

QTLS - Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills status

What is QTLS?

QTLS is a Professional Status recognised in the education sector, which is gained after successfully completing a six-month period of professional formation and maintained through membership to the Society for Education and Training (SET).

Once you achieve QTLS, you'll be added to the professional status register: <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/your-career/professional-status-register> where future employers can check your status. See <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk>

QTLS holders who are maintaining this professional status through paid SET membership, will also be issued with a Teacher Reference Number (TRN) and will appear on the Department for Education's (DfE's) central record of qualified teachers: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-a-teachers-record> managed by the Teaching Regulation Agency: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/teaching-regulation-agency> (members can choose to opt out of both).

QTLS is designed for teachers and trainers working in the Further Education and Skills sector.

Schools who want to recruit Further Education (FE) and Skills trained teachers?

It is imperative for schools to verify that a Further Education (FE) and Skills trained teacher holds QTLS and that they are maintaining this professional status through **paid SET membership annually**.

NB: You must not attempt to appoint a Further Education (FE) and Skills trained teacher onto the Qualified Teacher pay scale without validating that the applicant holds QTLS status with the Society for Education and Training (SET). Should the applicant not hold QTLS status or no longer maintain the professional status through paid SET membership, then the applicant must be appointed on the unqualified teacher's pay scale.

FE and Skills teachers who hold QTLS and are members of the Society for Education and Training hold the professional status recognised in the FE

and Skills sector and are committed to maintaining their professionalism and subject knowledge by maintaining current SET membership.

Maintained schools who recruit a teacher with QTLS, and active paid membership of SET must pay them as qualified teachers on the relevant pay scale and treat them as if they hold QTS for the purposes of performance management, pay progression etc (see School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document for further guidance).

The employing school will determine through robust recruitment processes whether a potential applicant holding QTLS has the requisite knowledge, experience and skills for the role and will also consider that they have trained to teach in the FE and Skills sector.

Some schools may want to recruit teachers who can teach technical and vocational subjects, usually at key stages 3 and 4. Teachers with these skills are more likely to have trained to teach in the FE and Skills sector rather than through a school's ITT route.

Can someone with QTLS work as a qualified teacher in a primary school?

It would be down to recruiting school if they wish to consider an applicant who holds QTLS, the Society for Education and Training and the Department for Education highly recommend that it would not be appropriate for a teacher to use QTLS to secure employment within a primary school. Professional formation has not been designed for teachers working in a primary school, it is designed for teachers in a post-14 Further Education and Skills setting.

If someone with QTLS is employed in a maintained school, do they need to undertake statutory induction?

The DFE guidance for early career teachers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/induction-for-early-career-teachers-england> advises that QTLS achievement and an active paid SET membership is an example of where a qualified teacher may be employed in a relevant school in England without having satisfactorily completed an induction period. To be awarded QTLS, you undertook a period of professional formation following your initial teacher education. This is deemed equivalent to the mandatory induction period in schools.

Are teachers with QTLS subject to the same performance management arrangements?

The Teachers' Standards set out the expectation that QTLS holders who teach in a school will be subject to the same performance management processes as their peers. Their employer has the choice of which standards they use to make those decisions. They can assess QTLS trained teachers against the Teachers' Standards, (STPCD) any other set of standards relating to teachers' performance published by the Secretary of State for Education, and/or the Professional Standards for FE

teachers: <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/your-career/the-professional-standards/the-20-professional-standards-to-enhance-your-practice>

How does an employer check that a teacher has achieved QTLS and has maintained this status?

The Society for Education and Training can confirm whether someone has been awarded QTLS. School employers can check a person's QTLS status using the professional status register on the SET website or via email to membership@etfoundation.co.uk, or by telephone. Please note that some members have chosen not to be listed on the register, so if you believe a person holds QTLS who is not on the register then please call 0800 093 9111 (free number) or email at membership@etfoundation.co.uk for confirmation.

The school will also need to confirm that they continue to be a paid member of the Society for Education and Training to maintain their equivalence to QTS for employment purposes.

Is someone who has QTLS issued with a teacher reference number?

All members with QTLS status, who maintain this status through their paid SET membership, will be issued with a Teacher Reference Number (if they do not already hold one) and will appear on both SET's Professional Status Register: <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/your-career/professional-status-register> register **and** the DfE's central record of qualified teachers: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-a-teachers-record> managed by the Teacher Regulation Agency: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/teaching-regulation-agency>

Teacher Services restrictions list?

SET is notified by the TRA of any teacher services restrictions that are issued relating to those holding QTLS and a TRN. The list of teachers who are subject to restrictions and who should not be employed in a school is shared with SET. In such cases, SET will carry out their own investigation with regards to SET membership and QTLS status under SET's Disciplinary and Investigations policy: <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/help/set-policies-and-procedures/set-code-of-ethics-and-conduct-and-procedures/investigation-and-disciplinary-policy-and-procedures>

Employers can check the professional status register: <https://set.et-foundation.co.uk/your-career/professional-status-register> to confirm if the individual they intend to employ has gained QTLS and through their paid SET membership has maintained their QTLS status.