



Professional Development Pathway



SCITT Mentor

Overview

Effective SCITT mentoring has wider benefits, providing professional development opportunities for Mentors and building the capacity of the school as a whole. Effective Mentors are outstanding Teachers and subject experts who are also skilled in explaining their own practice.

SCITT Mentors should have excellent subject knowledge and a clear understanding of what constitutes high quality teaching in a variety of contexts. Mentors play a central role in encouraging Trainees and supporting their development and progress by drawing on a wide range of experiences, strategies and techniques to support trainees in meeting the Teachers' Standards. Schools also have a role to play in supporting both Mentors and Trainees by creating and fostering a positive environment in which Mentors and Trainees are able to fulfil their professional expectations. Training needs should be identified and addressed so that mentors are familiar with course structures and they should be given sufficient time as part of their timetable to observe Trainees, provide constructive feedback and to have meetings and discussions outside of the classroom to monitor progress.

Mentors play a crucial role in the delivery of high-quality ITT. It is important that all providers have a systematic process to identify, train and develop school-based ITT Mentors to support Trainee Teachers to develop their teaching practice and retain good Teachers in the classroom for as long as possible. This, in turn, should increase the availability of experienced teachers to help ensure the steady supply of Mentors and strengthen the quality of ITT within school placements.

A Mentor should understand the course structure and the requirement of trainees to meet the Teachers' Standards. They should prioritise meetings and discussions with a Trainee, monitor performance and help develop their teaching practice and effective classroom management strategies. A Mentor should also keep their subject knowledge up-to-date and have the awareness to signpost trainees to other expertise and knowledge, for example subject association.

If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please do not hesitate to ask your Line Manager or Headteacher.

