

**Professional development for teachers and leaders
of citizenship education in English schools –
Ofsted's findings and recommendations**

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Abstract:

In 2005, the (then) Department for Education and Skills (DfES) ran a small-scale pilot for a certificated course in citizenship for serving teachers. It aimed to promote high quality citizenship education by remedying weaknesses in teachers' subject knowledge and pedagogical skills. Following evaluation, additional higher education institutions were invited to offer such courses.

Between January 2007 and May 2008, Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) evaluated 15 of these courses provided by 14 higher education institutions across England. Thirteen were taught courses; two used distance learning. Two thirds of the courses recruited teachers from primary, secondary and post-16 phases of education and the remaining third recruited teachers only from secondary schools.

Most of the courses ran for the equivalent of 5 days and training sessions included work on political literacy, critical thinking, global education, working in partnership, pedagogy for citizenship, progression in learning, assessment, classroom resources, and the teaching of controversial topics.

Janet Palmer HMI will reflect on Ofsted's key findings and recommendations to the funding bodies responsible for teachers' professional development in national and local government, to the course providers and to senior leaders in schools.