



Department  
for Education

# **Assessment only route to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS)**

**Criteria and supporting advice**

**October 2024**

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## Overview

Accredited initial teacher training providers offering the assessment only route should follow this guidance when carrying out their duties relating to Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT).

Accredited ITT providers offering the assessment only route must ensure they meet these criteria to remain compliant. Providers who do not comply with these criteria may have their accreditation withdrawn.

## Approval

In order to offer the assessment only route to early years teacher status (EYTS), an accredited ITT provider's provision must not be deemed of lower quality via an Ofsted inspection.

We will consider suspending a provider's approval to offer the assessment only route where:

- EYITT provision is subsequently deemed to be of lower quality (as determined through Ofsted inspection)
- the provider is subject to withdrawal of accreditation procedures
- assessment only provision does not comply with these criteria

# Entry criteria

## A1.1 GCSE standard equivalent

All EYITT providers must:

- ensure that all entrants have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade 4<sup>1</sup> in the GCSE examinations in English<sup>2</sup> and mathematics; and
- ensure that those who intend to train to teach pupils aged 3 to 11 additionally have achieved a standard equivalent to a grade 4 in the GCSE examination in a science subject.

This is to ensure that entrants to the EYITT assessment only route have demonstrated their achievement of a minimum standard of educational attainment.

It is the standard, not the certificate, that matters. Applicants who are otherwise suitable but, for whatever reason, have not successfully achieved a GCSE grade 4 may be given an opportunity to show that they can meet the required standard. Before acceptance, they will either need to take an equivalence test or offer other evidence of attainment, which should demonstrate a similar level and breadth. EYITT providers should consider making similar arrangements for candidates who cannot provide original certificates as evidence.

The Department for Education (DfE) does not provide a list of qualifications that can be considered equivalent to GCSE English, mathematics and science. When EYITT providers look for evidence that a qualification is of a standard equivalent to GCSE grade 4, they should look at the content not only in terms of its level, but also in terms of its breadth.

For the equivalent of grades awarded under the new GCSE grading structure, refer to [Ofqual postcards: GCSE, AS and A level reforms](#).

### Specific qualifications

Qualifications in key and functional skills at level 2 are not equivalent to GCSEs in terms of content. EYITT providers should look for additional evidence of breadth of knowledge

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<sup>1</sup> For the equivalent of grades awarded under the new GCSE grading structure, refer to [Your qualification, our regulation: GCSE, AS and A level reforms](#).

<sup>2</sup> An equivalent to grade 4 in English language or English literature fulfils this criterion

and understanding in applicants with key and functional skills certificates but without GCSEs at grade 4 or above in English and mathematics.

Where applicants have achieved a GCSE grade 4 or above in English literature only, EYITT providers should look for further evidence of a breadth of achievement in English.

## Further information

The [European Network of Information Centres in the European Region \(ENIC\)](#) provides advice on the equivalence of overseas qualifications.

## A1.2 Degree criteria

All EYITT providers must ensure that, in the case of graduate programmes of EYITT, all entrants hold a first degree of a UK higher education institution or equivalent qualification<sup>3</sup>.

This is to ensure the graduate status of early years teaching. All candidates must have attained a qualification that demonstrates the level of knowledge, understanding and transferable intellectual skills associated with graduate status.

[Legislation](#) requires all entrants to teaching, including early years teaching, in England to have a UK first degree or equivalent qualification. Any equivalent qualification should be one single qualification, not an aggregation of a number of separate qualifications. Applicants will need to have attained a first degree-level qualification before acceptance as a candidate. A first degree comprises 300 higher education credit points of which 60 must be at level 6 of the Qualifications and Credit Framework.

EYITT providers should view original certificates to validate an applicant's degree status. However, they should exercise discretion for recent graduates where there is a delay in receiving the original certificate. In these cases, EYITT providers should:

- obtain written confirmation from the relevant degree-awarding institution that the applicant has achieved graduate status
- ensure they view the original certificate as soon as it is available

In cases where an original certificate is no longer available, EYITT providers should gain assurance of graduate status and should keep an audit trail of the evidence obtained.

