

WANDSWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CONSORTIUM'S ACCESS AGREEMENT

1. Introduction.

The Wandsworth Primary Schools' Consortium (hereafter referred to as W.P.S.C.), an independent Designated Recommending Body (hereafter referred to as D.R.B.) consisting at present of eleven full partner schools, provides a one-year long Primary Post Graduate Certificate in Education course (hereafter referred to as P.G.C.E.) franchised by Kingston University. At present, W.P.S.C is graded by Ofsted as a 'B' provider and enjoys an annual intake of 38 trainees, twelve of whom specialise in teaching Foundation Stage pupils, while the remaining 26 specialise in teaching either Key Stage One or Key Stage Two pupils. **We have been informed that our future annual allocation of trainees will be slightly reduced to 37 in 2006/07 and 35 in 2007/08. No allocation figures are available for the other years covered by the proposed agreement. In addition, the rent for our accommodation and the cost of our servicing arrangements are about to be increased by significant amounts.**

2. Length of agreement.

This agreement is for five years starting from the academic year 2006/07. However, we have committed to return by May 2008 to OFFA to seek approval for our monitoring criteria which, due to lack of sufficient current relevant data, have not as yet been developed.

3. Fee limits.

3.1 After careful consideration, the W.P.S.C. Consortium Board for School Centred Initial Teacher Training (hereafter referred to as S.C.I.T.T.) proposes initially to set an annual Tuition Fee of £2,700 for all of its full-time postgraduate courses beginning with the 2006/07 cohort. The fee limit may rise with inflation (in line with annually published Government regulations) and possible

- Further national and institutional reductions in the numbers of trainees to be prepared for primary school teaching.
- The, as yet unknown impact of increased charges arising from the validation and teaching contract with Kingston University that networks W.P.S.C.'s Primary P.G.C.E. course – the negotiations between W.P.S.C. and Kingston University will take place during the spring term of 2006.
- The, as yet, unknown effect of the introduction of higher Tuition Fees upon current TDA funding for both Hardship (currently £4390 p.a.) and Outreach (currently £6,000 p.a.) purposes. Should the current TDA funding cease, W.P.S.C. will have to fund these activities through its increased Tuition Fees. Consequently, W.P.S.C. intends to provide equivalent funding for each of these areas taking into consideration the likely annual increase in the cost of living.
- The, as yet unknown increases in W.P.S.C.'s normal expenditure arising from increases in staff salaries, particularly the replacement of the current part-time Course Director with a modest salary by a full-time Course Director at normal rates of remuneration and the rising cost of services and materials due to inflation.
- A concern that the administration of a bursary system might well prove to be both too bureaucratic and too burdensome to administer for a D.R.B. the size of W.P.S.C.

4. Bursary support

- 4.1 We will offer a bursary of £100 to any student who is in receipt of full state maintenance grant of £2,700 (figures represent the position for 2006 and may be subject to inflationary rises). Such bursaries will be provided starting from 2006.
- 4.2 Bursary payments will be made at the beginning of each term. The first instalment will be of £50 and two succeeding ones of £25 each.

5. Publicising fees and financial support.

- 5.1 A number of methods will be employed to ensure that prospective trainees are clearly aware of the fee charged, and the amount of student support they may be entitled to. These methods are outlined below:
 - 5.2 The website will contain a section detailing financial matters, including fee and support information. Such information will include the amount of institutional support and support available through the maintenance grant, teaching bursaries and maintenance loans.
 - 5.3 This information will be published in the briefing document we post to candidates prior to interview.
 - 5.4.1 This information will be clearly articulated to applicants at the time of interview and at the offer stage before they make their key decisions on whether to accept a place.

6. Outreach.

- 6.1 We will continue to target areas of under-representation including:
 - 6.2 members of minority ethnic groups through selected advertising in locally published newspapers and journals and through the efforts and advice of W.P.S.C.'s Minority Ethnic Advisory Group.
 - 6.3 men.
 - 6.3.1 candidates affected by physical disability – the means of access to the S.C.I.T.T. trainee suite located on the top floor of Swaffield Primary School is published upon the SCITT website and the preliminary information checklist posted to candidates prior to interview.

7. Milestones/targets.

- 7.1 Although W.P.S.C. Course Administrators have kept careful records of its recruitment and selection processes, we have decided to follow the advice given on, page 12, paragraphs 58-63, of 'the OFFA Guidance to SCITT providers'. Consequently, W.P.S.C. wishes to 'develop data over the first eighteen months of the agreement'.
- 7.2 We will seek to maintain or increase the proportion of trainees in our target groups, but will only be able to set meaningful targets once further data is available, including the impact of the new fees. Therefore we commit to return to OFFA by May 2008 to revise this agreement, with a view to an amended agreement taking effect from the 2008/9 academic year.

8. Monitoring arrangements.

- 8.1 In the first instance, the W.P.S.C. Course Administrator will collect the data mentioned above in paragraph 7. At least twice a term s/he will report about current levels of recruitment to the Senior Management Group.
- 8.2 The W.P.S.C. Course Director and Quality Assurance Officer will maintain an overview of the measures taken and both officers will report to the Senior Management Group at least twice a term.
- 8.3 The Course Director and the Senior Management Group will report regularly to the full Consortium Board. The Course Director will provide the consortium headteachers with a regular information sheet advising them among other matters of the current nature and rate of recruitment and will report to them formally at least once at term at Consortium Headteachers' meetings.
- 8.4 In addition, the fulfilment of the agreement and the progress towards agreed milestones will be monitored by the Annual Consortium Board and will form part of the Annual Development Plan's performance targets for the SCITT's future activities.
- 8.5 The Annual Development Plan will provide the basis for our annual report to OFFA.

Contact information

Principal contact for OFFA

Title:	Mrs
First name:	Christine
Last name:	Lilley
Post held:	Lead headteacher, Wandsworth Primary School's Consortium
Telephone:	020 8874 2825
E-mail	Swaffied@swaffield.wandsworth.sch.uk

Senior manager responsible for access agreement:

Title:	Mrs
First name:	Bernice
Last name:	Farrell
Post held:	Course Director, Wandsworth Primary Schools' Consortium
Telephone:	020 8874 1442
E-mail	www.scitt.co.uk

