eis

Scotland's largest
education trade union

GTCS

ELECTIONS 2024
EIS CANDIDATES

Representing Teachers in Scotland

I am writing to urge you to vote for all of the EIS supported candidates in the forthcoming GTCS elections.

The GTCS is highly influential in terms of Education policy generally, as well has having specific remits in the areas of the Professional Standards and Code, and the Professional Update scheme.

At a time of real challenge in our schools in the face of the growing range and complexity of additional support needs, rising incidence of violent, aggressive and distressed behaviour, the continuing struggle with workload, and the many questions unanswered in relation to Education Reform, it is crucial that teacher voice is heard at the GTCS.

Teachers have a majority of only one on the GTCS Council, the other seats 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.

For this round of elections, the EIS has supported a number of candidates who are well-placed to ensure this. They are EIS members who are:

- **Class Teachers/ Headteachers and EIS members who command the respect of their colleagues in their schools;**

- **Committed to promoting the highest standards within the profession;**

- **Committed to defending the interests of 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 this month (January), please vote for all EIS supported candidates.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Bradley
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 professional lives 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 supporting professional learning though the Professional Standards and related activity.

- 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.

- The GTCS is influential to a great extent in discussion and debate related to the work of the teaching profession and the quality of learning and teaching within our education settings.

Vote for all EIS Candidates

Vote Online: www.gtcs.org.uk

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Primary EIS Candidates

Clare Harker – Headteacher
Glasgow

Currently a member of the EIS HT/DHT Network, I believe strongly in the principles of inclusion, equality and empowerment, which align closely with the work of GTCS.

The Professional Standards provide a framework for teachers within which we can grow to become the strong, just practitioners we aspire to be. Teaching could be a trusted and empowered profession if we are given the agency to lead quality learning and if our voices were heard. This is a crucial ambition for an effective GTCS and in standing for election, I would seek to add my voice to pursuing these ambitions.

Sandie Gordon
Midlothian

As a Primary teacher, with 20 years' experience, I have always sought ways to promote and share teachers' voice. I am an EIS Learning Representative and share the role of Local Association Secretary.

Nationally, I sit on EIS Council and the Education and Salaries Committees. Representing the EIS on the Scottish Government's 'Supporting Workforce Wellbeing Group', I advocate for additional core funding for Education Recovery and highlight the challenges teachers face.

I am seeking election to GTCS Council to continue ensuring that the voices and aspirations of the teaching profession are heard and taken into account at every opportunity.
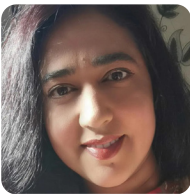
Vote for all EIS Candidates

Primary EIS Candidates

Ailie Rankin
Inverclyde

I am an Early Years teacher in Inverclyde and have supported children in a range of nursery settings for 25 years.

I am passionate about play pedagogy and the importance of knowledgeable practitioners supporting children's undiluted learning. As a member of the EIS Early Years Network, I have supported colleagues and shared my passion and experience through the delivery of professional learning.

I believe strongly in the vital role which GTCS registered teachers play in Early Years and in the essential importance of our professional body reflecting and responding to the diversity of teachers' roles across education sectors.
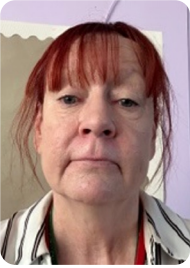
Nuzhat Uthmani
Glasgow

I am a primary teacher, with recent experience in management, leading on Equalities. A prominent campaigner for anti-racism, global citizenship and equalities, I lead the Glasgow BAME Network and Chair the Anti-racist Sub-Committee, tirelessly highlighting the experiences of colleagues and being an advocate for all teachers' rights.

On GTCS Council, I serve on the Professional Regulatory Committee, discussing fitness to teach requirements. This year I also served as a panel member for the George D Gray Award.

In seeking re-election to GTCS Council, I commit to representing increased diverse perspectives and speaking up for the needs of all teachers.

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Primary EIS Candidates

Ann Murdoch

Highland

I am currently employed by Highland Council as an Additional Support for Learning Teacher and as an active EIS member, sit on my Local Association Executive Committee and on the Inverness Trade Union Council.