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<sup>3</sup> A first degree comprises 300 higher education (HE) credit points of which 60 must be at level 6 of the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). Applicants with a foundation degree will need to supplement this qualification with at least 60 credits at level 6 (HE level 3) in order to attain an equivalent single qualification

## Degree subjects

Legislation does not specify that teachers must have a degree in a particular subject or discipline. It is the [Teachers' Standards \(Early Years\)](#) that specify the subject knowledge required for the award of EYTS.

There is no statutory requirement for applicants to have a degree in an early years related subject, as long as they meet all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years), including those that relate to subject and curriculum knowledge.

## Information on degree-level qualifications

EYITT providers will need to make sure that those responsible for decisions on entry are familiar with, or have access to, advice on the range of qualifications generally regarded as equivalent to a first (bachelor's) degree in the UK, including:

- overseas qualifications
- professional or vocational qualifications
- qualifications no longer available but held by mature applicants

For example, the MEng is a 4-year first degree, the BPhil is usually a research degree, and some taught master's degrees may be open to people without a first degree.

It is for the provider to decide whether an individual's qualification meets this requirement, and whether a particular master's degree demonstrates the breadth and type of academic engagement that would be expected from first degree study. EYITT providers that are not degree-awarding bodies may wish to seek advice from those that are.

## Further information

The [European Network of Information Centres in the European Region \(ENIC\)](#) provides advice on the equivalence of overseas degrees.

The [Frameworks for HE qualifications of degree-awarding bodies](#) describes the higher education qualifications awarded by UK higher education institutions (HEIs) at 5 levels, formerly identified as certificate, intermediate, honours, masters and doctoral.



## A1.3 Suitability

All EYITT providers must ensure, before acceptance onto the route, that:

- all candidates, as part of the provider's selection procedures, have taken part in a rigorous selection process designed to assess their:
  - suitability to teach early years
  - ability to demonstrate meeting all of the [Teachers' Standards \(Early Years\)](#) without the need for any further training

EYITT providers must ensure that, before anyone is admitted to the assessment only route, they have deemed them suitable to be awarded EYTS. This will help to protect children from candidates who might put them at risk of harm because the candidate's previous conduct shows they are unsuitable for teaching. EYITT providers will conduct interviews, run background checks, and assess if an applicant has the appropriate intellectual and academic capabilities and personal qualities, attitudes, ethics and values to meet the [Teachers' Standards \(Early Years\)](#).

EYITT providers should consider a wide range of evidence to determine applicants' suitability to teach. For example:

- information from application forms
- information from Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks
- candidates' personal statements
- advice from early years settings they have been employed in
- results of any entry tests or tasks
- applicants' portfolios
- interviews

### Interviews

EYITT providers should consider how information from interviews can help to identify and take account of applicants' prior experience. The interview process might include, for example, setting observation, discussions of professional portfolios of evidence and discussions with managers.

### Equality

To comply with equality legislation, EYITT providers must ensure that interview procedures promote equality of opportunity and avoid discrimination.

The [Equality Act 2010](#) requires accredited ITT providers to ensure that they are not discriminating against applicants on the basis of any protected characteristic, including disability.

**Applicants with disabilities are under no obligation to disclose their disabilities.**

EYITT providers must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that their provision does not place applicants with disabilities at a disadvantage. EYITT providers should also consider making anticipatory adjustments to promote positive equality of access for disabled applicants, including access to benefits, facilities and services. They should provide as many opportunities as possible for applicants to identify any special arrangements they may require, for example when inviting them for interview or making arrangements for any entrance tests.

## Intellectual and academic capabilities

EYITT providers should consider the full range of applicants' knowledge, skills, academic background and prior experience to determine their suitability for the EYITT assessment only route. The selection process provides an opportunity to assess applicants' ability to communicate effectively.

