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Directors Meeting
15 December 2025



Review
Teaching, Learning &
Standards Committee

EARLY CAREER TEACHERS (ECT) POLICY

THE TRUST MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the life of Christ we provide an exceptional education in our Catholic schools which enables our children:

- to fully embrace all possibilities
- to flourish
- to develop their faith

and therefore to choose a path that enables them to be a positive influence upon our world.

'Prepare the Way' The Gospel of St Mark 1:3

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1. Purpose

1.1 This policy is underpinned by the Trust's commitment to support teachers new to the profession and retain them in the education system.

1.2 Our statutory induction processes have been developed to ensure our Early Career Teachers feel supported and challenged, both professionally and personally, and to enable them to have a positive impact on outcomes for our pupils/students.

1.3 Each of our schools aims to:

- a) Run an ECT induction programme that meets all of the statutory requirements underpinned by the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF) for those beginning the ECT induction period from 1 September 2025, or by the Early Career Framework (ECF) for those who began the induction period before 1 September 2025.
- b) Provide ECTs with a supportive environment that develops them and equips them with the tools to be effective and successful teachers.
- c) Make sure all staff understand their role in the ECT induction programme.

2. Induction transitional arrangements

2.1 ECTs who, on **1 September 2025**, had started but not completed their induction, will continue to engage with the existing Early Career Framework have until 1 September 2023 to complete their induction within 3 terms. Following the reforms to the Early Career Training Programme (ECTP), all ECTs beginning induction from September 2025 will engage with the new programme.

3. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on The Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance [Induction for early career teachers \(England\)](#) from 1 April 2025. The 'relevant standards' referred to below are the [Teachers' Standards](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

4. The ECT induction programme

4.1 The induction programme will be underpinned by the ITTECF/ECF, enabling ECTs to understand and apply the knowledge and skills set out in these documents.

4.2 Prior to the ECT serving their induction in one of our schools, the headteacher and Appropriate Body for the school must agree that the post is suitable.

4.3 For a full-time ECT, the induction period will typically last for 2 academic years. Part-time ECTs will serve a full-time equivalent. A minimum of one term of continuous employment must be served in order to count towards completion of the induction period.

4.4 The programme is quality assured by an Appropriate Body selected by each school. Our MAT uses [Julian Teaching School Hub](#) for this service.

4.1 Posts for induction

Each ECT will:

- a) Be provided with the necessary employment tasks, experience and support to enable them to demonstrate satisfactory performance against the relevant standards throughout, and by the end of, the induction period
- b) Have an appointed induction tutor, who will have qualified teacher status (QTS) and who will be suitable for this role
- c) Have an appointed induction mentor, who will have QTS and who will be suitable for this role
- d) Have a reduced timetable in comparison to other teachers working in similar posts to allow them to undertake activities in their induction programme; in their first year, this will be no more than 80% of the full teaching timetable (allowing for 10% release time for PPA and a further 10% release time for 'ECT time'); in their second year, this will be no more than 85% of the full teaching timetable (allowing for 10% release time for PPA and a further reduction of 5% for 'ECT time').
- e) Regularly teach the same class or classes
- f) Take part in similar planning, teaching and assessment processes to other teachers working in similar posts
- g) Not be given additional non-teaching responsibilities without appropriate preparation and support
- h) Not have unreasonable demands made upon them
- i) Not normally teach outside the age range and/or subjects they have been employed to teach
- j) Not be presented with unreasonably demanding pupil discipline problems on a day-to-day basis

4.2 Support for ECTs

We support ECTs with:

- a) Their designated induction tutor, who will provide day-to-day monitoring and support, and co-ordinate their formal assessments
- b) Their designated induction mentor, who will provide regular structured mentoring sessions and targeted feedback
- c) Observations of their teaching at regular intervals, and follow-up discussions with prompt and constructive feedback
- d) Regular professional reviews of their progress, to take place termly at which their induction tutor will review objectives and revise them in relation to the relevant standards and their current needs and strengths
- e) Chances to observe experienced teachers, either within the employing school or at another school with effective practice

4.3 Assessments of ECT performance

4.3.1 Formal assessment meetings will take place in the final term of the ECT's first year (term 3) and the final term of their second year (term 6), and will be carried out by either the headteacher or the ECT's induction tutor, as determined by each school.

4.3.2 These meetings will be informed by clear and transparent evidence gathered from progress reviews during the preceding assessment period, and drawn from the ECT's work as a teacher and from their induction programme. Copies of the evidence relied on will be provided to the ECT and the Appropriate Body.

4.3.3 After each formal assessment meeting, a formal assessment report will be completed that clearly shows how the ECT is performing against the relevant standards. The headteacher will also recommend to the Appropriate Body in the final assessment report at the end of the programme as to whether the ECT's performance is satisfactory against the relevant standards.

4.3.4 The ECT will add their own comments, and the formal assessment report will be signed by the headteacher, induction tutor and the ECT.

4.3.5 A copy of the formal assessment report will then be sent to the Appropriate Body. The final assessment report will be sent within 10 working days of the meeting, for the Appropriate Body to make the final decision on whether the ECT has passed their induction period.

