



Early Career Teachers (ECT) Policy

Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School
Adopted by the Governing Body on: 23rd Sept 2025
Signed Chair of Governing Body: <i>James Verran</i> Head Teacher: <i>Shahida Chowdhury</i>
Reviews subject to DfE National Guidance

Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School

Policy for the Induction of Early Career Teachers (ECTs)

Rationale

Forest Fields aims to nurture, develop and retain all recruited ECTs. The first two years of teaching are not only very demanding, but also of critical significance in the professional development of the new teacher. It is vital that new teachers get a good start to their teaching careers through appropriate transitional support. Our school's induction programme is aimed at ensuring a smooth transition from training into the teaching profession through appropriate guidance, support and challenge. Our ECT induction programme will enable our ECTs to establish a secure foundation which enables and inspires them to continue to develop throughout their teaching careers.

Aims

Our school's ECT induction programme has been designed to meet the statutory requirements of the Early Career Framework (ECF) and make a significant contribution to both the professional and personal development of ECTs, providing support which should enable them to develop competence in the Teachers' Standards and demonstrate the behaviours and values of Forest Fields. Through induction, we aim that the ECTs make a valuable contribution to the school, Nottingham School's Trust and education more widely in the long term. Specifically, we aim to:

- ~ ensure a smooth transition from teacher training, to enable ECTs meet all the Teachers' Standards;
- ~ provide support to meet the generic needs of all ECTs and the specific needs of individual ECTs;
- ~ provide bespoke, individualised support through high quality mentoring;
- ~ provide ECTs with examples of good classroom practice through observations;
- ~ help ECTs form productive relationships with all members of the school community and stakeholders;
- ~ facilitate ECTs in forming a network of peers to maintain beyond the ECT peers;
- ~ embed on-going reflection on their own and observed practice;
- ~ recognise and celebrate success;
- ~ support the trainee in demonstrating the values and behaviours of Forest Fields;
- ~ act quickly to help ECTs address any areas of concern;
- ~ provide a foundation for longer-term professional development;
- ~ foster a love for teaching and a drive for continual improvement.

The whole staff will be kept informed of the school's ECT Induction Policy and are encouraged to participate, wherever possible, in its implementation and development e.g. by allowing ECTs to observe their lessons and having open dialogue with ECTs about teaching and learning. This policy reflects a structured whole school approach to teacher

induction and recognises that the quality and commitment of the people who supervise the induction is a crucial factor in its continued success.

Registering the ECT

The school will register the ECT with:

Appropriate Body <https://flyinghigh.nqtmanager.com/RegisterTutor.aspx>

DfE <https://manage-training-for-early-career-teachers.education.gov.uk/>

The Education Development Trust <https://www.educationdevelopmenttrust.com/our-expertise/uk/professional-development-for-early-career-teachers>

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The governing body are fully aware of the law which sets out the school's responsibility to provide the necessary monitoring, support and assessment for ECTs. Careful consideration is given, prior to any decision to appoint an ECT, as to whether the school currently has the capacity to fulfil all its obligations. The governing body will be kept aware and up to date about induction arrangements and the progress of ECTs, through the headteacher's report.

The Headteacher

The headteacher at Forest Fields plays a significant and leading role in the process of inducting new colleagues to the profession. Whilst responsibility for the implementation of the induction programme has been delegated to an Induction Tutor and ECT Mentor, the headteacher will also observe each ECT through learning walks and/or drop-ins at least once each term and receive feedback on the ECT's progress. Statutory responsibilities are:

- ~ ensuring a thorough mentoring programme and support are in place in school throughout the 2 years;
- ~ ensure that both the ECT Mentors and ECTs fully engage with the Flying High Teaching School Hub Early Career Programme;
- ~ recommending to the Appropriate Body (Flying High Teaching School Hub) whether an ECT has met the requirements for satisfactory completion of the induction period.

In addition to the statutory requirements, the headteacher will follow the 'ECT at Risk Procedures', as soon as there are any concerns about the ECT not being on track to meet the Teacher Standards at the end of the second year.

(See 'ECT at Risk Procedure' in this policy).

Induction Tutor

The Induction Tutor ensures that the provision, monitoring and guidance for the Early Career Teacher is effective and continuous throughout the two years. They take the lead role in ensuring that assessment is robust.

ECT Mentor

The ECT Mentor is crucial in providing a strong role model for the ECT and providing ongoing pastoral support. By meeting and observing the ECT regularly, the mentor can facilitate CPD specific to the needs of the individual ECT.

Entitlement

Our full induction programme ensures that new teachers are provided with the support and monitoring to help them fulfil their professional duties and meet the requirements for satisfactory completion of the early career years. It builds on their knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the Teachers' Standards, as achieved during training.

