

The natural place to teach

# From Probationer to Fully Registered Teacher



## Travelling the Alternative Route in Dumfries and Galloway



[www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)



Dumfries  
& Galloway  
COUNCIL

## ***Why come to Dumfries and Galloway?***

As an Education Service, we are asking you to come and join us when the chances are that you may not have heard of this region of Scotland. You may know that it is in the remote south west of the country but what does it have to offer you should you be fortunate enough to get the opportunity to work here? The answer to that is 'Lots'. With a population of approximately 146 000, Dumfries and Galloway is to be found nestled in the south western corner of Scotland. Set, for the most part, in 2380 square miles of spectacular scenery, the region has over 200 miles of beautiful coastline and beaches. With its hills and valleys, forests and lochs, local history and artistic creativity, it is a haven for those who wish a quality of life. A largely rural area of villages and busy market towns, the air is clean with very little industry to pollute it. In fact, one of the area's main sources of income is tourism. Another is agriculture. Leisure activities abound. Regular train and bus transport links make it easily accessible to the four major cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle and Carlisle. As well as these, ferries sail from Stranraer and link Scotland with Northern Ireland.



## ***Housing***

A key factor for anyone moving away from home will be finding somewhere to live. With this in mind, the Education Service has a list of accommodation available across the region. This list can be supplied on request. Noted below are some useful contact numbers. They have been chosen for no other reason than that they are

amongst the better known estate agents in the region. All deal with rental properties as well as houses for sale.

Solicitors Property Centre: Dumfries – 01387 252684  
(Can provide information for Annan and Castle Douglas also)  
Website : [www.dgspc.co.uk](http://www.dgspc.co.uk)

A.B.&A. Matthews : Newton Stewart – 01671 404100

McAndrew&Co.: Stranraer – 01776 704324

### ***What is an alternative route probationer?***

In short, the term applies to anyone who has gained their teaching qualification and is not part of the Scottish Executive funded Teacher Induction Scheme.

### ***What is a probationary period and how long will it take to complete?***

The purpose of the probationary period is to enable probationers to meet the standards required of them to move from Provisional to Full Registration with the General Teaching Council Scotland (G.T.C.S.).

For those trained out with Scotland, the first step towards teaching in Dumfries and Galloway is to register with G.T.C.S.. Employment of any newly qualified teacher in a Scottish school is impossible without this provisional registration. This is done by contacting the Exceptional Admissions Department either by telephoning 0131 314 6045/6068 or via e-mail at the [EAR@gtcs.org.uk](mailto:EAR@gtcs.org.uk).

An information pack will be sent which will include a form which must be returned as soon as possible to G.T.C.S. headquarters at Clerwood House, 96 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh EH12 6UT. Having looked at the information provided, if you are eligible for registration with the G.T.C.S. a decision will be made with regard to the number of days required to be completed in the classroom setting before Full Registration can be granted. There is not a standard formula for this and each candidate is looked at separately depending upon the degree achieved and other experience/s gained.

For those who undertook their teacher training in Scotland but who did not take up the offer of the Induction Scheme, requests for provisional registration are made by contacting the Registration Department of the G.T.C.S.. Providing requirements are met, the period of probation is likely to consist of 270 days fulltime (or the equivalent in part time) satisfactory mainstream relevant service.



Like Induction Scheme colleagues, the alternative route probationer will be required to meet the Standard for Full Registration. Information on this will be contained within the pack received from G.T.C.S.. However, an integral part of achieving the standard is the upkeep and completion of both Interim and Final Reports and, as the probationer, this responsibility lies firmly with you. As of March, these are available on the G.T.C.S. website.



There is one for Primary and one for Secondary sectors. The only difference is in the colour – yellow for primary and blue for secondary. Page Three is the Record of Teaching Service and must be completed at the time of teaching within each school and 'signed off' by the Head Teacher. This is the evidence required to prove that you



were in a particular school teaching for the period of time stated. Only teaching service which is verified in this way will count towards probationary days completed. Whether consecutive or not, for any periods of service totalling three to four weeks or more the G.T.C.S. requires an Interim Report to be completed and signed by the relevant Head Teacher at the culmination of employment. You should also sign the report. For periods totalling less than three weeks, exact dates should be given accompanied by a Head Teacher's signature on a Record of Teaching Service sheet. All reports should contain exact dates of service and a percentage breakdown of subjects and stages taught, including details of F.T.E. percentage where service is part time.

Once the required amount of probationary service has been completed, a Final report should be completed and signed by the relevant Head Teacher. You should also sign the form.

All completed forms should be sent to the G.T.C.S. with a copy being retained by you. Probationary service need not be continuous.

### ***Support available from Dumfries and Galloway Education Service***

It is crucial that we in Dumfries and Galloway succeed in attracting a steady flow of new teachers to our schools and probationers are the key to this. It is equally important that, having recruited them, we offer the best available support and opportunity for professional development.

Support will come in three forms:

- Local Authority personnel.  
Staff Tutor (Recruitment and Induction) who is available to assist you with the multitude of questions which you will have. Regular meetings are organised with her.
- Continuing Professional Development (C.P.D.) opportunities.  
As an alternate route probationer, you will have access to the series of both C.P.D. Activity days and Twilight courses organised for Induction Scheme probationers.
- Within schools  
As an alternate route probationer there will be support available to you. This may be on a three to four week basis and should be recorded on your Interim and Final Reports. However, should you require any advice/assistance in between times, there will always be a member of staff able to help. Do not be afraid to ask. We look forward to welcoming you to Dumfries and Galloways Education Service team.