

Dear Headteachers, Induction Tutors and NQTs

The **Department for Education and Teaching Regulation Agency (TRA)** have been working closely to develop a position on **COVID-19** and its **impact on statutory newly qualified teacher (NQT) induction**. Minimising the impact of COVID-19 has remained one of their highest priorities.

On **Wednesday 1st April 2020**, the department issued an announcement to stakeholders regarding the impact of COVID-19 on NQT induction

– <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-induction-for-newly-qualified-teachers>

The TRA will be making regulatory changes that, ***subject to parliamentary agreement***, will mean that NQTs absent for reasons related to the current COVID-19 public health emergency will not have their induction period automatically extended.

Current arrangements state that ad-hoc absences totalling 30 days or more automatically extends induction by the aggregate number of days absent. However, they intend to amend the regulations to ensure that any absence related to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, including school closures, sickness or self-isolation, will not count towards this limit. **This means that NQTs who are currently undertaking statutory induction can complete their induction this academic year as expected, provided they meet the Teachers' Standards.**

Headteachers, Induction Tutors and Appropriate Bodies should continue to judge whether a NQT has met the Teachers' Standards upon completion of the induction period, which for most, will be the end of the academic year.

If there are concerns that a NQT has not achieved the standards by the end of their induction period, the TRA is strongly encouraging Headteachers and Appropriate Bodies to exercise their discretion to recommend an extension, allowing the NQT further time and opportunity to demonstrate their ability to meet the standards.

The TRA will continue to keep the situation under review, working with the sector on the practical implications of this approach, and will publish further information in due course.

Please see attached the answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Best wishes

LTT Appropriate Bodies

