

# Glossary

---

Most of the language in this book should be accessible to the majority of readers. I am aware that some terms used are nationally or even regionally specific, and that many are contentious. What follows is not necessarily an exhaustive list of such terms, nor do I claim absolute accord with any reputable dictionary; they are the terms I think need to be clarified, and the clarifications relate to my use of them. By the time this book is published it is likely that some of the terms will have become obsolete, particularly those which relate to governmental administration, policy and bureaucracy – this is one of the perennial challenges of the world of education and not unique to the United Kingdom.

## **ASBO – Anti-Social Behaviour Order**

A penalty imposed by courts in England to limit where and with whom a person can meet, issued in response to behaviour considered to be threatening or damaging to a public sense of comfort or safety. These are popularly perceived to be aimed at young people, although they are not always the recipients of such orders, and there is a further popular perception that the young upon whom such orders are imposed regard them as badges of honour rather than penalties or punishments.

## Glossary

### **Beginning Teacher**

Sometimes offered as a synonym for student teacher and one which, like trainee teacher, indicates a philosophical position relating to the development of teachers. Some student teachers are far from beginners, having worked as unqualified teachers or instructors, teaching assistants, as teachers of English as a foreign or second language; this term implies to me a disregard for any previously developed skills or experience. (*see Student, Trainee*)

### **Citizenship Education**

The preferred term in this book, used to make clear the difference between the National Curriculum subject of Citizenship, the condition of being a citizen, and the processes and tests through which people go in order to be granted that condition.

### **CPD – Continuing Professional Development**

A collective term for the training provided for teachers to enable them to keep up to date with developments in their subjects and in education more generally. This usually takes place in school on days when pupils are not attending, or in ‘twilight sessions’ after school, or at weekends.

### **DCFS – Department for Children, Families and Schools, renamed after the 2010 General Election as the Department for Education (DfE).**

The government department responsible for most aspects of education in England.

### **England**

The most populous region of the United Kingdom, often misused as a synonym for the UK or for Britain – particularly in the mass media and, for reasons I cannot fathom, by reputable and otherwise scrupulously careful historians. The four component parts of the United Kingdom (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland

and England) have separate education systems; the National Curriculum is not national at all as it applies only to England.

### **GSCE – The General Certificate in Secondary Education**

A series of examinations and other forms of assessment undertaken by pupils, usually but not always at the end of Year 11 – at or approaching 16 years of age.

### **ICT – Information and communications technology**

One of the compulsory subjects within the National Curriculum for England and one which, like Citizenship Education and Religious Education, is often taught by non-specialists and not always in accordance with either statutory requirements or advisory guidelines.

### **ITE – Initial teacher education**

Sometimes seen as a synonym for ITT, but there is a philosophical difference (see ITT, beginning teacher, student, trainee).

### **ITT – Initial teacher training**

Sometimes seen as a synonym for ITE, but there is a philosophical difference (see ITE, beginning teacher, student, trainee).

### **KS – Key Stage**

Education in England is divided into age bands, known as key stages (KS): KS 1 (5–8 year olds) and KS2 (8–11) mark the primary phase, KS 3 (11–14), KS 4 (14–16) are secondary. The 16–18 age band is often referred to as KS 5, but it is not as it is not an element of compulsory education and therefore not a Key Stage. Secondary schools are increasingly truncating KS3 to allow more time for a variety of activities, including early preparation for public examinations, so that there is a move away from the original age categories.

### **Master's Level**

Student and other teachers have opportunities to submit work which can contribute towards the award of higher level academic

## **Glossary**

credits, 180 of which can result in the achievement of a Master's degree – increasingly in Teaching and Learning (MTL).

### **National Curriculum**

Established in 1988, updated and restructured several times, this indicates/dictates the teaching and learning required to take place in state schools. Citizenship Education was originally a cross-curricular theme but, since 2002, it has been a compulsory subject in Key Stage 3 and 4. Strictly speaking (see England above, and Bailey (1996)) it is not national at all.

### **NQT – Newly Qualified Teacher**

Having gained a PGCE, teachers who embark upon their first year in a teaching post continue to be given structured support and development (CPD). The NQT year must be successfully completed in order for a teacher to be regarded as fully qualified.

### **Ofsted – the Office for Standards in Education**

A quango with responsibility for monitoring and reporting upon standards of teaching and learning in schools and in initial teacher education and training. Such has been the improvement in its relationship with schools that an impending Ofsted inspection is now only regarded with dismay rather than, as formerly, outright terror.

### **PGCE – Postgraduate Certificate in Education/Professional Graduate Certificate in Education**

One of the teaching qualifications available for those with degrees and who wish to teach. The initials stand for either Postgraduate Certificate in Education or Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, dependent on the level of credits achieved.

### **Pupil – Young learner**

This term is preferred here to differentiate such learners from those who are studying how to teach them and is used throughout

unless cited authors use the term 'student'. In such cases the context of the quotation should make the meaning clear.

### **QCA – Qualifications and Curriculum Agency**

A qango which was renamed Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency and which ceased to exist shortly after the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government took office in May 2010.

### **Radical**

To promote, embrace and reflect ideas and actions which are significantly different from current and past practice.

### **Student – Someone who is studying to become a teacher**

As well as separating such people from the younger learners referred to here as pupils, the term also reflects a philosophical position regarding the development of teachers. It is a principle of radical education that teaching is not about applying set processes to specific circumstances and understanding the mechanics of instruction, but that it involves study, reflexivity, development and questioning. (See Beginning Teacher, Trainee)

### **Subnational**

Possibly a neologism used to try to differentiate between those regions of the United Kingdom which have some historical claims to be separate nations but which are now constituent parts of a whole. These parts are not politically equal as Scotland has a parliament while Wales has an assembly and Northern Ireland has a different type of assembly and England has none of these, although some would claim that the parliament which sits in Westminster is largely English in make-up and focus. The status of The Isle of Man, Cornwall, The Kingdom of Fife or other regions with some sense of separate identity is not implied or considered in my usage.

## **Glossary**

### **Subversive**

As used by Postman and Weingartner (1976), facing up to and attempting to resolve social problems while consciously undermining the attitudes and processes which produce them.

### **Trainee**

A term used by those who consider teaching to be about applying set processes to specific circumstances and understanding the mechanics of instruction, rather than involving study, reflexivity, development and questioning. The term often used by governmental and teacher qualifying bodies and adopted by others without necessarily considering the implications of the term. (See *Beginning Teacher, Student*)

### **Volunteer**

When used as a noun this should indicate someone who has freely chosen to participate in an activity, usually unpaid. If used as a verb it is the action of choosing to so participate. This term is often used in relation to citizenship education as a wholly inaccurate euphemism for persuaded, coerced or compelled, as when pupils are given no choice but to participate in an activity; if pressure is brought to bear, the pressured person is not a volunteer and the activity is therefore not voluntary.

### **Weltanschauung**

A Weberian term approximating to 'world view' but perhaps a little closer to 'the sense we make of the world around us as demonstrated by our actions and priorities'.