



Teaching
Regulation
Agency

Mr Matthew Smith: Professional conduct panel meeting outcome

**Panel decision and reasons on behalf of the
Secretary of State for Education**

April 2025

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Professional conduct panel decision and recommendations, and decision on behalf of the Secretary of State

Teacher:	Mr Matthew Smith
Teacher ref number:	1060535
Teacher date of birth:	15 June 1988
TRA reference:	21240
Date of determination:	25 April 2025
Former employer:	Thomas's Battersea Primary School, London

Introduction

A professional conduct panel ("the panel") of the Teaching Regulation Agency ("the TRA") convened on 25 April 2025 by way of a virtual meeting, to consider the case of Mr Matthew Smith.

The panel members were Ms Jackie Hutchings (teacher panellist – in the chair), Mrs Georgina Bean (teacher panellist) and Mr Peter Whitelock (lay panellist).

The legal adviser to the panel was Mrs Samantha Cass of Birketts LLP Solicitors.

In advance of the meeting, after taking into consideration the public interest and the interests of justice, the TRA agreed to a request from Mr Smith that the allegations be considered without a hearing. Mr Smith provided a signed statement of agreed facts and admitted conviction of a relevant offence. The panel considered the case at a meeting without the attendance of the presenting officer Mr Jon Walters of Brabners LLP, Mr Smith or any representative for Mr Smith.

The meeting took place in private.

Allegations

The panel considered the allegations set out in the notice of meeting dated 14 January 2025.

It was alleged that Mr Smith was guilty of having been convicted of a relevant offence, in that:

1. On or around 09 August 2023, he was convicted at Southwark Crown Court of the following offences:
 - a. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an indictable offence on 19/07/17 – 22/09/17. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
 - b. Cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 24/02/19. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.8(1)
 - c. Arrange/facilitate the commission of a child sex offence on 21/10/19. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.14
 - d. Cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 25/11/19. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.8(1)
 - e. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an either way offence on 01/01/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
 - f. Cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 12/02/20. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.8(1)
 - g. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an indictable offence on 12/02/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
 - h. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an indictable offence on 21/02/20 – 25/02/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
 - i. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an either way offence on 16/07/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
 - j. Three counts of making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph of children on 12/06/16 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)
 - k. Possession of extreme pornographic images – of intercourse/oral sex with dead/alive animal on 12/06/16 – 07/11/22. Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 s.63(a)(7)(d)
 - l. Possess prohibited images of children on 12/06/16 – 07/11/22. Coroners and Justice Act 2009 s.62(1)

- m. Three counts of distributing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children on 03/01/17 – 17/06/21. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1
- n. Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children on 01/01/18 – 06/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)
- o. Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children on 29/12/17 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)
- p. Cause/incite the sexual exploitation of a child under 13 on 08/11/22. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.48(1)(a)
- q. Distributing indecent photographs or pseudo-photograph of children on 28/12/17 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)
- r. Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children on 28/12/17 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)

Mr Smith admitted allegations 1(a) – (r), as set out in the statement of agreed facts, signed by Mr Smith on 17 December 2024.

Summary of evidence

Documents

In advance of the hearing, the panel received a bundle of documents which included:

Section 1: Notice of referral response and notice of meeting – pages 1 to 9

Section 2: Statement of agreed facts – pages 10 to 18

Section 3: Crown Court documents – pages 19 to 29

Section 4: Teacher Documents – pages 30 to 31

The panel members confirmed that they had read all of the documents within the bundle, in advance of the hearing.

In the consideration of this case, the panel had regard to the document Teacher misconduct: Disciplinary procedures for the teaching profession 2020 (the “Procedures”).

Statement of agreed facts

The panel considered a statement of agreed facts which was signed by Mr Smith on 17 December 2024.

Decision and reasons

The panel announced its decision and reasons as follows:

The panel carefully considered the case before it and reached a decision.

In advance of the meeting the TRA agreed to a request from Mr Smith for the allegations to be considered without a hearing. The panel had the ability to direct that the case be considered at a hearing if required in the interests of justice or in the public interest. The panel did not determine that such a direction was necessary or appropriate in this case.

Mr Smith commenced his role as deputy pastoral manager and deputy safeguarding lead at Thomas's Battersea Primary School ('the School') in September 2022.

Mr Smith was arrested at his home on 6 November 2022. Evidence from his laptop revealed that he was using an encrypted messaging service to discuss receiving and sending indecent images of children.

On 9 August 2023, Mr Smith was convicted at Southwark Crown Court.

The matter was referred to the TRA on 9 November 2022.