Prior to the award of early years teacher status, EYITT providers should assure early years teachers' English and mathematics knowledge. EYITT providers should assure that candidates demonstrate competence in the following areas.

1. Speaking, listening and communicating are fundamental to an early years teacher's role. Early years teachers should use standard English grammar, clear pronunciation and vocabulary relevant to the situation to convey instructions, questions, information, concepts and ideas with clarity. Early years teachers should read fluently and with good understanding.
2. Writing by early years teachers will be seen by colleagues, children and parents and, as such, it is important that their writing reflects the high standards of accuracy their professional role demands. They should write clearly, accurately, legibly and coherently using correct spelling and punctuation.
3. Early years teachers should use data and graphs to interpret information, identify patterns and trends and draw appropriate conclusions. They need to interpret data and understand statistics and graphs in the news, academic reports and relevant papers. Early years teachers should demonstrate competence in using whole numbers, recognising simple number patterns and solving basic mathematical problems.

It is the candidate's responsibility to secure fundamental English and mathematics, whereas responsibility for assurance lies with the provider. Fundamental English and mathematics may be assured in different ways by different EYITT providers.

## Health and physical capacity to train to teach

EYITT providers have a responsibility to ensure that candidates have the health and physical capacity to train to teach and will not put children and young people at risk of harm.

The [Education \(Health Standards\) \(England\) Regulations 2003<sup>4</sup>](#) sets out the activities that a teacher must be able to perform. EYITT providers are responsible for ensuring that they only accept, onto the assessment only route, candidates who have the capacity to train to teach.

Many people with disabilities or chronic illnesses may have the capacity to train to teach, just as those without disabilities or medical conditions may be unsuitable to train to teach.

Successful applicants offered a place on the assessment only route may complete a fitness questionnaire. EYITT providers should not ask all-encompassing health questions but should ensure they only ask targeted and relevant health-related questions which are necessary to ensure that a person is able to train to teach.

## Disclosure and Barring Service checks

Accredited EYITT providers should have regard to [Keeping children safe in education statutory guidance](#) when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare children. They should ensure all trainees have been subject to appropriate pre-selection checks. This will include obtaining and considering enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) criminal records checks and children's barred list information.

Providers should confirm in writing to schools that a non-salaried trainee's enhanced criminal record check, including a check of the children's barred list, has been completed and that the individual has been judged by the provider to be suitable to work with children. Providers are not required to provide any information to schools in addition to this confirmation. Schools may wish to record this confirmation in their single central record, but they are not required to do so.

When determining an individual's suitability to train to teach, providers and employers should check, by asking the trainee or using any other data or information they have access to, that a trainee has not previously been removed from a programme because

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<sup>4</sup> This includes EY teachers if in a school given that the SI is made under sections 141 and 201 of the Education Act 2002, which may include EY teaching in schools. Section 141(5) states that "“child” means a person who has not attained the age of 18 years”

they have behaved in a way that indicates that they may not be suitable to work with children, or if the previous provider would have removed the trainee had they not left.

Where a school or setting allows an individual to start work in regulated activity before the DBS certificate is available, they should ensure the individual is not left unsupervised with children and that all other checks, including a separate barred list check, have been completed.

In the case of employment-based routes, the responsibility lies with the employer to ensure that checks have been carried out. The employing school or setting should inform the provider that a satisfactory check has been obtained.

Accredited EYITT providers should establish clear safeguarding procedures and protocols that are agreed by all partners in the partnership. This should include a common understanding across the partnership of convictions, offences, cautions and warnings that would not pose a barrier to joining a programme of EYITT.

Schools or settings should ensure that all trainee teachers, at the start of their training in each school or setting, are provided with access to the following:

- the child protection policy
- the staff behaviour policy (sometimes called a code of conduct)
- information about the role of the designated safeguarding lead
- the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework for group and school based providers
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

Accredited EYITT providers may wish to recommend to applicants that are checked early in the recruitment cycle, that they register with the DBS update service.

