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education trade union

eis



# GTCS

ELECTIONS 2020

**EIS CANDIDATES**

# Representing Teachers in Scotland



## I am writing to urge you to vote for the EIS endorsed candidates in the forthcoming GTCS elections.

The GTCS is highly influential in terms of education policy generally, as well as having specific remits in the areas of the professional standards and code, both of which are currently under review, and the Professional Update scheme.

At a time of increasing pressure in our schools, and in a period of culture change in Scottish Education as the Empowerment agenda unfolds, it is crucial that the teacher voice is heard at GTCS.

Teachers have a majority of only one on the GTCS Council, the other posts being filled by appointment, so it is essential that the teachers who are elected are representative of the interests of the majority of teachers and not focussed on narrow agendas.

The EIS has supported a number of candidates who are well-placed to ensure this. They are EIS members who are:

- classroom teachers/Headteachers who command the respect of their colleagues in their schools;
- committed to promoting the highest standards within the profession;
- committed to defending teachers in the face of the many challenges faced on a daily basis in our schools.

I believe strongly that their experience, taken together with their personal integrity and commitment, equip them well to represent colleagues on the GTCS Council.

When you receive your online voting information from the GTCS in January, please vote for **all** EIS endorsed candidates.

Yours sincerely

Larry Flanagan, EIS General Secretary

# Your Vote Counts

## GTCS matters for every teacher

The EIS supports the work of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) in its significantly important role in Scottish education. The work of the GTCS impacts on teacher professionalism and the work of teachers throughout their careers. This role is of particular importance in light of Professional Update, the development of teacher professionalism and the need to enhance the status of the teaching profession.

## Why strong teacher voice on GTCS Council matters

- To be able to teach in Scotland, every teacher must be registered, and remain registered, with GTCS.
- The GTCS sets 3 professional standards; The Standard for Registration, The Standard for Career-Long Professional Learning and The Standard for Leadership and Management.
- The GTCS accredits Initial Teacher Education as well as playing a critical role in the area of professional learning.
- Cases of alleged teacher misconduct or incompetence are reported to GTCS, which has the right to use the ultimate sanction of removing teachers from the GTCS Register.

**Vote for all EIS Candidates**

**Vote Online: [www.gtcs.org.uk](http://www.gtcs.org.uk)**

**Voting is solely online; your voting PIN will be emailed to you directly by the GTCS.**

All teachers on the GTCS register will receive an email with ballot instructions on **15 January 2020** and online voting will be open from that date until noon on **7 February 2020**.

# Primary EIS Candidates



## Elaine Burt

Saint Patrick's Primary School / North Lanarkshire

I have a keen interest in ensuring that there is equality and diversity within the teaching profession, whilst maintaining a high level of professionalism and adherence to the standards for registration. If elected, I will endeavour to ensure that my professional voice is used to reflect the experience of teachers in the primary sector within the Council, as well as share any new-found knowledge relating to the GTCS role in supporting members locally.



## Adela Mansur

Ratho Primary School / City of Edinburgh

I have served as an elected GTCS Council member since 2018. I also sit on its Professional Regulation and Assurance Committee. I am standing for election again as I strongly believe that I contribute valuably to professional dialogue, ensuring that the voice of class teachers is fairly represented. I am committed to ensuring that standards for teachers are enhanced and protected. I bring to Council and Committee activity, common sense judgement and understanding of what impacts teachers daily. I continue to seek for all aspects of diversity, equality and fairness to be safeguarded and upheld.



## Kevin Brack

Headteacher, Brunstane Primary School / City of Edinburgh

I stand as a candidate, grateful to be supported by my union, the EIS. My career in primary teaching has involved a number of roles in Edinburgh and Dundee from Class Teacher, to Principal Teacher, Depute Head Teacher, Attainment Advisor and Headteacher.

I am passionate about the value and importance of the GTCS in supporting and empowering our teaching profession and in ensuring that we continue to strengthen the role of the teacher within our system. If elected, I would strive to ensure that the voice of Teachers and Headteachers is at the heart of the work of the GTCS.



## Ann Murdoch

Avoch Primary School / Highland

I am seeking election as a Primary teacher member of the GTCS Council as I believe that it is vital our voices are heard.

The GTCS is led and funded by its membership and so it is important that it understands any concerns or issues that we wish to raise. This is particularly relevant in light of cuts being made in education and the increased challenges we face as professionals as a result. I am an Additional Support Needs Teacher who sees first-hand how these budgetary constraints are impacting.