Working across the authority in schools with high levels of additional need, I see first-hand the impact of recent cuts on pupils' and on teachers' health and wellbeing. If re-elected to GTCS Council, I will continue to highlight the increased challenges we face as a profession.

I currently serve on the GTCS Finance Committee and endeavour to ensure that your fees are used wisely.

Vote for all EIS Candidates

Secondary EIS Candidates

Andrew McPake

I am an experienced classroom English teacher at Craigmount High School, Edinburgh. I am seeking election to ensure that teachers working on the frontline of education are represented in GTCS Council. I understand the concerns that colleagues have because I experience the same challenges every day.

As an active EIS representative and member of the Edinburgh Local Association Executive, I strongly believe that the trade union movement plays a crucial role in shaping our profession for the better. I have a passion for social justice which I take into all my professional roles and would inform my contribution to Council.

Christopher Devlin

South Lanarkshire

I am a Faculty Head of English at Cathkin High School and the EIS branch rep at the school. I have been a committed member of the EIS Local Association's Committee of Management for eight years and I currently serve on EIS Council.

I believe it is vitally important that teachers' voices are at the centre of professional dialogue at the GTCS. I am seeking your support to ensure that the insight, dedication and integrity of our profession will be reflected in GTCS discussions and decision-making at this significant moment for Scottish Education.

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Secondary EIS Candidates

Graeme Cowie
Aberdeenshire

Since graduating in 2001, I have taught Physical Education in several local authorities in Scotland and England and have been a Principal Teacher in a large Secondary school since 2011. Throughout my career, I have been actively engaged in supporting colleagues, principally as a Health and Safety Officer for Aberdeenshire EIS Local Association, as well as representing teachers on the LNCT.

I strongly believe that the self-governing nature of teaching in Scotland must be protected and that teachers' voices should be foremost on GTCS Council to maintain our professional standing and to preserve quality learning and teaching for our learners.

Matthew Moss
Shetland

I am a Business Studies teacher at Brae High School, Shetland, and have taught in the Shetland Islands for 25 years. I am currently the EIS Local Association Secretary, EIS Council member and have been a member of Shetland LNCT since 2001.

I represent the EIS on the Northern Alliance Regional Improvement Advisory Forum and am committed to advancing teacher-led professional learning which impacts meaningfully on practice.

I am seeking election to ensure that the classroom teachers' voice is heard on GTCS Council and will endeavour to protect teacher professional integrity and therefore, quality education in the face of austerity.

Vote for all EIS Candidates

Secondary EIS Candidates

Michael Paul – Headteacher
Aberdeen City

I have been a Head Teacher for over 7 years, currently at Bucksburn Academy in Aberdeen; a member of the EIS for 30 years; sat on the Local Executive, served as Treasurer; and spent time on National Council and the Aberdeen Education Committee.

I am passionate about the education of young people, about professional learning and about equality and equity of opportunity for young people and colleagues in school. I believe that a strong voice is required to ensure the opinions of teachers and the reality of their endeavour in supporting learners are heard at the heart of the GTCS.

Vote Online
www.gtcs.org.uk

Further Education

Anne-Marie Harley

Forth Valley College

Elected unopposed (EIS Candidate)

I have taught in Further Education for over 20 years, with a background in Learning Support and Adult Literacies. I have a particular interest in access and inclusion.

I have been honoured to serve on GTCS Council for two years and have contributed positively to discussions both in Council and on the Professional Regulatory Assurance Committee, on which I serve.

As EIS-FELA President, I am also an active member of the College Lecturers' Registration group, which is taking forward GTCS registration for F.E. lecturers. I am committed to advancing registration and ensuring that lecturers have the professional recognition they deserve.

University Lecturers

Khadija Mohammed

University of the West of Scotland

I am a Senior Lecturer in Teacher Education. I seek re-election as an EIS-supported candidate to address the underrepresentation of BME teachers within GTCS Council and the wider profession. I lead a national BME Teachers Network and am committed to supporting the recruitment, retention and progression of a diverse teacher workforce.

Keen to promote a more nuanced approach in relation to engagement with the professional standards of Social Justice and Equality, if re-elected, I would contribute to the development of a more race cognisant approach, supporting teachers to understand and conceptualise discourses of Race, Diversity and Inclusion.

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