

ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR: JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS CONSORTIUM SCITT

1. Institutional Context

- 1.1 The Jewish Primary Schools Consortium (JPSC) SCITT has been in existence for five years. It has been judged a 'good' provider of initial teacher training in each of its three Ofsted inspections.
- 1.2 The SCITT currently has 15 primary schools in its Consortium. The Consortium is managed by the United Synagogue Agency for Jewish Education (AJE).
- 1.3 The SCITT is unique in that it is the only TDA accredited Jewish Initial Teacher Training Course in the country. The fact that the entire Jewish population of the UK is less than 300 000 has two implications. The first is that in many respects the ethnic make-up of the course can be perceived to be 100%. The second is that while the SCITT's policy is to welcome candidates of any race or religion it does, like its Catholic counterparts, give preference to those candidates who would best serve the growing Jewish day school system, in terms of culture, ethos and values. In this respect the SCITT has a very small candidate base from which to select its trainees. Out recruitment target for 2006/07 has been reduced to 16.
- 1.4 In addition to generous grants from the Teaching and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), the SCITT is fortunate in that it has a communal partner who contributes to the funding of this school-based programme. The AJE has teamed with this charitable funding body to form the Jewish Teacher Training Partnership (JTTP).
- 1.5 However, from the current academic year (2005 – 2006) the charity has reduced its funding to us by a fifth as it has turned its main interest towards curriculum development rather than teacher training. With a loss of several thousand pounds from this academic year on, the SCITT finds itself in danger of not performing to the high standard it has been used to as resources become difficult to sustain due to a lack of funds.

2. Proposed Variable Fee Scheme

- 2.1 In order to offset this substantial loss and minimise its effect on the programme, from September 2006, the Jewish Primary Schools Consortium (JPSC) will charge full time post-graduate trainees £2000 for its PGCE course. These levels will rise in subsequent years by the value of inflation. Trainees who have agreed a deferred entry from 2005 will be charged under the previous system.
- 2.2 All trainees on full state support will receive each year bursary funding of at least £300.

- 2.3. Bursaries will be paid in two equal instalments at the end of the first and second terms and will require trainees to have been continuously registered up to and including the date of award. Bursaries may be reduced to offset any debts the trainee owes to the JPSC at the date of the award.
- 2.4 We would like to emphasise to emphasise the generosity of our bursary scheme, given the low level of fee we are charging (which in itself equates to a £1,000 discount for all students).

3. Publicising fees and financial support

- 3.1. Full information about fees and bursaries will be available through the Consortium's website and prospectus. It will also be available in correspondence and in both the applications process and registration. A variety of methods will be employed to ensure that information regarding fees, bursaries and other financial support is widely available. These include:
- The SCITT Prospectus, distributed from September 2005 to local Careers advisers, schools and all who have enquired about programme.
 - The SCITT website, which is updated on a regular basis.

4. Monitoring Arrangements

- 4.1 The Consortium will undertake annual monitoring of this access agreement in order to confirm compliance. Responsibility for the monitoring report will rest with The Director of Education of the AJE. The report will be presented to the Consortium's Management Committee and then sent to the Consortium's Steering Committee for final approval.
- 4.2 The SCITT does not have detailed information relating to the household income of trainees in receipt of full or partial fee remission but based on previous intakes over the past five years, the available evidence suggests that the majority of current full-time trainees are recruited from households with reasonable annual incomes.
- 4.3 In addition, the SCITT has been successful in securing charitable and voluntary funds to support those trainees in need of further financial assistance.

5. Expenditure of additional fee income

- 5.1 In the light of reduced funding from its supporting charity, the SCITT will direct additional revenue obtained from increased fees to support the programmes teaching and learning. This will be achieved by providing additional resources, both human and material dedicated to enhancing the SCITT teaching and learning experience.

5.2 The JPSC has a good record of supporting trainees with disabilities. It will use the additional funding to ensure that trainees with disabilities and learning difficulties continue to be assisted in participating in and successfully completing the SCITT course programme.

6. Targets, baselines and milestones

6.1 Our original target of 16 trainees established five years ago was easily reached and gradually increased to its present 20. It has, in line with other providers, been reduced back to 16 trainees for the academic year 2006/07. As a unique SCITT in terms of its religious ethos as explained above, we feel that maintaining the current level of participation will represent a very realistic achievement for us.

6.2. We do not, at the moment collect financial data on our trainees but we would want to commit ourselves to developing this data over the next 18 months. We would then return to OFFA our monitoring criteria.

25 February 2006