

Joint Statement: Valuing the expertise of subject teachers

The impact of an educational system will always be determined by the quality of its teachers and young people deserve to be taught by teachers who are experts in their subjects and passionate for the benefits it can provide to their pupils' lives.

Together we represent 10,000s of teachers across our respective subject specialisms. We know the value that our expert teachers bring to young peoples' education. Indeed, we all owe our careers to 'the' teacher whose passion for their subject brought it to life in front of us and who encouraged us in our own futures.

However, we are concerned such positive experiences are becoming more limited, especially for young people from more disadvantaged backgrounds. This is why we are calling on the next government to strengthen the recruitment of, and ongoing support for, expert subject teachers.

Currently, most secondary school subjects experience under-recruitment of trainee teachers, there is endemic use of non-specialists in the classroom, and a lack of ongoing commitment to subject focused professional support.

Together we call for the future Secretary of State for Education to build stronger links between relevant degree courses and teacher training programmes; review the 'on-off' approach to training bursaries and bring longer term stability; and provide a quantifiable career long CPD entitlement that can strengthen teachers' subject expertise.

We regularly hear our political leaders, and other public figures, credit 'their' teacher - who's enthusiasm and expertise helped them to set out on their own path. If all young people are to successfully navigate their own journeys into further study, the workplace and later life they deserve to be taught by similarly expert subject teachers too.

Yours,

Association for Citizenship Teaching

Liz Mourse, Chief Executive

Association for Physical Education

Sue Wilkinson MBE , Chief Executive

Association for Science Education

Lynn Ladbrook, Chief Executive

English Association

Dr Rebecca Fisher, Chief Executive

Geographical Association

Steve Brace, Chief Executive

Historical Association

Rebecca Sullivan, Chief Executive

National Association for Teachers of Religious Education

Fiona Moss, Chief Executive