The panel noted that there was a clerical error in the bundle as it stated on the certificate of conviction on page 19 of the bundle that Mr Smith was sentenced on 9 August 2023 and page 14 of the bundle stated that Mr Smith was convicted on 9 August 2023. The panel noted that the actual date of conviction was 20 June 2023, and Mr Smith was sentenced on 9 August 2023. The panel did not consider that there was any need to amend the allegations which referred to a conviction "*on or around 09 August 2023*".

Findings of fact

The findings of fact are as follows:

The panel found the following particulars of the allegations against you proved, for these reasons:

- 1. On or around 09 August 2023, you were convicted at Southwark Crown Court of the following offences:**
 - a. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an indictable offence on 19/07/17 – 22/09/17. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44**
 - b. Cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 24/02/19. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.8(1)**

- c. Arrange/facilitate the commission of a child sex offence on 21/10/19. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.14
- d. Cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 25/11/19. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.8(1)
- e. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an either way offence on 01/01/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
- f. Cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration on 12/02/20. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.8(1)
- g. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an indictable offence on 12/02/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
- h. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an indictable offence on 21/02/20 – 25/02/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
- i. Intentionally encourage/assist an commission of an either way offence on 16/07/20. Serious Crime Act 2007 s.44
- j. Three counts of making indecent photograph or pseudo photograph of children on 12/06/16 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)
- k. Possession of extreme pornographic images – of intercourse/ oral sex with dead/alive animal on 12/06/16 – 07/11/22. Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 s.63(a)(7)(d)
- l. Possess prohibited images of children on 12/06/16 – 07/11/22. Coroners and Justice Act 2009 s.62(1)
- m. Three counts of distributing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children on 03/01/17 – 17/06/21. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1
- n. Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children on 01/01/18 – 06/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)
- o. Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children on 29/12/17 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)
- p. Cause/incite the sexual exploitation of a child under 13 on 08/11/22. Sexual Offences Act 2003 s.48(1)(a)
- q. Distributing indecent photographs or pseudo-photograph of children on 28/12/17 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)

**r. Making indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of children on
28/12/17 – 07/11/22. Protection of Children Act 1978 s.1(a)**

The panel considered the statement of agreed facts, signed by Mr Smith on 17 December 2024. In that statement of agreed facts, Mr Smith admitted to the particulars of allegation 1, and further admitted that the facts of the allegation amounted to a conviction of a relevant offence. Notwithstanding this, the panel made a determination based on the facts available to it.

The panel noted page 8 of the Teacher misconduct: the prohibition of teachers ('the Advice') which states that, where there has been a conviction at any time, of a criminal offence, the panel will accept the certificate of conviction as conclusive proof of both the conviction and the facts necessarily implied by the conviction, unless exceptional circumstances apply. The panel did not find that any exceptional circumstances applied in this case.

The panel had been provided with a copy of a certificate of conviction from Southwark Crown Court, dated 30 October 2024, which detailed that Mr Smith had been convicted of:

- 3 counts of cause/incite a boy under 13 to engage in sexual activity – no penetration
- 1 count of arranging/facilitating the commission of a child sex offence
- 2 counts of intentionally encouraging/assisting the commission of an either way offence
- 3 counts of making indecent photographs/pseudo photograph of a child
- 1 count of possessing extreme pornographic images – act of intercourse/oral sex with a dead/alive animal
- 1 count of possessing a prohibited image of a child
- 3 counts of distributing an indecent photograph/pseudo-photograph of a child

In respect of the allegation, the panel considered the sentencing remarks which stated that Mr Smith was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, 5 years extended sexual harm prevention order until further order, a sexual harm prevention order, forfeiture and deprivation of his Dell and Apple laptops and to pay a victim surcharge.

On examination of the documents before the panel and the admission in the signed statement of agreed facts, the panel was satisfied that the facts of allegation 1 were proven.

Findings as to conviction of a relevant offence

Having found allegation 1 in its entirety proved, the panel went on to consider whether the facts of those proved allegations amounted to conviction of a relevant offence.

In doing so, the panel had regard to the document Teacher misconduct: The prohibition of teachers, which is referred to as “the Advice”.

The panel first considered whether the conduct of Mr Smith, in relation to the facts found proved, involved breaches of the Teachers’ Standards.

The panel considered that, by reference to Part 2, Mr Smith was in breach of the following standards:

- Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by
 - treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher’s professional position;
 - having regard for the need to safeguard pupils’ well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions;
 - showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others;
 - not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect...; and
 - ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils’ vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.
- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

The panel noted that although none of the images or videos recovered by the National Crime Agency involved pupils at the School, Mr Smith’s actions were relevant to teaching and working with children, in that the offences involved children of school age. The individual’s actions were relevant to teaching, working with children and/or working in an education setting. The panel considered the sentencing remarks which stated that the offences involved young children, and that Mr Smith had demonstrated a sexual interest in children, motivated by sexual gratification.

