

**A MODEL OF KNOWLEDGE BASES FOR PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS OF
PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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Abstract

In England, during the past two decades, numerous government initiatives have been introduced in all areas of education. Never has this increasing influence been more apparent than in Initial Teacher Training (ITT), where various reviews and recommendations for the improvement of ITT courses were made. One particular direction, both in research and government initiatives, has been the move towards the importance of pre-service teachers' subject knowledge for teaching. The importance of subject knowledge is therefore reflected in its inclusion as one of 4 professional *standards* for teaching (i.e. Knowledge and Understanding) which pre-service teachers must achieve to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status on completion of an ITT course in England (DfEE and QCA, 1999).

This paper attempts to answer the following question: 'What do we understand pre-service teachers' subject knowledge to be?' A comprehensive model of knowledge bases for pre-service teachers is presented, with specific reference to Physical Education (PE). The literature presents different schools of thought on what counts as subject knowledge (Cochran and Jones, 1998; Schwab, 1978; Shulman, 1986). Shulman (1986) is often referred to concerning research on teachers' subject knowledge and his numerous categories of teachers' knowledge are often connected to the development of a knowledge base for teaching.

The model presented in this paper has been developed using Shulman's original list of knowledge bases for teaching. The development of the model is discussed and a brief explanation is presented of how this theoretical model applies in practice. Finally, an example is given of how the model relates to a short episode of teaching of a PE lesson.

The model provides an alternative view and clear framework for pre-service teachers, teacher educators and teachers of PE on what counts as subject knowledge and how it can be conceptualised in PE.

293 words

Key words: *subject knowledge, pre-service teachers, physical education*