



17th December 2021

Update to Student Teachers about the Omicron variant

This continues to be a difficult and challenging time for student teachers, university educators, teachers in schools, young people, and children, alike. In spite of the unforeseen challenges of COVID-19, and the unfolding impact of the new Omicron variant; national bodies continue to work to ensure that children and young people have the opportunity to learn and to flourish. Critically, we are also planning together nationally to ensure that you have the opportunity to learn and flourish, as you progress towards becoming a teacher.

The HEI school partnership model plays a vital and irreplaceable role in supporting you: the next generation of Scotland's teachers. The placement of student teachers in schools is a critical aspect in the sustaining and renewing Scotland's teacher workforce. [The recent guidance of 17th December 2021 issued by the Scottish Government anticipates school placements continuing \(See section 255\)](#). Without classroom experience, you may not be 'classroom ready' when you graduate. Practice experience is critical, as you will appreciate. The partnership activity, mentoring, and support offered by schools, alongside being the bedrock of student teachers' school experience, is also a vital aspect of the health of the education system in Scotland.

A range of actions last academic year (2020-21) were taken which successfully enabled student teachers in Scotland, in very challenging circumstances, to progress; [formally, these were outlined in a variety of guidance documents](#). Please be reassured and under no doubt that national partners stand ready to take action again in support of student teachers' progression, were the situation to require it. We will plan and we will act through partnership to find ways forward; as we have done previously, in support of you and your education.

We wish you a very enjoyable holiday.

With best wishes.

Association of Directors of Education in Scotland
General Teaching Council (Scotland)
Scottish Council of Deans of Education
Student Placement Management Group