The panel noted that the behaviour involved in committing the offence could have had an impact on the safety and/or security of pupils and/or members of the public.

The panel also took account of the way the teaching profession is viewed by others. The panel considered that Mr Smith's behaviour in committing the offence could affect public confidence in the teaching profession, given the influence that teachers may have on pupils, parents and others in the community.

The panel noted that Mr Smith's behaviour ultimately led to a sentence of imprisonment, which was indicative of the seriousness of the offences committed.

The panel also considered the offences listed on pages 12 and 13 of the Advice.

This was a case concerning an offence involving sexual activity, any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing or publishing any indecent photograph or image or pseudo photograph or image of a child, or permitting any such activity, including one-off incidents, which the Advice states is likely to be considered a relevant offence.

The panel noted that in the sentencing remarks Mr Smith was referred to as being "*dangerous*" and that he had a manifested sexual interest in children. The panel also noted Mr Smith presented a high risk of harm to children.

The panel took into account the remorse expressed in the sentencing remarks but noted that this was since discovery of the offences and therefore did not consider that this was relevant or sufficient mitigation.

The panel considered that a finding that these convictions were for relevant offences was necessary to reaffirm clear standards of conduct so as to maintain public confidence in the teaching profession.

Panel's recommendation to the Secretary of State

Given the panel's findings in respect of a conviction of a relevant offence, it was necessary for the panel to go on to consider whether it would be appropriate to recommend the imposition of a prohibition order by the Secretary of State.

In considering whether to recommend to the Secretary of State that a prohibition order should be made, the panel had to consider whether it would be an appropriate and proportionate measure, and whether it would be in the public interest to do so. Prohibition orders should not be given in order to be punitive, or to show that blame has been apportioned, although they are likely to have punitive effect.

The panel had regard to the particular public interest considerations set out in the Advice and, having done so, found a number of them to be relevant in this case, namely:

- the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils/the protection of other members of the public/the maintenance of public confidence in the profession/declaring and upholding proper standards of conduct.

In the light of the panel's findings against Mr Smith, which involved numerous convictions for serious sexual offences against children, there was a strong public interest consideration in the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils and the protection of other members of the public.

There was also a strong public interest consideration in respect of the safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils, given the serious findings of inappropriate interactions with children.

Similarly, the panel considered that public confidence in the profession could be seriously weakened if conduct such as that found against Mr Smith was not treated with the utmost seriousness when regulating the conduct of the profession.

The panel was of the view that a strong public interest consideration in declaring proper standards of conduct in the profession was also present as the conduct found against Mr Smith was outside that which could reasonably be tolerated.

In addition to the public interest considerations set out above, the panel went on to consider whether there was a public interest in retaining Mr Smith in the profession. There was no evidence in the bundle regarding Mr Smith's ability to teach, however, the seriousness of the offences outweighed any public interest in his retention.

The panel considered carefully the seriousness of the behaviour, noting that the Advice states that the expectation of both the public and pupils, is that members of the teaching profession maintain an exemplary level of integrity and ethical standards at all times. The panel noted that a teacher's behaviour that seeks to exploit their position of trust should be viewed very seriously in terms of its potential influence on pupils and be seen as a possible threat to the public interest.

In view of the clear public interest considerations that were present, the panel considered carefully whether or not it would be proportionate to impose a prohibition order, taking into account the effect that this would have on Mr Smith.

The panel took further account of the Advice, which suggests that a prohibition order may be appropriate if certain behaviours of a teacher have been proved. In the list of such behaviours, those that were relevant in this case were:

- serious departure from the personal and professional conduct elements of the Teachers' Standards;

- the commission of a serious criminal offence, including those that resulted in a conviction or caution, paying particular attention to offences that are 'relevant matters' for the purposes of the Police Act 1997 and criminal record disclosures;
- misconduct seriously affecting the education and/or safeguarding and well-being of pupils, and particularly where there is a continuing risk;
- sexual misconduct, e.g. involving actions that were sexually motivated or of a sexual nature and/or that use or exploit the trust, knowledge or influence derived from the individual's professional position;
- any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing, or publishing any indecent photograph or image, or indecent pseudo photograph or image, of a child, or permitting such activity, including one-off incidents;
- failure in their duty of care towards a child, including exposing a child to risk or failing to promote the safety and welfare of the children (as set out in Part 1 of KCSIE); and
- a deep-seated attitude that leads to harmful behaviour.

