



NORTHERN Teacher

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Threshold application round 10 (2009-2010)

This NUT guidance provides advice to applicants on the threshold standards and threshold application process in England and Wales for 2009-10.

For almost all teachers in England, the threshold application process for Round 10 (2009-2010) has changed. Assessment will now be based on teachers' performance management reviews.

The NUT strongly advises all teachers who are eligible for the threshold to apply for it. Every eligible teacher is entitled to do so. In each annual round, half of the eligible teachers fail to apply even though 90 per cent of applicants succeed in their applications.

A model document for teachers to use to request an assessment is available at www.teachernet.gov.uk/threshold. It is not a statutory requirement and some schools may have developed their own document to use. The NUT

advises teachers to use the model document to establish consistency in the application process. If you do not use the model document, you should still provide all the information requested in the teachers' section of the form. Teachers should first check with their schools what is available. The head teacher should acknowledge requests of the documents in writing.

From 1 September 2009, schools should be making their assessment on whether a teacher meets the post-threshold standards based on the outcomes of their last two performance reviews.

Applying for the threshold is a voluntary process and entirely a matter of choice for individuals. Teachers must submit a request in writing to the head teacher at the school where they are employed to teach.

Please refer to the performance management guidance at

www.teachernet.gov.uk/performancemanagement for further guidance on performance management and performance management cycles.

In addition, the backdating process has been amended so that almost all teachers applying for the threshold this year will move to UPS1 with effect from September 2010. The deadline for applying, however, has now been extended so applications can be submitted up to 31 October 2010.

The DCSF recommends that the head teacher uses the appropriate parts of the document to record outcomes of the assessment and feedback in writing to the teacher.

A successful performance review involves a performance management process of: performance objectives; classroom observations and other evidence.

For more details see page 161 of the STPCD 2009 Guidance.

RECT 2010

Preparations are currently underway for the **Regional Early Career Teachers' 2010 (RECT 2010) Weekend 29-31 January 2010, The Vermont Hotel, Castle Garth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RQ.**

Once again a variety of workshops will be offered and we are open to suggestions for workshops and

offers to lead workshops from early career teachers.

The event which is free to members has proven to be very popular and highly successful in recent years and since numbers are limited it is important to book your place early to avoid disappointment! Feedback from previous delegates has always

been very positive.

If you want to reserve a place on the event, or would like to assist by leading a workshop or suggesting a topic for a workshop please email us requesting an application form. We would urge you to reply quickly as places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

School Reps Training

The NUT values and appreciates the work undertaken by our school representatives and has developed an excellent national training programme to ensure that you have the skills and strategies necessary to deal with NUT members and with management in your workplace, whether that it is a school, college, academy or central service.

For some time we have been aware that many of our school representatives do not wish to spend time away from home and so miss out on the valuable training necessary to support you in your role.

We are pleased to tell you that we are now providing the essential stage 1 course for school

representatives in the Northern region and you are invited to attend.

The course will take place on **Friday 27 November and Saturday 28 November 2009** at the **Radisson SAS Hotel, Durham**. All costs including your travel expenses will be met by the union.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to build your confidence in your relationships with members and management, learn how the resources of the National Union of Teachers can assist you in your role and how to manage the role of an NUT School representative alongside the demands of your professional role as a teacher, which can also benefit from your experiences on the course.

To book your place on the course please email your request to northern@nut.org.uk and we will email a booking form to you. When we receive your booking we will write back to you confirming your place on the course and provide you with a letter for your Headteacher explaining your legal right to paid time off for this training.

We would urge you to reply quickly as places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

If you would like further information about school representatives training please do not hesitate to contact your division secretary or ring the regional office and ask for Elaine Kay.

21 November is SATs Saturday in Newcastle Vote YES in the ballot

From 10 am to 4pm on Saturday, 21 November, NUT members from Newcastle and Gateshead, with the regional NUT Banner, will be handing out anti-SATs materials in the Grey's Monument area of the City Centre, and urging people to sign the national anti-SATs petition.

Please try to join them for part of that day: half an hour would be fine. Numbers have to be limited because of city bye-laws, but a good turnout is essential for this important campaigning activity.

If you can help on the day, please send an email to i.grayson@executive.nut.org.uk

saying which part of the day would suit you best (you'll still be welcome even if you just turn up).

Remember, we are campaigning to make 2009 the last year of SATs because:

- ◆ teachers should be allowed to teach and children should be allowed to learn.
- ◆ campaigning to end SATs is the correct and professionally responsible thing to do.

The NUT and NAHT have set out a positive alternative to the system of National Curriculum assessment in their joint literature, which calls for:

- ◆ assessment which supports

learning;

- ◆ the abolition of school performance tables; and
- ◆ evaluation which supports, not punishes schools.

If we are left with no other choice both the NUT and NAHT will ask their members if they wish to boycott SATs in 2010. The indicative ballot is taking place during November. We know that public opinion is on our side. With events such as SATs Saturday, we can prove it.

We hope you can attend on 21 November, and will support the campaign in other ways if you can't.

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Our Aim:

One Union for all teachers

