

New teachers 'being left to flounder with unruly pupils': Ofsted chief says it is 'national scandal' that trainees are unprepared for the job

- Sir Michael Wilshaw said 40 per cent quit the profession within five years
- He said the agency will be cracking down on the quality of training
- Inspector also swiped at unions for making teachers 'perpetual victims'

By [Andrew Levy](#)

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Ofsted chief Sir Michael Wilshaw: Two-fifths of teachers quit within five years because the job is too tough

Thousands of newly qualified teachers are being 'left to flounder' in schools each year because of their inadequate training, England's chief inspector warned yesterday.

Sir Michael Wilshaw said it was a 'national scandal' that teachers were arriving for work completely unprepared for the job.

The Ofsted chief inspector said 40 per cent quit the profession within five years of qualifying because they found it 'too difficult' and were ill-equipped to deal with unruly pupils.

Sir Michael claimed teachers were being tutored by people with little 'up-to-date' experience and left to 'flounder' in schools with senior staff doing nothing to support them.

In future, he added, Ofsted would be cracking down on course providers. He also took a swipe at unions for portraying the teachers they represent as 'perpetual victims'.

About 30,000 teachers are trained each year, suggesting that some 12,000 of those switch careers after a short period of time. The average cost of training is around £10,000 – meaning tens of millions of taxpayers' money is being squandered annually.

Sir Michael said: 'How many times have heads said to me their trainees had been tutored by people with little or no up-to-date school experience or a record of outstanding teaching?'

'Trainees have been sent into schools inadequately prepared to deal with poor behaviour. Even worse, how many times have I heard they were left to flounder because they received little or no support from senior and middle leaders?'

The amount of new teachers leaving the profession was a 'national scandal' given the money invested in their training, he said.



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Sir Michael insisted there has 'never been a better time to be a teacher' despite the two largest unions, the National Union of Teachers and NASUWT, holding a series of strikes over pay and conditions (pictured)

He added: 'I think most of them leave because of misbehaviour. They find it far too challenging, far too difficult.'

There are several routes into teaching, including postgraduate certificates and school-based training including bursaries.

Speaking at an education conference in Nottingham, Sir Michael said from September inspectors will ask newly qualified teachers if they 'well supported, particularly in dealing with pupil behaviour'. If they were struggling, Ofsted will check who trained them – with the threat this could affect the institution's inspection grade.

He went on to insist there has 'never been a better time to be a teacher' – despite the two largest unions, the National Union of Teachers and NASUWT, holding a series of strikes over pay and conditions.

'I find it extremely frustrating when teachers are portrayed, sometimes by their own representatives, as victims who have little control or say over their own professional lives,' he said.

'[They] risk infantilising the profession and depressing recruitment.'

- Discipline tsars would be introduced in every school under a Labour government to crack down on misbehaviour, education spokesman **Tristram Hunt** said yesterday. The 'behaviour experts' – either new members of staff or specially trained teachers – would help claw back control of classrooms from unruly pupils and allow teachers to do their jobs, he said.



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[Ropey](#), Birmingham, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

Misbehaviour effects and ruins lessons that have been well planned. As a teacher I think you should be expected to deal with low level disruption but not the plain rudeness of pupils. Manners is something that should be taught at home. It's not only the misbehaviour, the sheer level of work that is not teaching (or planning) is verging on ridiculous - I work 70 hours a week (only 20 of that is teaching). New policies keep coming in and it is rightly about driving up standards but each change creates more work for a teacher's already heavy workload, what is really needed is more time so more teachers and other staff are required. Schools and seriously under-funded. Want to reform education? Put more money into it.

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[Matrix](#), Leeds, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

The lefties & the PC brigade started it. Reap what you sow. Until power is given back to the teachers to implement discipline without a backlash from the nanny authorities unfortunately this is what will happen. Duh!!

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[andycapp](#), Bremen, Germany, 1 day ago

It's the reason I left the UK to teach abroad! Parents here are frightened to death of landing at school for a meeting, and it happens less than in the UK! Support here comes from the authorities, and the teachers are almost always given the benefit of the doubt! No grief, no hassle, and I can concentrate on getting the results that the kids expect! Would I teach in the UK again! Not with kids who swear, kick-off and don't want to learn! And then to be always told by some idiot at teacher training that you need to reconsider your classroom management skills! NO WAY!!

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[Barry G](#), Hau Hin, Thailand, 1 day ago

DM your article says it cost £10,000 to train a teacher and millions are then squandered. I'm not an anti Royalist far from it but you did not find the time to tell us the same about Prince William when he resigned. It cost far more to train a highly qualified rescue pilot who then serves under five years for what he trained for. Now's there is a real waste of tax payers money.

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[ann b](#), paris, 1 day ago

I have added my comment earlier and it has not been published.

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[Martin in France](#), Castres, 1 day ago

Ofsted at it again. A professional organisation like Ofsted should be leading from the front and showing how it should be done.....don't hold your breath!

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[annoying git](#), newcastle, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

and it will only get worse with tory cuts larger classes reduced wages more regulations less pension working longer hours less holidays you will have no one willing to teach if they are implemented and non qualified teachers in academies and free schools

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[Melvill](#), Wales, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

It doesn't help that they have no means of enforcing discipline and can't rely on the school or the authorities to support them.

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[Fish](#), Birmingham, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

Its like everything else in Britain, standards are being erroded evey where, yet the government tax us tax us tax us.

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[Vivaman](#), Newark, United Kingdom, 1 day ago

And just think Gove believes that those who have not had teacher training are perfectly able to manage to control class rooms.....

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