Even though the behaviour found proved in this case indicated that a prohibition order would be appropriate, the panel went on to consider the mitigating factors. Mitigating factors may indicate that a prohibition order would not be appropriate or proportionate.

There was no evidence that Mr Smith's actions were not deliberate.

There was no evidence that Mr Smith was acting under extreme duress.

Mr Smith did not demonstrate exceptionally high standards in his personal and professional conduct and/or demonstrate that he had contributed significantly to the education sector.

The panel noted a lack of evidence of insight and remorse on the part of Mr Smith.

The panel first considered whether it would be proportionate to conclude this case with no recommendation of prohibition, considering whether the publication of the findings made by the panel would be sufficient.

The panel was of the view that, applying the standard of the ordinary intelligent citizen, it would not be a proportionate and appropriate response to recommend no prohibition order. Recommending that the publication of adverse findings would be sufficient would unacceptably compromise the public interest considerations present in this case, despite the severity of the consequences for Mr Smith of prohibition.

The panel was of the view that prohibition was both proportionate and appropriate. The panel decided that the public interest considerations outweighed the interests of Mr

Smith. The gravity of the offences for which Mr Smith was convicted and is serving a custodial sentence were significant factors in forming that opinion. Accordingly, the panel made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that a prohibition order should be imposed with immediate effect.

The panel went on to consider whether or not it would be appropriate for it to decide to recommend a review period of the order. The panel was mindful that the Advice states that a prohibition order applies for life, but there may be circumstances, in any given case, that may make it appropriate to allow a teacher to apply to have the prohibition order reviewed after a specified period of time that may not be less than 2 years.

The Advice indicates that there are certain types of case where, if relevant, the public interest will have greater relevance and weigh in favour of not offering a review period.

This includes:

- serious sexual misconduct e.g. where the act was sexually motivated and resulted in, or had the potential to result in, harm to a person or persons, particularly where the individual has used their professional position to influence or exploit a person or persons;
- any sexual misconduct involving a child; and
- any activity involving viewing, taking, making, possessing, distributing or publishing any indecent photograph or image or indecent pseudo photograph or image of a child, including one off incidents.

The panel considered the sentencing remarks and the fact that Mr Smith was regarded as being “*dangerous*” highlighting a significant risk of repetition of the behaviours for which he was convicted. The fact that he received a custodial sentence was indicative of the seriousness of the offending and the fact that there was a significant risk of reoffending.

The panel decided that the findings indicated a situation in which a review period would not be appropriate and, as such, decided that it would be proportionate, in all the circumstances, for the prohibition order to be recommended without provisions for a review period.

Decision and reasons on behalf of the Secretary of State

I have given very careful consideration to this case and to the recommendation of the panel in respect of both sanction and review period.

In considering this case, I have also given very careful attention to the Advice that the Secretary of State has published concerning the prohibition of teachers.

In this case, the panel has found all of the allegations proven and found that those proven facts amount to a relevant conviction.

The panel has made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that Mr Matthew Smith should be the subject of a prohibition order, with no provision for a review period.

In particular, the panel has found that Mr Smith is in breach of the following standards:

- Teachers uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school, by
 - treating pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observing proper boundaries appropriate to a teacher's professional position;
 - having regard for the need to safeguard pupils' well-being, in accordance with statutory provisions;
 - showing tolerance of and respect for the rights of others;
 - not undermining fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect...; and
 - ensuring that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit pupils' vulnerability or might lead them to break the law.
- Teachers must have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school in which they teach and maintain high standards in their own attendance and punctuality.
- Teachers must have an understanding of, and always act within, the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.

The panel was satisfied that the conduct of Mr Smith involved breaches of the responsibilities and duties set out in statutory guidance 'Keeping children safe in education'.

The findings of misconduct are particularly serious as they include numerous convictions for serious sexual offences against children resulting in a lengthy prison sentence.

I have to determine whether the imposition of a prohibition order is proportionate and in the public interest. In assessing that for this case, I have considered the overall aim of a prohibition order which is to protect pupils and to maintain public confidence in the profession. I have considered the extent to which a prohibition order in this case would achieve that aim taking into account the impact that it will have on the individual teacher. I have also asked myself, whether a less intrusive measure, such as the published finding of a relevant conviction, would itself be sufficient to achieve the overall aim. I have to consider whether the consequences of such a publication are themselves sufficient. I

have considered therefore whether or not prohibiting Mr Smith, and the impact that will have on the teacher, is proportionate and in the public interest.

