



Early Career Teachers (ECTs)

This policy is prescribed by The Good Shepherd Trust and all reference to ‘the Trust’ includes all Trust schools, the central team and subsidiary organisations.

Date adopted:	10 January 2022	Last reviewed:	2 March 2026
Review cycle:	Annual	Is this policy statutory?	No
Approval:	PARC	Author:	CEdO
Local approval*:	Headteacher	Local author*:	Headteacher
Next Review Date of Template Policy:	01 March 2027		

*Local approval will either be the local committee, the head teacher, or the CEO (refer to policy schedule)

Revision record

Minor revisions should be recorded here when the policy is amended in light of changes to legislation or to correct errors. Significant changes or at the point of review should be recorded below and approved at the level indicated above.

Revision No.	Date	Revised by	Approved date	Comments
1	2 Dec 21	A Clark	10/01/22	New statutory policy
2	27 Apr 23	F Mackrory		No changes to policy except approved and review dates
3	13 Jun 23	A Clark		Changes for 2023 following DfE consultation
4	16 Jan 24	A Clark		Added risk and monitoring impact
5	21 Feb 24	F Mackrory	21/02/24	Update to new header template, recommending cttee and job titles (CEdO rather than RDoE)
6	19 Feb 25	A Clark	21/02/25	Policy no longer statutory but follows DfE governance guides (linked below). Changed delegation from Ed Cttee to PARC. Minor amendments to procedures for concern and added capability section.
7	17 Feb 26	J Roddick	02/03/26	Updated references to ECTE and ITTECF, added transitional arrangements, additional information added on statutory entitlements, updated statements added to 5.2 and 6.4, updated approval route.

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1 Introduction

This induction policy applies to early career teachers and is in line with the Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE). This policy has been adapted from The Key’s model policy and approved by Forbes Solicitors.

ECTs who started before 1 September 2025 continue on ECF (Early Career Framework) based programmes and ECTs starting from 1 Sept 2025 receive ECTE.

2 Aims

The Trust aims to:

- Run an ECT induction programme that meets all of the statutory requirements underpinned by the Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE)
- Provide ECTs with a supportive environment that develops them and equips them with the tools to be effective and successful teachers
- Make sure all staff understand their role in the ECT induction programme
- Ensure that all training, mentoring and support provided to Early Career Teachers is delivered in line with their statutory entitlement, recognising that these provisions are mandatory requirements and not discretionary elements of the induction programme

3 Changes made from September 2023 following updated DfE guidance

ECT and mentor sessions should be timetabled during teaching hours. In exceptional circumstances, due to timetabling constraints, mentoring can take place outside teaching hours but always scheduled within contracted time.

Local authorities no longer oversee ECTs. Only teaching school hubs and other organisations determined by the education secretaries are able to act as appropriate bodies (AB).

Where an ECT moves schools within the two induction years, the AB is expected to ensure that the new schools head teacher contacts the ECT’s previous AB for the necessary reports. If the head teacher agrees, the new AB will be able to contact the previous AB to obtain the reports.

Teachers with QTS from overseas are required to complete the induction if they have less than two years’ full-time experience when they were awarded QTS.

When an interim assessment cannot be completed before an ECT leaves a post, an interim assessment report should still be completed and a copy provided to the ECT and AB.

4 Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on:

- The Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance [Induction for early career teachers \(England\)](#) Updated April 2025
- The [Early career teacher entitlement \(ECTE\) support](#)
- [Initial teacher training and early career framework](#)
- [The Education \(Induction Arrangements for School Teachers\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#)

The 'relevant standards' referred to below are the [Teachers' Standards](#).

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

5 The ECT induction programme

The following sets out the statutory minimum for ECT induction programmes.

The induction programme will be underpinned by the ECTE, enabling ECTs to understand and apply the knowledge and skills set out in the ECTE.

Prior to the ECT serving their induction, the headteacher and appropriate body must agree that the post is suitable.

For a full-time ECT, the induction period will typically last for 2 academic years. Part-time ECTs will serve a full-time equivalent. Up to one term of continuous employment may count towards completion of the induction period.

The programme is quality assured by the Xavier Trust, our 'appropriate body'.

5.1 Posts for induction

Each ECT will:

- 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
- Have an appointed induction tutor, who will have qualified teacher status (QTS)
- Have an appointed induction mentor, who will have QTS
- Have a reduced timetable to allow them to undertake activities in their induction programme; in their first year, this will be no more than 90% of the timetable of our existing teachers on the main pay range, and in their second year, this will be no more than 95% of the timetable of our existing teachers on the main pay range
- Regularly teach the same class or classes
- Take part in similar planning, teaching and assessment processes to other teachers working in similar posts
- Not be given additional non-teaching responsibilities without appropriate preparation and support
- Not have unreasonable demands made upon them
- Not normally teach outside the age range and/or subjects they have been employed to teach

- Not be presented with unreasonably demanding pupil discipline problems on a day-to-day basis

5.2 Support for ECTs

We support ECTs with:

- Their designated induction tutor, who will provide day-to-day monitoring and support, and co-ordinate their assessments
- Their designated induction mentor, who will provide regular structured mentoring sessions and targeted feedback
- Observations of their teaching at regular intervals, and follow-up discussions with prompt and constructive feedback
- Regular professional reviews of their progress, to take place termly (except in terms where formal assessment is held), at which their induction tutor will review objectives and revise them in relation to the relevant standards and their current needs and strengths
- Chances to observe experienced teachers, either within the school or at another school with effective practice
- Ensuring that ECT training includes adaptive teaching and SEND, reflecting ITTECF priorities

5.3 Assessments of ECT performance

ECTs are exempt from normal appraisal procedures during their induction period.