## Joan Lennon

Our Lady and St. Anne's Primary School / South Lanarkshire

As a teacher of over 40 years' experience, I seek election to GTCS Council in the Primary Category. I am a firm believer in the value of GTCS as a body upholding our professional standards, thus ensuring that children in Scotland experience quality education. I am committed to promoting both sound learning for young people and the interests of teachers. If elected, I will endeavour to ensure that teacher voice is heard regarding key current issues such as ASN, teachers' health and wellbeing, social justice and equity within education, and teaching for democratic citizenship.

Vote for **all** EIS  
Candidates

# Secondary EIS Candidates



## Jason Fitzgerald

Westhill Academy / Aberdeenshire

I seek election as someone with previous GTCS Council experience, who has developed a strong understanding of the workings of GTCS and the impact it has on the professional lives of teachers and the learning experiences of our young people.

I have taught Physics and Science in schools across Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City for 25 years and am now DHT at Westhill Academy.

I firmly believe that we need strong voice from, and within, GTCS in this time of educational change, to support colleagues and enhance outcomes for young people. If elected, I would help provide this.



## David Innes

Headteacher Harlaw Academy / Aberdeen City

I am Headteacher of Harlaw Academy in Aberdeen and was elected onto GTCS in 2016. I served on the Education Committee and chaired a group which opposed proposals to replace GTCS.

Elected Convener of the Council since 2018, I have been involved in all aspects of GTCS including; revising the professional standards and supporting teachers through initial teacher education, full registration and career long professional learning.

I have provided clear leadership to Council through a period of significant change, I want to continue to ensure GTCS has relevance to teachers at a local level and maintains its international standing.



## Iain Alexander Macmillan

Fraserburgh Academy / Aberdeenshire

With over 28 years' teaching experience and supporting colleagues as a union rep, as well as the experience from my first term on GTCS Council, I am eager to continue an active role on Council, including:

- having GTCS take an active stance on issues that affect the membership, such as stress and workload
- continuing to ensure GTCS does not seek inflation-busting fee rises preserving the independence of GTCS from political influence.

I am grateful for the support of the EIS in this election and if elected will maintain my contribution to the Council's strong teacher voice.



## Jane Mckeown

Bell Baxter High School / Fife

As a teacher of 30 years, initially in England but for the past 17 years in Fife, I have been a member of the EIS since starting teaching in Scotland and am currently an active EIS Learning Representative, member of EIS Council and Fife Local Association Assistant Secretary.

I value the GTCS as a professional organisation and believe I could ably represent the teacher perspective on key issues, such as promoting equality and social justice, addressing the challenges of delivering inclusive education and, crucially, the importance of high-quality professional learning for teachers.



## Lyn Wilson

Kirkwall Grammar School / Orkney

I have 15 years' experience as a Modern Studies classroom teacher in Ayrshire and Orkney, which I believe, gives me a good insight into the issues faced by our profession. The GTCS has an increasingly important role, especially with the introduction of Professional Update and the development of teacher professionalism. In this respect, it is important that teachers have a voice within the GTCS. If elected I will represent the voice of classroom teachers as the Professional Standards are reviewed and help ensure that the high standards around teacher recruitment are maintained.

Vote for **all** EIS  
Candidates

## Further Education

## Elected unopposed (EIS Candidate)



### **Susan McAvoy**

Dundee and Angus College

I have worked in education for over 23 years, first in HE, now in FE as a lecturer at Dundee & Angus College. As the EIS Learning Rep with a staff development role, I was a driver of the college's adoption of GTCS's registration project. I am a firm believer in the FE professionalism agenda and as an EIS-supported candidate I would contribute strongly to this.

My disciplines are psychology and sociology, so understanding people and learning within a wider social context comes naturally, my research interests having centred around a holistic approach, including enhancing educators' social/emotional skills.

Universities in Scotland providing courses of Initial Teacher Education Unopposed

## Higher Education

## Elected unopposed (EIS Candidate)



### **Khadija Mohammed**

University of the West of Scotland / School of Education and Social Sciences

I am a Lecturer in Education. As a Council member I would seek to address the underrepresentation of BME teachers. I lead a national BME Teachers' Network and I am committed to supporting the recruitment, retention and professional development of a diverse teacher workforce. I am also keen to engage with teachers to promote a more nuanced approach in meeting the professional standards of Social Justice and Equality. In order to adopt a more race cognisant approach, it is important to explore how teachers understand and conceptualise discourses of race, diversity and inclusion.