

Guidance for schools on the qualifications and experience required by staff delivering the BSL Awards

This guidance note offers advice for schools on the qualifications and experience that teaching staff should be able to demonstrate if they are delivering the BSL Awards at SCQF level 3, 4, 5 and 6. The ultimate decision on who will be responsible for teaching within each school rests with the headteacher and the local authority, this advice offers a suggested framework for decision making concerning the allocation of duties in relation to the BSL Awards only.

Statutory Teaching Requirements

As with the teaching of any qualification and any subject, the lead teacher should meet the Standard for Full Registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS).

Subject Knowledge

In addition to the lead teacher being GTCS registered, there should be sufficient input to lessons from someone with appropriate knowledge of BSL. This should involve one of the following:

1. **A lead teacher who is teaching on his/her own.** In this case, the lead teacher should hold a qualification indicating competence in BSL. As a minimum, the qualification held should be at least the level above the level of the qualification they are teaching.
2. **A lead teacher assisted by a BSL specialist who is not a qualified teacher.** In this case the lead teacher will provide the pedagogical input to the delivery while the specialist will provide the subject expertise. As the specialist will be providing the subject knowledge, it will be the specialist that must hold a qualification and/or experience in BSL at least a level above the level of the qualification being taught.

BSL Specialists

For the purposes of this guidance, the term 'BSL Specialist' has been used to describe any appropriately qualified and/or experienced assistant the school may choose to work with. For example, this could be a member of the Deaf community, someone from a Deaf services provider, a teacher from another school, a lecturer or BSL user from a local college, or a parent or helper with close links to the school.

It will be the responsibility of the school to ensure any necessary disclosure checks are carried out before any BSL Specialists are involved in the delivery of qualifications.