

## Gove: tougher new teacher standards needed

By Katherine Sellgren



**New measures to help schools weed out poor-performing teachers are to be introduced, the Education Secretary Michael Gove has announced.**

Mr Gove said new standards would help raise the bar for teaching and improve pupil performance and behaviour.

He has launched a review of the key skills a classroom teacher needs and the new standards will be in place by September 2012.

Teachers say the move is about politics and not trusting teachers.

Mr Gove says current standards teachers have to meet are not "rigorous, clear or effective enough".

At the moment, a trainee teacher must meet 33 standards in order to gain "qualified teacher status" (QTS) and only two of these relate explicitly to skills on how to teach effectively.

Across the board, all teachers have to meet 102 standards, many of which are a "vague list of woolly aspirations", Mr Gove believes.

For example, an experienced teacher must "contribute significantly, where appropriate, to implementing workplace policies and practice and to promoting collective responsibility for their implementation".

Only two standards focus on having good subject and curriculum knowledge.

### 'Fluffy' standards

Speaking at the annual conference of the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) in Manchester on Friday, Mr Gove said: "Head teachers and teachers have told me in no uncertain terms that the current teachers' standards are ineffective, meaningless and

muddy, fluffy concepts."

Mr Gove said teachers had nothing to fear from the review, but said it was crucial to make sure those in the classroom were "continuously improving".

"One point five percent don't make the grade - this suggests that what we have is a process that is not truly effective for ensuring that people are as skilled as they need to be."

Brian Lightman, general secretary of ASCL, welcomed the review of teaching standards.

"There are currently too many sets of standards relating to the teaching profession. This proliferation makes the standards very bureaucratic and difficult to use.

"This review is therefore to be welcomed if it leads to the production of one set of standards which can be applied to the whole profession."

But classroom teachers have criticised the move.

Christine Blower, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers said: "It is quite remarkable that despite Michael Gove and previous education secretaries saying our teachers are the best for generations, in the space of ten years we will have seen three different definitions by government of what makes a good teacher.

"It's regrettable that each new Secretary of State seems to use their position to interfere in teaching standards. This is about politics and not trusting teachers."

Ms Blower added that if the review was to gain the support of teachers, it would have to ensure there were high quality development opportunities - which would be a challenge for schools in the "present climate of cuts".

The review will be led by Sally Coates, principal of Burlington Danes Academy in London. **BBC**



## ATM Free Associate Membership

**Have you joined the Association of Teachers of Mathematics (ATM) yet?**

**If you haven't, become an associate member for free, I'll tell you why in a minute but join first!**

<http://www.atm.org.uk/login>

**Now that you have joined, log in and try this search on Google:**

**"Associate Member or above" filetype:pdf**

**site:<http://www.atm.org.uk/journal/archive/>**

**Hundreds of free teaching ideas. My favourite free find so far is this invitation to fold paper from Michael Swan:**

<http://www.atm.org.uk/journal/archive/mt180files/ATM-MT180-03-03.pdf>

**Richard Cowley**

## LATEST JOBS:

- Evelyn Grace Academy
- Drapers' Academy, Romford
- Woodcote High School
- Chadwell Heath Academy
- Bexley Grammer School
- Carshalton High School
- Winchmore School, Enfield
- St Paul's Girls School
- Queensmead School
- Central Foundation Boys'
- Pendergast-Hilly Fields'
- Hammersmith Academy
- George Green's School

# Huff & Puff? The Wolf Review of Vocational Education

DFE



In England, today, around two and a half million young people are aged 14 to 19. The vast majority are engaged full or part time in education, and they are growing up in a world where long periods of study and formal credentials are the norm. Vocational education is an important part of that world. Most English young people now take some vocational courses before they are 16; and post-16 the majority follow courses which are largely or entirely vocational.

Vocational education for 14-19 year olds should serve the purpose of creating and maintaining opportunities for all young people. This review makes a number of detailed recommendations to that end.

<https://portal.ioe.ac.uk/http/www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DFE-00031-2011>

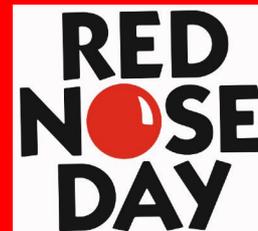
It considers how vocational education for 14- to 19-year-olds can be improved in order to promote successful progression into the labour market and into higher level education and training routes, and provides practical recommendations to help inform future policy direction, taking into account current financial constraints.

The review has been informed by over 400 pieces of evidence from the public, a number of visits to colleges, academies and training providers, and interviews and discussion sessions with key partners in the sector.

Underlying it are three very clear organising principles for reform: any young person's programme of study, whether 'academic' or 'vocational', should provide for labour market and educational progress; provide people with accurate and useful information, so that they can make decisions accordingly; the system needs to be simplified dramatically, as a precondition for giving people good and accurate information, to free up resources for teaching and learning, and to encourage innovation and efficiency.

For more information. visit:

## Comic relief



I'm wearing my red nose.  
 It sparkles and it glows  
 People seem to stare in disbelief  
 Because I'm sitting in a tub  
 It's a bean bath scrub-a-dub.  
 I'm doing it for a cause – comic relief.  
 It could be a bath of beans  
 Or you could be wearing jeans  
 A uniform-free day at your school  
 You've paid money for the pleasure  
 To wear those clothes of leisure  
 Merely be yourself or play the fool.  
 Money can be raised  
 And you may well be amazed  
 At just how much it comes to, put together  
 An odd coin here or there  
 As people vow to share  
 Opening their wallets made of leather.  
 Where does the money go?  
 It sets the world aglow  
 In Africa, Asia and UK  
 The Caribbean gains  
 Latin America the same  
 As poor people can look beyond today.  
 It's a chance to share our wealth  
 For the sake of others' health  
 You only need to raise a little money  
 Get sponsored for one day  
 Choose a tactic that will pay  
 Even better if you choose something that's funny.  
 Mark Cowan

## International Women's Day 2011

Great to see the 100 fabulous women in *The Guardian* Top 100 Women, but why no mathematicians? To counter this trend, we have today, together with Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, announced the launch of a European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad to take place in 2012. A similar event in China has successfully increased the number of girls participating in maths at the highest levels.

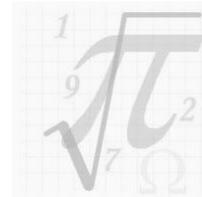
**Mary Wimbury**  
 Director, UK Mathematics Trust

### PUZZLE – Sightsaving

**The Big Red Nose Desert Trekers took five days to complete the 107km route. Assuming they walked for 6 hours per day, what was their average speed?**

**ISSUE 5 SOLUTION:**  
 1 in 1,048,576

### NOTES:



*"If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel"*