If an accredited EYITT provider removes a trainee from a programme because the trainee has harmed or poses a risk of harm to children, or if the accredited EYITT provider would have removed the trainee had they not left, the accredited EYITT provider is required to make a referral to the DBS.

Any queries about DBS checks should be referred to the DBS at [customerservices@dbs.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@dbs.gov.uk) 03000 200 190.

## Other background checks

Candidates who are unsuited to working with children may not have any previous convictions, and accredited EYITT providers should be vigilant during the selection process. Accredited EYITT providers or employing early years settings have a duty to ensure that trainees are properly managed and supervised and that, if they have concerns, information is referred to the police and the DBS.

Candidates who have lived or worked outside the UK must undergo the same checks as all other staff in schools and colleges. In addition, further checks should be carried out so that events that occurred outside the UK can be considered. The Home Office has published guidance on [Criminal records checks for overseas applicants](#) and DfE has published [Changes to checks for EU sanctions on EEA teachers](#) and [Recruit teachers from overseas](#). Accredited EYITT providers and employers must check that candidates are not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State.

## Childcare disqualification

Accredited EYITT providers should have regard to the Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 statutory guidance and related obligations under the Childcare Act 2006 when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Where trainees are salaried, it is the responsibility of the employer to ensure that they comply with the legislation. If a salaried trainee is or becomes disqualified from a childcare role, schools/employers should inform the training provider of this. Where trainees are fee-funded, it is the responsibility of the training provider to ensure that the trainee is not disqualified from childcare or that the trainee has obtained a childcare disqualification waiver from Ofsted.

Further advice on the childcare disqualification arrangements can be obtained from the Department for Education at [mailbox.disqualification@education.gov.uk](mailto:mailbox.disqualification@education.gov.uk) or on 01325 340 409.

## Links

Statutory guidance:

- [Early Years Foundation Stage](#) statutory framework
- [Regulated Activity \(children\) - supervision of activity which is regulated activity when unsupervised](#)
- [Working together to safeguard children](#)
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)

Details regarding paediatric first aid (PFA) requirements can be found in the [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage for group and school providers \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#).

## A1.4 School teaching experience

All EYITT providers must ensure, before acceptance onto the route, that:

- candidates have taught in a minimum of 2 schools, early years settings, maintained nursery schools or Multi Academy Trusts. Alternatively, candidates should have worked with a minimum of two different age groups in the age range of birth to five. Experience must total a minimum of two years.

Candidates need to demonstrate sufficient breadth and variety of experience in early years settings to enable them to meet all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years). They need to have:

- taught children and young people from different backgrounds, across the ability range for children aged 0-5.
- gained experience of different approaches to teaching and learning, and to organisation and management of early years settings

Candidates should have taught in a minimum of 2 schools or early years settings before entry to the assessment only route. It is not sufficient for candidates to have experience in 2 schools or settings or less. EYITT providers should consider whether a candidate's prior experience of teaching provides enough evidence to allow the provider to confidently count those previous teaching experiences towards the 2 schools required.

EYITT providers will need to be clear about the nature and extent of the prior experience, whether it offered the candidate the opportunity to teach children and whether, taken together with other experiences, it prepared the candidate sufficiently to meet the Teachers' Standards (Early Years).

Typically, a candidate with fewer than 2 years of experience in early years settings, not operating in ratios would be unsuitable for the assessment only route. Practical experience for the purposes of assessment only is not restricted to taking place in England.

# Assessment criteria

## A2.1 Provision

All EYITT providers must ensure that the content, structure, delivery and assessment of assessment only provision are designed to:

- enable candidates to demonstrate meeting all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) across the age range of 0-5.
- ensure that no candidate is recommended for the award of EYTS unless they have demonstrated meeting all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years)

At the outset, EYITT providers should make clear to candidates, and to all of those involved in assessment only, the scope and coverage of the route, including subject and curriculum knowledge and the anticipated assessment outcomes.