The key aspects of the induction programme for ECTs at Forest Fields are as follows:

- ~ Transition from the training year through the Career Entry Plan (CEP) from the ITT Provider.
- ~ Access to a full induction programme that will commence upon appointment and be reviewed after each assessment period;
- ~ Coaching from an ECT Mentor who is trained and prepared for the role;
- ~ Oversight and assessment from an ECT Induction Tutor;
- ~ Regular meetings with a trained mentor (weekly in Y1, fortnightly in Y2);
- ~ Regular observation/video co-analysis of ECTs' teaching by experienced colleagues;
- ~ A reduction of 10% of the average teacher's workload in Year 1 and 5% in Year 2 (in addition to PPA time). This time is used for participating in the school's Induction programme, other professional development activities (such as observing other experienced practitioners) and meetings with the ECT Mentor;
- ~ Provision of a termly progress review with the Induction Tutor, to include the review and creation of an action plan. The first of these should be informed by the Career Entry Plan from the training provider;
- ~ Annual formal assessment meetings with the Induction Tutor;
- ~ Participation in the Flying High Hub ECT programme;
- ~ Opportunities for further professional development based on agreed targets and identified needs within a reasonable timeframe, to include:
 - Meetings with phase leaders, subject coordinators, SENDCo and other professionals;
 - A programme of observations of experienced colleagues' teaching;
 - Access to Forest Fields Inset;
- ~ Identifying and providing support for any areas of practice or behaviour that may prevent the ECT meeting the Teachers' Standards in a timely, honest and professional manner; (See ECT at Risk Procedure below)
- ~ Creating a support plan for any ECT not on track to meet the Teachers' Standards at the end of the year.

Assessment & Quality Assurance

The assessment of ECTs will be rigorous and objective and be in line with time expectations.

Forest Fields will use the following guidelines for ECT assessment:

- ~ The timeline and formats used for annual ECT assessments will be shared in advance by the Appropriate Body;
- ~ Assessment will use evidence from planning, work produced by pupils, progress data and relationships with staff, students and parents, as well as formal observations of teaching. These will have been discussed and shared over the term during regular meetings;
- ~ Termly/annual assessment will draw on views from all teachers who have a part in the ECT's development in order to gain a reliable overall view;
- ~ The head teacher will ensure that assessment procedures are consistently applied;
- ~ Copies of any records, including meetings and observations, will be passed to the ECT concerned;
- ~ The Induction Tutor will engage in moderation activity with other schools;
- ~ Termly Reports will give details of:
 - areas of strength
 - areas requiring development
 - evidence used to inform judgement
 - targets for coming term
 - attendance.
- ~ A copy of each annual report/progress review will be submitted to the Appropriate Body.

ECT at Risk Procedures

A culture of openness, the regular ECT Mentor meetings and strong team support will ensure that any difficulties, whether pastoral or in teaching, are quickly identified, this may be through:

- The ECT raising a difficulty with their Mentor or Induction Tutor.
- An observation or other activity (e.g. work scrutiny) indicating a developmental need.
- Another colleague sharing a concern.

When difficulties are first encountered, the ECT will be asked to engage in a coaching conversation with their Mentor to establish the nature of the problem and its causes. At the end of this meeting, actions should be agreed and a touch back point arranged.

When difficulties are not resolved, or they are impacting on the children, the following will take place:

- ~ A meeting between the ECT Mentor and the Induction Tutor and the ECT will be held to discuss the concern. A record of the meeting should be made, including agreed actions and timeframe, and the head teacher should be informed;
- ~ Experienced colleagues will model aspects of good practice so that the ECT can focus attention on particular areas of teaching through observations;

Where the NQT is deemed as being at risk of not meeting the Teacher Standards:

- ~ A meeting will be held with the ECT, the Mentor and the Induction Tutor.
- ~ A support plan will be created including agreed, attainable targets for action with specific and practical steps outlined for securing an improvement in practice;
- ~ The support plan will be shared with the head teacher and a copy given to the ECT;
- ~ Early warning/alert of the risk of failure will be given to the ECT and the school's concerns communicated to the Appropriate Body without delay.

Where an ECT has continuing difficulties, further support, advice, guidance and direction will be given by the Appropriate Body. Areas of concern will be re-defined and clarified and the necessary improvements required clearly set out. The named contact for the Appropriate Body will be informed as soon as it becomes clear an ECT is at risk of not meeting one or more of the Teachers' Standards.

Addressing ECT Concerns

If an ECT has any concerns about the induction, mentoring and support programme, these should be raised within the school (Mentor, Induction Tutor & Headteacher) in the first instance.

Where the school does not resolve them, the ECT should raise concerns with the Appropriate Body.

This policy will be reviewed as a part of the school's development cycle annually. Prior to this date should there be any changes to statutory requirements then amendments will be made.