would benefit the most, it complements classroom teaching by addressing barriers to learning that are personal and particular to each child. Newly qualified, current, former and retired teachers can become tutors, who decide how many pupils to tutor, and when and where to give tuition, which can take place at the child's school or in a town centre location such as a library. Tutors on the programme get paid a typical rate of £25 per hour for twelve hours per pupil.

Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

Howard Thurman 1899–1981, Baptist Minister

Who goes where?

Usual Sunday attendance in Anglican churches is 868,000, with 869,000 in Catholic churches. Each Anglican gives, on average, £8.62 weekly, while each Catholic contributes £2.50 weekly.

The average SATS test score for a school is more a reflection of local affluence, or the lack of it, than the ability of the teachers.

Rod Liddle in *The Spectator*

Graduates

I read recently that 100,000 graduates are out of work. It prompted me to pray for them, that they would not start their working life feeling like failures. I prayed for them and for this network that we would know that we are loved and valuable outside anything we ever do to earn a wage. It is a simple truth that we think we know, but it bears repeating again and again, for those who are out of work and those who are glittering 'successes' – we have a sure status, an unshakeable identity because of the cross.

Elizabeth Hunter themedianet.org

Written by and for Christians in education

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