



Baroness Berridge of the Vale of Catmose
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Lord Watson of Invergowrie
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Watson,

18th March 2020

Further to the Dyslexia debate on 4 March, I want to thank you for your question about early years initial teacher training and the graduate leader fund.

The quality of early years provision in England is impressive with 96% of settings rated by Ofsted as good or outstanding. Key to this is our dedicated workforce which has the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to deliver high quality early education and childcare.

Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) leads to the award of Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS), not to Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Early years teachers specialise in early childhood development and are trained to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged 0-5 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>). Those with EYTS are not able to lead teaching in maintained early years settings or schools, where QTS is required.

We do not require graduates in private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early years settings, so the employers are not reliant on being able to employ them and a graduate leader fund would not resolve any wider recruitment issues they may have.

We are, however, committed to ensuring that there are routes to graduate level qualifications for the early years workforce, to support progression and quality. We fully fund the EYITT programme, including bursaries and employer incentives.

I hope this answer has been useful and I will place a copy in the house libraries.

ELIZABETH BERRIDGE

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE