

Policy for the Induction of Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs)

Gorse Hall Primary and Nursery School



Rationale

The first twelve months of teaching are not only very demanding but also of considerable significance in the professional development of the new teacher. Our school's induction process ensures that the appropriate guidance, support, training to include the development of skills, knowledge, expectations and observations are provided through a structured but flexible individual programme.

This programme will enable an NQT to form a secure foundation upon which a successful teaching career, fulfilling their professional duties, can be built.

Purposes

Our school's induction process has been designed to make a significant contribution to both the professional and personal development of NQTs. The purposes of induction include:

- to ensure the newly qualified staff appointed feel welcomed and valued;
- to support the NQT so that they are able to settle into the school and as happily as possible so they can apply their talents and expertise for the greater good of the school and teach effectively;
- to provide programmes appropriate to the individual needs of the NQTs;
- to provide appropriate counselling and support through the role of an identified mentor;
- to provide NQTs with examples of good practice;
- to help NQTs form good relationships with all members of the school community and stakeholders;
- to help NQTs become aware of the school's role in the local community;
- to encourage reflection on their own and observed practice;
- to provide opportunities to recognise and celebrate good practice;
- to provide opportunities to identify areas for development;
- to help NQTs to develop an overview of a teacher's roles and responsibilities;
- to provide a foundation for longer-term professional development;
- to help NQTs perform satisfactorily against the Teachers' Standards;
- to provide opportunities to allow the NQT to develop professionally in accordance with their personal ambitions.

The whole staff will be kept informed of the school induction policy and encouraged to participate, wherever possible, in its implementation and development.

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.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The governing body will be fully aware of the contents of the DfE's Statutory guidance on induction for newly qualified teachers (England) which sets out the school's responsibility to provide the necessary monitoring, support and assessments for NQTs. Careful consideration is given, prior to any decision to appoint an NQT, 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 results of formal assessment meetings.

Each phase leader is the Induction Tutor/ Mentors for NQTs within their phase.

The Governor with responsibility for NQTs is Rachael Jackson.

The Head Teacher

The Head Teacher plays a significant and leading role in the process of inducing new colleagues to the profession. While responsibility for the implementation of the Induction Programme has been delegated to an induction tutor, the head teacher will also observe each NQT at least once during the Induction Process. Statutory responsibilities are:

- ensuring an appropriate induction programme is set up;
- recommending to the Appropriate Body whether or not an NQT has performed satisfactorily against the Teachers' Standards for the completion of induction.

While the head may not delegate these responsibilities, many of the associated tasks will be carried out by an induction tutor or other suitably experienced colleagues. In addition to the statutory requirements the head teacher will:

- observe and give written warnings to an NQT at risk of failing to perform satisfactorily against the Teachers' Standards whilst informing the Appropriate Body immediately;
- keep the governing body aware and up to date about induction arrangements and the results of formal assessment meetings.

Induction Tutor and Mentor

The principal requirement for the NQT induction tutor is to be responsible for the overall management of initiating NQTs into the teaching profession and into our school's systems and structures. It entails not only a coordination role but also keeping records of activities and monitoring the quality assurance of provision. It embraces various tasks, such as organising a central induction programme, opportunities to participate in additional support, e.g. Professional Study Groups, providing support and guidance and the rigorous but fair assessment of NQT performance.

Mentor

In addition to the induction tutor, who has the responsibility for the formal assessment of the NQT, a mentor is appointed to provide on-going support on a daily basis. The mentor will contribute to the judgements about the performance against the Teachers' Standards.

After appointment, before taking up post

- to provide preliminary visits to the school to meet staff, discuss timetables, to work with the pupils if possible, explore resources and classroom.
- to arrange points of contact should the NQT need help during the time prior to taking up appointment.

After taking up the post

NQTs will follow a structured induction programme. Weekly meetings will take place with their Mentor throughout the year and a half termly meeting with the Head Teacher. The NQT will also be provided with the induction programme.

Entitlement

The Newly Qualified Teacher should be proactive in his/her own career development. However, our induction programme ensures that new teachers are provided with support and monitoring to help them fulfil their professional duties and meet the requirements for satisfactory completion of induction. It builds on their knowledge, skills and achievements in relation to standards for the award for qualified teacher status (QTS). The key aspects of the induction programme for NQTs at Gorse Hall are as follows:

- Access to an induction programme that will commence upon appointment and be formally reviewed on a termly basis.
- Structured visits will be made to the school, prior to taking up appointment, with time to discuss the Career Entry and Development Profile, developments needed and how they will be assisted in making these.
- Help and guidance from an induction tutor who is adequately prepared for the role and will coordinate the induction programme.
- Regular meetings with mentor, senior managers, subject coordinators and other key staff where appropriate.
- Time and regular opportunities to meet with other NQTs and teachers who have recently completed their induction programme.
- Observe experienced colleagues teaching.
- A reduction of 10% of the average teacher's workload. This time is used for participating in the school's induction programme and is in addition to the statutory 10% non-contact time already allocated to teachers. However, if additional support is required team teaching will be timetabled for the 10% to support teaching and learning.
- Have teaching observed by experience colleagues on a regular basis.
- To receive prompt written as well as oral feedback on the teaching observed and to receive advice with regard to development and target setting as appropriate.
- Opportunities for further professional development based on agreed targets.

Lesson Observation, Reviewing and Target Setting

These will be followed and completed in accordance with the authority's guidelines on NQT induction.

Assessment & Quality Assurance

The assessment of NQTs will be rigorous but also objective:

- The criteria used for formal assessments will be shared and agreed in advance.
- Formative assessment (e.g. lesson observation, target setting, pupil progress) and summative assessment (termly induction reports) will be used.
- Responsibility for assessment will involve all teachers who have a part in the NQT's development in order to gain a reliable overall view.
- Opportunities will be created for NQTs to gain experience and expertise in self-evaluation.
- The induction tutor/mentor will ensure that assessment procedures are consistently applied.
- Copies of any records will be passed to the NQT concerned.
- Termly assessment reports will give details of:

- areas of strength
 - areas requiring development
 - evidence used to inform judgement,
 - targets for coming term (i.e. 'smart' targets)
 - support to be provided by the school
- (All of the above will be clearly referenced to the Teachers' Standards)

At Risk Procedures

If any NQT encounters difficulties in their performance against the Teachers' Standards, the following procedures will be put into place.

- An expectation is established that the support provided will enable any weaknesses to be addressed.
- Recorded diagnosis of the exact nature of the problem and advice given on how to redress the problem.
- Agreed, attainable targets for action with specific and practical steps outlined for securing an improvement in practice.
- Experienced colleagues will model aspects of good practice so that the NQT can focus attention on particular areas of teaching through observation.
- Early warning of the risk of failure will be given and the school's concerns communicated to the Appropriate Body without delay.

Where an NQT has continuing difficulties further support, advice and direction will be given. Areas of concern will be re-defined and clarified and the necessary improvements required clearly set out.

Where necessary, the Head will support the induction tutor and NQT in observations and planning an appropriate programme to ensure satisfactory completion of the NQT year and that all steps have been taken to improve the situation. The NQT must be made aware of any concerns, at all stages, throughout the induction process.

Addressing NQT Concerns

If an NQT has any concerns about the induction, mentoring and support programme, these should be raised within the school in the first instance. Where the school does not resolve them the NQT should raise concerns with the named Appropriate Body contact. Details are included in The Essential Guide to Induction.

This policy was agreed and adopted in Dec 2019. It will be reviewed should there be any changes to statutory requirements.