



Fitness to Practise

Suitability for registration in Wales

What is the Education Workforce Council?

The Education Workforce Council ('the EWC ') is an independent body which regulates education practitioners in Wales in [the public interest](#) – your interest.

'Regulation' means the EWC is responsible for ensuring education practitioners are suitable to practise in Wales. Carrying out this work gives you, learners and practitioners protection and confidence in the education professions. Everyone has a right to expect the highest standards of practitioners in the education of learners, particularly children and young people.

How does the EWC regulate?

The EWC regulates by maintaining a Register of Education Practitioners in Wales.

A person cannot be employed as a:

- qualified teacher who carries out the specified work of a teacher school in a maintained school or non-maintained special school in Wales (**school teacher**);
- person who provides education in or for a further education institution in Wales (**FE teacher**);
- school learning support worker who provides, or supports a school teacher in the provision of specific services in a maintained school or non-maintained special school in Wales;
- further education support worker who provides specific services in or for a further education institution in Wales;
- youth worker who provides youth development services for or on behalf of a relevant body (other than as a volunteer);
- youth support worker who provides youth development services for or on behalf of a relevant body (other than as a volunteer);
- work based learning practitioner who provides services for or on behalf of a work based learning body (other than as a volunteer);
- independent school teacher who provides (or wishes to provide) independent school teacher services in or for an independent school in Wales;
- independent special post-16 institution teacher who provides (or wishes to provide) independent special post-16 institution teacher services in or for an independent special post-16 institution in Wales;
- independent school learning support worker who supports (or wishes to support) the provision of independent school teacher services in or for an independent school in Wales;
- independent special post-16 institution learning support worker who supports (or wishes to support) the provision of independent special post-16 institution teacher services in or for an independent special post-16 institution in Wales,

unless they are registered with the EWC.

Registration gives an employer and the public reassurance that a registered person has nothing relevant recorded against them which might make them unsuitable to teach learners, in particular, children and young people. It also provides assurance that a school teacher holds Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

The EWC asks every education practitioner to declare their criminal and disciplinary/regulatory history before registration.

Why does the EWC carry out checks?

The pre-registration checks carried out by the EWC act as a safeguard to ensure, as far as is possible, no person is granted registration in Wales who may be unsuitable to practise in the education professions. When applying for registration, education practitioners are expected to tell the EWC of any pending or past disciplinary/regulatory/criminal action against them. Failure to do so is taken seriously.

What makes an education practitioner suitable or unsuitable for registration?

'Suitable' means the EWC is satisfied the applicant meets the standards expected of a registered person.

What are 'the standards'?

The EWC has a Code of Professional Conduct and Practice which is a guide to the standards that learners, parents and the public can expect of registered persons, and helps education practitioners understand what others expect of them as professionals.

The Code does not cover all examples of standards which need to be met by education practitioners. It is a guide.

The EWC will not allow an education practitioner to join the Register where it has serious concerns that standards have not been met.

Meetings

The EWC will consider all information it receives about an education practitioner before granting registration. Where such information raises serious questions about a person's suitability, it will invite him or her to a meeting.

As an example, the EWC will have serious concerns about the following behaviour:

- Repeated examples of dishonesty
- An inappropriate relationship with a learner
- Serious criminal offences
- Emotional and / or physical abuse of a learner

Where the EWC is not satisfied of suitability having met the practitioner, it may decide to refuse him or her entry to the Register.

About this leaflet

The information in this leaflet is a brief summary of the EWC's suitability procedures.

In all circumstances, *The Education Workforce Council (Main Functions)(Wales) Regulations 2015*, as amended, and the EWC's *Registration Rules 2023* take precedence. The Rules and other information about the EWC's regulatory role can be found at www.ewc.wales

No general rules apply when deciding whether or not an education practitioner is suitable for registration.

Key contact

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Applicants subject to these proceedings may submit forms, documents and make written representations to the EWC, in English or Welsh.