Assessment only route design underpins all the assessment criteria and should be flexible enough to meet the needs of every candidate. EYITT providers should look particularly at the extent to which their assessment practices are designed to ensure that candidates have met the Teachers' Standards (Early Years).

For those being assessed in non-specialist early years settings, the assessment process should cover the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. Candidates may need to demonstrate subject knowledge in a related subject if they do not have the opportunity to be assessed in their subject across the full age range of 0-5.

Prior to the award of EYTS, EYITT providers must assure candidates have appropriate English and mathematics skills. EYITT providers must assure that teachers demonstrate competence in the areas set out in detail in criterion A1.3.

EYITT providers should ensure they have the expertise to assess candidates in the age range (age 0-5) - this expertise will usually have been developed through delivery of high-quality EYITT.

Deciding whether a candidate meets the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) is a matter of professional judgement, taking into account the assessed performance, and all other relevant evidence, produced by the candidate. It is important to devise assessment processes that pay due regard to equality and fairness, that are robust and that make consistent and accurate judgements.

Assessment processes should be designed so that candidates are only recommended for the award of EYTS when they have demonstrated that they meet all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years). EYITT providers will need to devise procedures to do this that

are fit for purpose and provide accurate assessments based on secure evidence, while not placing an unnecessary burden on candidates.

## A2.2 Age ranges

All EYITT providers must ensure:

- all candidates recommended for the award of EYTS have been assessed as meeting the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) working with children aged 0-5.

Assessment must ensure that candidates have the knowledge and skills they need to be able to teach children aged 0-5.

EYITT providers should consider how the assessment design and candidates' time teaching in at least 2 early years settings prior to entry will ensure they can teach across the full ability range of early years.

## A2.3 Candidate assessment

All EYITT providers should ensure that the process of assessment:

- includes the assessment of practical teaching in an early years setting
- typically does not last longer than 3 months

This is to ensure that assessors have the opportunity to verify a candidate's achievement against the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) in a practical teaching context, within a suitably short period of time.

Assessments of candidates against the Teachers' Standards (Early Years), and subsequent recommendations for the award of EYTS, should not be based solely upon evidence of prior experience and achievement. This evidence, whilst being valuable in its own right, should be verified by EYITT providers so they can be sure that candidates are continuing to meet the Teachers' Standards (Early Years), and that a subsequent recommendation for the award is secure.

Assessment may take place in a private, voluntary or independent early years setting, a maintained nursery school, a Multi Academy Trust or an independent school. EYITT providers should satisfy themselves that employing early years settings have the capacity to undertake their responsibilities. Where an early years setting or school is deemed of lower quality via an Ofsted inspection, it may still be possible for accredited EYITT providers to use them, especially if the improvements to be made do not affect the



candidate's assessment. The provider will need to be confident that the candidate will not be disadvantaged by being assessed in the setting.

Candidates are accepted onto the assessment only route after an initial assessment to assess whether they are likely to be able to demonstrate that they are meeting all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years). The assessment only route is intended for very experienced graduate teachers without EYTS who can demonstrate meeting all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) without the need for further training. Therefore, the whole process for a candidate should typically be completed in no longer than 3 calendar months from their registered start date.

Where a candidate fails to meet a provider's reasonable expectation of providing evidence for assessment within the 3-month period, or where assessment determines that the candidate does not fully meet the Teachers' Standards (Early Years), the candidate should be deemed to have failed the route.

# Management and quality assurance criteria

## A3.1 Management

All EYITT providers should ensure that:

- their management structure ensures the effective operation of the assessment only provision

EYITT providers should plan their provision to ensure they comply with the current criteria and provide the opportunity for candidates to demonstrate that they meet all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years). Assessment should be of high quality and EYITT providers should seek continuing improvement.

## A3.2 Partnerships

All EYITT providers should ensure that:

- partners establish an agreement setting out the roles and responsibilities of each partner in working together to assess candidates against the Teachers' Standards (Early Years)

This is to ensure that early years settings that contribute to the assessment only route:

- work as full partners
- are actively involved in the route
- work together, under the guidance of the approved provider and within the context of a partnership agreement, to select, support and assess candidates

EYITT providers may wish to work with their existing early years setting partners, but will also need to consider how to work in a one-off partnership with new settings that approach them in support of an individual's application for the assessment only route.

