

ECF induction and training: frequently asked questions - mentors

How should I support my ECT?

As a mentor, your role is to support the ECT through their 2-year induction programme.

Your responsibilities will include:

- working with your school to make sure the ECT receives a high-quality induction programme
- meeting regularly with the ECT to provide support and feedback
- providing (or arranging) mentoring and coaching around specific phases and subject areas
- taking prompt, appropriate action if the ECT is having difficulties

You'll receive training on how to do this from the Teaching School Hub.

Do I need to collect any evidence during the ECF-based training?

The ECF is not an assessment tool, so you do not have to collect data on your ECT's performance.

Your school's headteacher and induction tutor will be responsible for assessing ECTs against the [Teachers' Standards](#). DfE [guidance for ECTs](#) explains what evidence they may be asked for to demonstrate their performance against those standards.

The mentor role is separate to assessment, and should focus on **supporting** the ECT through their 2-year induction programme.

Can ECTs fail their training?

No - ECTs should participate in their ECF-based training programme as fully as possible, but failing to complete it will not mean they fail their induction. Completing the training programme will help them to develop the knowledge and skills they need to meet the Teachers' Standards.

Headteachers are responsible for making sure ECTs are assessed against the Teachers' Standards as part of their progress reviews, and in 2 formal assessments that will take place during the induction. This assessment is separate to the ECF programme itself.

Do ECTs have to complete ECF-based training on top of another induction programme?

No - the new ECF-based training is not an additional programme. It's a central part of ECT induction at your school. All ECTs are now entitled to a funded 2-year induction programme. This

includes structured training and support to help them get their teaching career off to the best possible start.

Your school may choose to offer your ECTs extra training and support to meet essential specific needs, reflecting local policies and practices (on safeguarding, for example). This additional training does not replace their entitlement to the ECF-based programme however.

How should an ECT's teaching be observed?

Each ECT's teaching should be observed at regular intervals throughout their induction period. This is to make sure a fair and effective assessment of the ECT's teaching practice, conduct and efficiency can be made against the Teachers' Standards.

Your induction tutor can be the observer, or they can select another suitable person from inside or outside of your school. Speak to your induction tutor to find out more.

What should I do if an ECT has concerns or difficulties?

Advise the ECT to speak to their induction tutor first, as this is the person responsible for ECT induction at your school.

If they're unable to help, the ECT should speak to the appropriate body/Teaching School Hub (01252 986890). We're responsible for making sure ECTs receive their statutory entitlements, and are fairly and consistently assessed.

What should I do if I have concerns about mentoring?

Speak to your school leaders if you have concerns about:

- your time off timetable
- your entitlements set out in the [statutory guidance](#)

Can I continue training as a mentor if my ECT withdraws from the programme?

Yes. If you were assigned an ECT at the start of the programme, you can continue training so you're ready to work with other ECTs.

How do I register with the DfE's service?

When your school's induction tutor tells the DfE you'll be mentoring, you'll get an email asking you to register with the DfE.

This is a DfE-funded programme, so they need to confirm everyone who takes part is eligible. They do this by checking your details in the Teaching Regulation Agency records (TRA).

You'll use the online service to provide your information. The DfE need this in addition to any details you've given to the appropriate body/Teaching School Hub. It should only take 5 minutes.

How to give DfE your information

1. Visit: <https://manage-training-for-early-career-teachers.education.gov.uk/participants/start-registration>
2. Sign in using the email address your school has registered for you. Be careful to enter it correctly with no spaces.
3. If you do not receive an email from the DfE when you sign in, check your spam or junk folder.
4. Once you're signed in you'll be asked to enter your:
 - full name
 - date of birth
 - teacher reference number (TRN) or National Insurance number

How to find your TRN

Your TRN is a unique ID that:

- is usually 7 digits long, for example '4567814'
- may include the letters 'RP' or a slash '/' symbol, for example 'RP99/12345'
- may also be called a QTS, GTC, DfE, DfES or DCSF number

You'll have a TRN if you hold, or are working towards qualified teacher status (QTS) in England.

You can usually find it on your payslip, teachers' pension documents or teacher training records.

If you're a mentor without a TRN

You must [apply for a TRN](#) before you can use DfE's service. You need a TRN to receive funded training and materials.

What happens next

DfE will check your details with the Teaching Regulation Agency to confirm your eligibility for funding.

You can then start or continue your training programme.

Adapted from <https://manage-training-for-early-career-teachers.education.gov.uk/pages/mentor-additional-information>