In this case, I have considered the extent to which a prohibition order would protect children and safeguard pupils. The panel records that:

“The panel noted that although none of the images or videos recovered by the National Crime Agency involved pupils at the School, Mr Smith’s actions were relevant to teaching and working with children, in that the offences involved children of school age. The individual’s actions were relevant to teaching, working with children and/or working in an education setting. The panel considered the sentencing remarks which stated that the offences involved young children, and that Mr Smith had demonstrated a sexual interest in children, motivated by sexual gratification.”

A prohibition order would therefore prevent such a risk from being present in the future.

I have also taken into account the panel’s comments on insight and remorse, which it sets out as follows: “The panel noted a lack of evidence of insight and remorse on the part of Mr Smith.” In my judgement, the lack of evidence of insight and remorse means that there is some risk of the repetition of this behaviour and this puts at risk the future wellbeing of pupils. I have therefore given this element considerable weight in reaching my decision.

I have gone on to consider the extent to which a prohibition order would maintain public confidence in the profession. The panel notes the following:

“The panel also took account of the way the teaching profession is viewed by others. The panel considered that Mr Smith’s behaviour in committing the offence could affect public confidence in the teaching profession, given the influence that teachers may have on pupils, parents and others in the community.”

I am particularly mindful of the finding of the extremely serious nature of the misconduct found in this case, including the fact that it was committed by a teacher who had specific safeguarding responsibilities, and the very negative impact that such a finding is likely to have on the reputation of the profession.

I have had to consider that the public has a high expectation of professional standards of all teachers and that the public might regard a failure to impose a prohibition order as a failure to uphold those high standards. In weighing these considerations, I have had to consider the matter from the point of view of an “ordinary intelligent and well-informed citizen.”

I have considered whether the publication of a finding of a relevant conviction, in the absence of a prohibition order, can itself be regarded by such a person as being a proportionate response to the misconduct that has been found proven in this case.

I have also considered the impact of a prohibition order on Mr Smith himself. The panel records that: “Mr Smith did not demonstrate exceptionally high standards in his personal and professional conduct and/or demonstrate that he had contributed significantly to the education sector.”

A prohibition order would prevent Mr Smith from teaching. A prohibition order would also clearly deprive the public of his contribution to the profession for the period that it is in force.

In this case, I have placed considerable weight on the very serious nature of the misconduct found by the panel, which involved the sexual exploitation of children by a teacher. I am also mindful of the lack of evidence of insight or remorse and the likely negative impact of Mr Smith’s actions on the standing of the profession.

I have given less weight in my consideration of sanction therefore, to the contribution that Mr Smith has made to the profession. In my view, it is necessary to impose a prohibition order in order to maintain public confidence in the profession. A published decision, in light of the circumstances in this case, does not in my view satisfy the public interest requirement concerning public confidence in the profession.

For these reasons, I have concluded that a prohibition order is proportionate and in the public interest in order to achieve the intended aims of a prohibition order.

I have gone on to consider the matter of a review period. In this case, the panel has recommended that no provision should be made for a review period.

I have considered the panel’s concluding comments:

“The panel considered the sentencing remarks and the fact that Mr Smith was regarded as being “*dangerous*” highlighting a significant risk of repetition of the behaviours for which he was convicted. The fact that he received a custodial sentence was indicative of the seriousness of the offending and the fact that there was a significant risk of reoffending.

The panel decided that the findings indicated a situation in which a review period would not be appropriate and, as such, decided that it would be proportionate, in all the circumstances, for the prohibition order to be recommended without provisions for a review period.”

I have considered whether not allowing a review period reflects the seriousness of the findings and is a proportionate period to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. In this case, factors mean that allowing a review period is not sufficient and appropriate to achieve the aim of maintaining public confidence in the profession. These elements are the very serious nature of the misconduct found, which in my

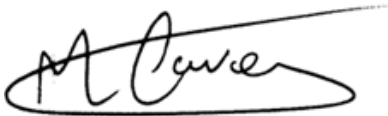
judgment constitutes behaviour fundamentally incompatible with working as a teacher, and the risk of repetition.

I consider therefore that allowing for no review period is necessary to maintain public confidence and is proportionate and in the public interest.

This means that Mr Matthew Smith is prohibited from teaching indefinitely and cannot teach in any school, sixth form college, relevant youth accommodation or children's home in England. Furthermore, in view of the seriousness of the allegations found proved against him, I have decided that Mr Smith shall not be entitled to apply for restoration of his eligibility to teach.

This order takes effect from the date on which it is served on the teacher.

Mr Smith has a right of appeal to the High Court within 28 days from the date he is given notice of this order.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Cavey', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

Decision maker: Marc Cavey

Date: 29 April 2025

This decision is taken by the decision maker named above on behalf of the Secretary of State.