4.3.6 In the event that the ECT leaves this post after completing one term or more but before the next formal assessment would take place, the induction tutor or headteacher should complete an interim assessment to ensure that the ECT's progress and performance since the last assessment is captured.

4.4 At-risk procedures

4.4.1 If it becomes clear at any point during the induction process the ECT is not making sufficient progress, the induction tutor will seek advice from the Appropriate Body and additional monitoring and support measures will be put in place immediately, meaning:

- a) Areas in which improvement is needed are identified
- b) Appropriate objectives are set to guide the ECT towards satisfactory performance against the relevant standards
- c) An effective personal Support Plan is put in place to help the ECT improve their performance

4.4.2 If there are concerns about the ECT's progress during their subsequent progress reviews or formal assessment, as long as it is not the final formal assessment, the induction tutor or headteacher will discuss this with the ECT, updating objectives as necessary and revising the support plan for the next assessment period.

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 Local Governing Bodies

The Governing Body for each school will:

- a) Make sure the school complies with statutory guidance on ECT induction
- b) Be satisfied that the school has the capacity to support the ECT
- c) Make sure the headteacher is fulfilling their responsibility to meet the requirements of a suitable induction post
- d) Investigate concerns raised by the ECT as part of the school's grievance procedures
- e) If it has any concerns or questions, seek guidance from the Appropriate Body on the quality of the induction arrangements and the roles and responsibilities of staff involved in the process
- f) If it wishes, request general reports on the progress of the ECT on a termly basis

5.2 Role of the Headteacher / head of school

The headteacher of the employing school will:

- a) Check that the ECT has been awarded QTS and whether they need to serve an induction period
- b) Notify the Appropriate Body when an ECT is taking up a post and undertaking induction and ensure that the ECT is fully registered with both the Appropriate Body and the Department for Education
- c) Make sure the ECT's post is suitable according to statutory guidance (see section 4.1 above)
- d) Make sure the induction tutor is appropriately trained and has sufficient time to carry out their role effectively
- e) Make sure the induction mentor has sufficient time to carry out their role effectively, and support them to engage fully with the training programme
- f) Make sure an appropriate ECF-based or ITTECF-based induction programme is in place and support the ECT to engage with it
- g) Make sure the ECT's progress is reviewed regularly, including through observations and feedback of their teaching
- h) Make sure that formal assessments are carried out and reports completed and sent to the Appropriate Body
- i) Maintain and keep accurate records of employment that will count towards the induction period
- j) Make sure that all monitoring and record-keeping is done in the least burdensome and most streamlined way
- k) Make the governing board aware of the support arrangements in place for the ECT
- l) Make a recommendation to the Appropriate Body on whether the ECT's performance against the relevant standards is satisfactory
- m) Participate in the Appropriate Body's training and quality assurance procedures of the induction programmes
- n) Keep all relevant documentation, evidence and forms on file for 6 years

5.3 Role of the ECT

The ECT will:

- a) Provide evidence that they have QTS and are eligible to start induction
- b) Meet with their induction tutor at the start of the programme to discuss and agree priorities, and keep these under review
- c) Agree with their induction tutor how best to use their reduced timetable allowance and guarantee engagement with their ECTP
- d) Provide evidence, where needed, of their progress against the relevant standards
- e) Participate fully in the monitoring and development programme
- f) Participate in scheduled classroom observations, progress reviews and formal assessment meetings

- g) Agree with their induction tutor the start and end dates of the induction period, and the dates of any absences from work during the period
- h) Keep copies of all assessment reports

When the ECT has any concerns, they will:

- i) Raise these with their induction tutor as soon as they can
- j) Consult with their contact at the Appropriate Body at an early stage if there are difficulties in resolving issues with their induction tutor or within the school

5.4 Role of the induction tutor

The induction tutor will:

- a) Provide guidance and effective support to the ECT (with the Appropriate Body where necessary)
- b) Carry out regular progress reviews throughout the induction period
- c) Undertake 2 formal assessment meetings during the induction period, coordinating input from other colleagues as appropriate
- d) Carry out progress reviews in terms where a formal assessment doesn't occur
- e) Inform the ECT following progress reviews of their progress against the relevant standards, and share records with the ECT, headteacher and relevant body
- f) Inform the ECT during the formal assessment meeting of the judgements to be recorded on their formal assessment record and invite the ECT to add their own comments
- g) Make sure that the ECT's teaching is observed and feedback is provided
- h) Make sure the ECT is aware of how they can raise concerns about their induction programme or their personal progress, both within and outside of the employing school
- i) Take prompt, appropriate action if the ECT appears to be having difficulties
- j) Make sure that all monitoring and record keeping is done in the least burdensome way, and that ECTs are not asked for any evidence that requires the creation of new work

5.4 Role of the induction mentor

The induction mentor will:

- a) Regularly meet with the ECT for structured mentor sessions to provide targeted feedback
- b) Work with the ECT, and colleagues within the employing school who are involved in the ECT's induction, to help make sure the ECT receives a high-quality ECTP
- c) Provide, or arrange, effective support – including subject-specific, phase-specific, coaching and/or mentoring
- d) Act promptly and appropriately if the ECT appears to be having difficulties