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 ECT's induction tutor.

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.

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.

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

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.

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. A copy should be provided to the ECT and the appropriate body.

5.4 At-risk procedures

If it becomes clear during a termly progress review or at the first formal assessment point that the ECT is not making sufficient progress, additional monitoring and support measures will be put in place immediately, meaning:

- Areas in which improvement is needed are identified

- Appropriate objectives are set to guide the ECT towards satisfactory performance against the relevant standards
- An effective support programme is put in place to help the ECT improve their performance

The progress review record or formal assessment report will be shared with the appropriate body, alongside the support plan, for it to review.

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:

- Continue to deliver process reviews
- Revise the ECT's objectives and support plan in line with the Teachers' Standards
- Share these with the ECT, headteacher and appropriate body

5.5 Capability procedures

In the event of serious capability concerns, the headteacher can decide to instigate capability procedures in line with our capability policy. They will inform the appropriate body when these procedures are instigated. The ECT's induction process will continue alongside these capability procedures for as long as the ECT remains at the school, or the procedures are concluded.

Capability procedures for ECTs will only be used in exceptional circumstances and aligned to the Trust's capability policy.

6 Roles and responsibilities

6.1 Role of the ECT

The ECT will:

- Provide evidence that they have QTS and are eligible to start induction
- Meet with their induction tutor at the start of the programme to discuss and agree priorities, and keep these under review
- Agree with their induction tutor how best to use their reduced timetable allowance and guarantee engagement with their ECTE-based induction
- Provide evidence of their progress against the relevant standards
- Participate fully in the monitoring and development programme
- Participate in scheduled classroom observations, progress reviews and formal assessment meetings
- 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
- Keep copies of all assessment reports

When the ECT has any concerns, they will:

- Raise these with their induction tutor as soon as they can
- 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

6.2 Role of the headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Check that the ECT has been awarded QTS and whether they need to serve an induction period

- Agree, in advance of the ECT starting, who will act as the appropriate body
- Notify the appropriate body when an ECT is taking up a post and undertaking induction
- Make sure the ECT's post is suitable according to statutory guidance (see section 4.1 above)
- Make sure the induction tutor is appropriately trained and has sufficient time to carry out their role effectively
- Make sure the induction mentor is appropriately trained and has sufficient time to carry out their role effectively
- Make sure an appropriate ECTE-based induction programme is in place
- Make sure the ECT's progress is reviewed regularly, including through observations and feedback of their teaching
- Make sure that formal assessments are carried out and reports completed and sent to the appropriate body
- Maintain and keep accurate records of employment that will count towards the induction period
- Make sure that all monitoring and record keeping is done in the least burdensome and most streamlined way
- Make the governing board aware of the support arrangements in place for the ECT
- Make a recommendation to the appropriate body on whether the ECT's performance against the relevant standards is satisfactory
- Participate in the appropriate body's quality assurance procedures of the induction programmes
- Keep all relevant documentation, evidence and forms on file for 6 years

6.3 Role of the induction tutor

The induction tutor will:

- Provide guidance and effective support to the ECT (with the appropriate body where necessary)
- Carry out regular progress reviews throughout the induction period
- Undertake 2 formal assessment meetings during the induction period, coordinating input from other colleagues as appropriate
- Carry out progress reviews in terms where a formal assessment does not occur
- Inform the ECT following progress reviews of their progress against the relevant standards, and share records with the ECT, headteacher and relevant body
- 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
- Make sure that the ECT's teaching is observed and feedback is provided
- 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 school
- Take prompt, appropriate action if the ECT appears to be having difficulties
- 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
- **Notify the appropriate body after each progress review as to whether the ECT is making satisfactory progress**

6.4 Role of the induction mentor

The induction mentor will:

- Regularly meet with the ECT during teaching hours (see (3) above) for structured mentor sessions to provide targeted feedback
- Work with the ECT, and colleagues within the school who are involved in the ECT's induction, to help make sure the ECT receives a high-quality ECTE-based programme
- Provide, or arrange, effective support – including subject-specific, phase-specific, coaching and/or mentoring
- Act promptly and appropriately if the ECT appears to be having difficulties

- Ensure training expectations align with post 2025 DfE arrangements (normally one year for new mentors)

6.5 Role of the Trust

The Trust will:

- Make sure the school complies with statutory guidance on ECT induction
- Be satisfied that the school has the capacity to support the ECT
- Make sure the headteacher is fulfilling their responsibility to meet the requirements of a suitable induction post
- Investigate concerns raised by the ECT as part of the school's grievance procedures
- 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
- If it wishes, request general reports on the progress of the ECT on a termly basis

7 Monitoring the impact of this policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Chief Education Officer in line with any statutory guidance. At every review, it will be approved by the Trust Board on recommendation from PARC.

The policy implementation will be monitored continuously by the CEo and reported to PARC annually to ensure that any risk is mitigated.

<u>Component</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
Control Environment	Our ECTs feel valued and supported as they begin their teaching career in GST. We ensure that we meet the requirements from DfE during their induction period.
Risk Assessment	There is a risk that a school does not provide sufficient support to an ECT and they are unable to pass their ECT, leading to potential legal claims.
Control Activities	We ensure that every school that has an ECT is registered with an Appropriate Body, has allocated each ECT a trained mentor, and has an assessor in place. It is the responsibility of the Appropriate Body to ensure that all processes are complete in a timely manner.
Information and Communication	Data is collected annually from each school's headteacher, who is held to account for ensuring that the regulations are met.
Monitoring	The Education Committee assures the Risk and Audit Committee that the process is in place.

8 Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Appraisal (Teachers)
- Grievance
- Pay