The partnership agreement should be a clear, working document that can be used to guide and inform the contributions of each partner and help to support coherent arrangements across the various contexts in which the assessment takes place. The partnership agreement will be underpinned by other practices, such as well-understood procedures for communication between the partners and agreed arrangements for the co-ordination of assessment.

Where provision is not setting-led, EYITT providers should assure the significant role of early years setting in the selection and assessment of candidates. The roles and responsibilities of all partners should be clearly defined in the partnership agreement.

The partnership agreement should also include details of the:

- partnership's quality assurance procedures
- policies for equality of opportunity
- formal organisation and management of the partnership

The partnership agreement may make reference, for example, to the functions of groups and committees in managing the partnership and the ways in which resources are allocated among partners. It will set out the criteria for removing schools from the partnership, particularly where quality issues arise. The agreement and any associated supplementary documentation should be reviewed and revised by members of the partnership at appropriate intervals.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

All assessors and candidates need to be clear about who is responsible for elements of assessment, how provision is managed and how the elements fit together to ensure assessment addresses all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years).

The partnership agreement should specify the different roles within the partnership including, for example, provider assessors, staff, and internal and external moderators. It should also set out how partners contribute towards:

- selecting and interviewing applicants
- moderating assessment judgements of candidates against the Teachers' Standards (Early Years)
- any route committees
- quality assurance, including improvement planning and self-evaluation
- the promotion of equality of opportunity
- the safeguarding of children

## **A3.3 Legislation**

All EYITT providers must ensure that:

- they comply with all current legislation relevant to the assessment only route

EYITT providers must review and update their provision so that it continues to meet the criteria and associated legislation:

- [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#)– sets out the role and responsibilities of early years teachers, and how they can operate in different settings.
- [Education \(School Teachers' Qualifications\) \(England\) Regulations 2003 \(SI 1662\)](#)<sup>5</sup> - statutory requirements for QTS in England
- [Education \(Specified Work\) \(England\) Regulations 2012 \(SI 762\)](#)<sup>6</sup> - includes requirements that must be satisfied by individuals who are not qualified teachers in order to carry out specified work in schools
- [Equality Act 2010](#)- legislation relating to equality, discrimination and employment
- Data protection legislation:
  - [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#)
  - [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
  - [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)

EYITT providers must also ensure they carry out relevant background checks for all applicants.

EYITT providers should make sure that all members of the partnership are fully aware of their duties under all relevant legislation and have in place arrangements for ensuring that these are met when selecting and assessing candidates.

From 1 July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools and early years settings, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(the CTSA 2015\)](#), to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”<sup>7</sup>. Bodies to which the duty applies must have regard to statutory guidance issued under section 29 of the CTSA 2015 (the [Prevent duty guidance](#)).

The Prevent duty guidance states that schools, early years settings and other institutions to which the duty applies should make sure that staff have training that gives them the knowledge and confidence to identify children at risk of being drawn into terrorism and to challenge extremist ideas which can be used to legitimise terrorism and are shared by terrorist groups.

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<sup>5</sup> Applies to EY teachers if someone is operating in ratios in the EYFS. See footnote 44, page 30 of the [EYFS Statutory Framework](#).

<sup>6</sup> Applies to EY teachers if someone is operating in ratios in the EYFS. See footnote 48, page 31 of the [EYFS Statutory Framework](#).

<sup>7</sup> Early Years is referred to under Schedule 6 to the 2015 Act which includes “A person registered under Chapter 2, 2A, 3 or 3A of Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006”

## Further information

The following is a list of relevant legislation and guidance. This is not intended to be exhaustive and EYITT providers will need to ensure they have identified and comply with all legislation relevant to assessment only and early years settings.

