The LNCT has agreed the following guidelines on the placement of student teachers:-

a) The number of students to be allocated to a school should be the subject of full prior consultation with the teaching trade unions at school level.

b) No school or subject department should be required to take a disproportionate number of students.

c) When allocating a student to a class, account should be taken of the experience of the class teacher and any other relevant factors.

d) When assessment is required, wherever possible, the assessor should not be the mentor.

e) Dialogue should take place between teachers and university staff regarding roles and expectations.

f) Clearly identified and adequate time must be given for mentoring duties.

g) Clearly identified and adequate time must be given for assessing duties.

h) Teachers with students should not, other than in very exceptional circumstances, be used for other duties. They should either be present in the class or in the immediate vicinity of the class when the student is teaching.

i) Practical subjects / activities must be risk assessed before students are permitted to take classes.

j) Inclusion issues must be given a high priority prior to any student placement.

k) The induction block should be used to familiarise students with aspects of the school, and local authority policy.

l) CPD opportunities will be made available to assist teachers in working with students.

Should schools require further clarification on the interpretation or implementation of these guidelines, the matter should be referred to the appropriate Joint Secretary of the LNCT.

LNCT
March 2006