



The National Association of
School-Based Teacher Trainers

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NASBTT disappointed by “short-term view on financial incentives” in 2021-22 ITT funding announcement

NASBTT has responded to the Department for Education’s ‘Funding: initial teacher training (ITT), academic year 2021 to 2022’ announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-initial-teacher-training-itt/funding-initial-teacher-training-itt-academic-year-2021-to-2022>

NASBTT Executive Director Emma Hollis said: “Whilst the current financial situation faced by the government is an unprecedented one, we are disappointed that a short-term view has been taken on financial incentives designed to attract the best quality candidates into our classrooms. The immediate increase that we have seen in teacher recruitment does not solve the longer term recruitment crisis, it only disguises it, and failing to take a long-term view will only store up issues for the future.

We are particularly disappointed by the decision to remove School Direct salaried funding for primary. We have consistently pointed out that recruitment to primary is problematic in many areas of the country and whilst the Teacher Supply Model suggests that we are meeting targets, views on the ground do not support this conclusion. We are also concerned by the messages that the disparity in bursary funding levels sends out in terms of the relative worth of different subjects and phases of teaching. The lack of bursary funding for primary and a whole range of secondary subjects is also likely to have an adverse effect on social mobility, with many groups of potential applicants unable to pursue a career in teaching due to the lack of financial support available to them.

Specifically on the DfE scrapping the early career payments from next year, we have been at pains to point out that the teacher retention crisis is perhaps more acute even than the recruitment crisis. There is nothing which currently suggests that teacher retention will drastically improve unless concerted efforts continue to be made to make the profession an attractive one in the long-term. Whilst early career payments were only one small part of the picture in achieving this, it seems premature to be removing them with no clear evidence of how retention might play out for the current cohorts of teachers.”

-ENDS-

NASBTT is a registered charity committed to promoting high-quality schools-led programmes of training, education and professional development of teachers. NASBTT represents the interests of schools-led teacher training provision in relation to the development and implementation of national policy developments. Our members include SCITT providers, School Direct Lead Schools, Teaching Schools, HEIs as well as a range of other organisations involved in the education and professional development of teachers. We have over 200 members representing more than 10,000 individual trainees.

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