The [Equality Act 2010](#) is the governing legislation for all matters relating to discrimination. Also relevant are:

- [Education \(Health Standards\) \(England\) Regulations 2003 \(SI 3139\)](#)
- [Disabled Students' Allowances \(DSAs\)](#)
- [Disability rights UK education and skills guidance for people with disabilities](#)

The [Equality and Human Rights Commission \(EHRC\)](#) provides further guidance on the Equality Act for schools and further and higher education institutions. The EHRC also has information on the [Codes of Practice](#) that relate to equal pay, race, disability and sex and gender discrimination.

The work that is reserved to qualified teachers in maintained schools in accordance with section 133 of the Education Act 2002, subject to limited exceptions, is prescribed by the [Education \(Specified Work\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#).

EYITT providers should familiarise themselves with the Competition and Markets Authority's consumer law advice. EYITT providers that do not meet their obligations to candidates may be in breach of consumer protection law. Find out more about [Higher education: consumer law advice for ITT providers](#).

## A3.4 Moderation

All EYITT providers must ensure that:

- rigorous moderation procedures are in place to assure the reliability, accuracy and consistency of assessments of candidates against the Teachers' Standards (Early Years)

EYITT providers can only recommend candidates for the award of EYTS if they meet all of the Teachers' Standards (Early Years). Therefore, the assessment of candidates must be accurate and reliable in establishing whether or not candidates meet the Teachers' Standards (Early Years). In order to ensure accuracy and reliability EYITT providers should have clear and robust assessment and moderation arrangements in place, informed by appropriate criteria for the various aspects and stages of the assessment process.

## Internal moderation

Internal moderation provides a system of checks and balances to ensure that candidates in different settings are assessed accurately and reliably. EYITT providers should ensure that arrangements for internal moderation are in place and that they work effectively. The roles and responsibilities of those carrying out such arrangements are likely to be contained in the partnership agreement.

## External moderation

EYITT providers should appoint suitable external moderators. External moderators should have no direct involvement with the provider's work. They should be able to offer an external perspective on the attainment of other EYITT providers' candidates being assessed for the award of EYTS, which should help to verify the accuracy of the provider assessments. EYITT providers should consider how to use external moderators to corroborate and standardise their assessments of candidates.

## A3.5 Quality assurance

All EYITT providers must ensure that:

- they monitor, evaluate and moderate all aspects of provision rigorously and demonstrate how these contribute to securing improvements in the quality of the assessment of candidates

EYITT providers should have robust procedures in place for monitoring and evaluating all aspects of their assessment only provision. They should also be able to demonstrate, through gathered evidence and candidate outcomes, how the implementation of these procedures contributes to securing improvements in quality.

EYITT providers should define clearly the arrangements and responsibilities for monitoring and evaluating the quality of provision across all the contexts in which it takes place, and identify ways in which it could be improved.

EYITT providers should have systematic procedures in place in order to demonstrate that monitoring and evaluation have secured improvements in quality and outcomes for candidates. This may mean keeping comparative data and other evidence over a period of time. EYITT providers are not required to grade candidates, but may wish to consider whether this is possible and if it would support their evaluation of outcomes for candidates.

Similarly, EYITT providers may wish to examine the procedures and practices they have in place for assessing the subject and pedagogical knowledge of all candidates and the knowledge of relevant curriculum areas. They can evaluate these against the success of

candidates in demonstrating meeting the Teachers' Standards (Early Years). The evidence will need to be sufficiently robust to enable the provider to draw conclusions, and act upon them.

All monitoring and evaluation processes and activities should focus on impact and outcomes – particularly in the context of the standards achieved by candidates. Reporting and documenting of such activities should be evaluative rather than descriptive.

## Relevant legislation

- [Education \(School Teachers' Qualifications\) \(England\) Regulations 2003](#)
- [Education \(Health Standards\) \(England\) Regulations 2003](#)
- [Education \(Specified Work\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)
- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)
- [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(the CTSA 2015\)](#)
- [Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework](#)





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