

ECF Bulletin

Issue 10: February 2023


**VANTAGE
TEACHING
SCHOOL HUB**
NORTH HUMBER



Welcome to the fourth Early Career Framework (ECF) Bulletin of the academic year 2022/23 from Vantage Teaching School Hub. The purpose of this Bulletin is to share relevant information regarding the Early Career Framework Full Induction Programme with Induction Tutors, Mentors and Early Career Teachers (ECTs). We will circulate these Bulletins at the start of each new module in the Full Induction Programme Calendar.



The ECF Bulletins will begin with an introduction that is relevant to all cohorts and programme members. You will then be signposted to links that will take you to sections of the Bulletin that are specific to the cohort to which you are a member of.



Welcome to our new ECTs and Mentors who started the Full Induction Programme with us in January and have formed our new cohort: Year 1 January 2023. Thank you to these programme members who attended our Induction into Year 1 of the ECF programme on the 6th January 2023.

e: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org

Important - Are you anticipating recruiting any new Year 1 ECTs from January 2023?

We appreciate that schools may still be recruiting new teachers and would be grateful if you could let us know if you have, or will shortly be recruiting any new Year 1 ECTs as they will join our January 2023 cohort, by emailing: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org

Induction Tutor Webinar

Marc Cooper and I will continue to offer termly webinars for Induction Tutors. These are an opportunity for Induction Tutors to ask questions and give feedback; also for us to share any new national or regional information with school leaders. We see this as a really crucial part of our approach to Quality Assurance, hearing the detail of how the programme is impacting in schools and what further steps we can all take to provide the highest quality support for ECTs and their Mentors.

The next webinar will take place on: **Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 4pm via Teams**

We have invited colleagues from East Riding of Yorkshire LA Appropriate Body service to the meeting in February to discuss the transition arrangements and future plans for the Appropriate Body services for ECTs in Hull and the East Riding.

An email has been sent to all Induction Tutors with a link to attend this Webinar but please email Jo Sims on teachingschoolhub@smchull.org if you have not received this.

Engagement Policy Update

Attendance at the ECF training seminars that we run for the different cohorts of the Full Induction Programme, is usually very good and we thank all programme members who regularly attend the sessions as indicated on their training calendars.

All seminars compliment the self-study that an ECT or Mentor is engaged in and also provides them with the opportunity to network.

When a school joins our Full Induction Programme they are agreeing to our engagement policy as this forms part of the statutory entitlement for ECTs during their induction period.

I have provided an update and reminders below regarding our engagement policy which ultimately supports an ECT in completing their induction period and protects a school's enrolment on the programme.

- The ECF Programme is a mandatory programme of development for all Early Career Teachers.
- Engagement with the programme is measured through interaction with the self-directed content and attendance at seminars.
- It is the responsibility of the ECF Lead (Induction Tutor) in school to monitor engagement and support their teacher to utilise the support provided in the best way possible.
- Schools can decide to withdraw from the programme, or to withdraw an individual ECT or Mentor from the programme.

It is a requirement of our contract with our lead provider, Teach First and the DfE that we collect registers for each seminar event that we run and report on attendance and engagement.

1. ECTs and Mentors are placed in a specific group when they are on boarded, to attend their training seminars.
2. If an ECT or Mentor informs Vantage TSH that they cannot attend a seminar due to another meeting or a reasonable circumstance, then they will be offered one of the other seminars running in that training week as an alternative. During a training week, sessions run on a: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday. (Unfortunately we can't offer this for the Year 2 ECT sessions.)

3. If an ECT or Mentor is unable to attend one of the alternative sessions in a training week then a recording of the session may be offered after the event. Please note that recordings are only offered as a last resort for a seminar and will only be given **once** unless there are exceptional circumstances (see below). If a recording is offered, then the ECT or Mentor will be asked to confirm that they have completed the 'catch up' within 10 days of receipt. Attendance returned to the DfE will show as having attended 'via catch up'.
4. In exceptional circumstances or if an ECT or Mentor has a reasonable adjustment to the programme, they will be offered a recording of the seminar after the event & asked to inform us when they have completed the catch up within 10 days of receipt. Attendance returned to the DfE will show as having attended 'via catch up'.
5. If another recording is requested from an ECT or Mentor who does not have an exceptional circumstance or a reasonable adjustment to the programme, they may be sent the recording at the discretion of Vantage TSH, but they will not be recorded as having attended.
6. If an ECT or Mentor has not engaged in the self-directed study within a Module over the course of a term and/or has not attended a 'live' seminar, then we will inform the Induction Tutor at their school via email, to safe guard the school's enrolment on the programme.

Mentors Survey

The annual mentor survey will be live from 10th February - 31st March 2023. It will be at the start of Development Cycle 4 (Year 2 mentors) and Module 4 (Year 1 mentors). Until mentors have completed or opted out of the survey, mentors will not be able to access the rest of the content. If a mentor had begun to engage with one of these modules before the 10th February 2023, they will need to complete or opt out of the survey in order to get back into the content. Any progress they have made will have been saved.

We have created a brief one-page guide for mentors on how to access the survey on Brightspace. Please click on this if you think it will be helpful:

For Year 2/Cohort 2021 Mentors [HERE](#)

For Year 1/Cohort 2022 Mentors [HERE](#)

Update regarding the DfE portal

The DfE portal as you are aware, is the online service schools use to register new ECTs and Mentors. Schools can also use the portal to update details regarding any changes to ECTs or Mentors. As a Delivery Partner for Teach First, we have provided feedback from schools on difficulties with the portal. Below are responses from the DfE on the updates that they have put into place and the improvements that are anticipated.

Context

The Department has worked closely with all the lead providers to consider the ECT and mentor registration concerns raised by Delivery Partners directly to providers. This feedback has helped the digital team to prioritise which improvements they will tackle ahead of registration opening for next year's cohorts, as well as the quicker wins that can be managed along the way. These are as follows:

Technical Improvements

1. **Ability to edit information provided by schools**

Quick wins: Schools can now correct email addresses of ECTs, mentors and induction tutors, alongside other personal details such as names.

Editing clarity: Please note, as it stands, delivery partners cannot do this.

Longer Term:

The digital team will be looking at addressing the underlying issues regarding cohorts.

These include:

- Improving the design, potentially reducing the need for schools to understand 'cohorts' at all
- Improving the language to be consistent with language we know schools use
- Improving our automatic cohort allocation to prevent early applicants being put in the previous cohort
- Improving the induction tutor experience of the platform

Sharing Information

The digital team are planning on releasing a version 3 of the API, which is the way that information is shared between the Department and lead providers. This update will include each school's induction tutor details being shared directly with lead providers. This will improve the join up between lead providers, delivery partners and schools.

Induction Tutors

The Department is exploring if it is viable to allow multiple induction tutors per school, in addition to exploring other service improvements to help address the problem of induction tutors changing schools. These include:

- Enabling schools to see who is currently registered as their current induction tutor
- Improving communications and prompting schools to update their induction tutor more regularly. This can now be done within the service by the current induction tutor.

3. The Department will also be reviewing data matching processes to improve efficiency for those cases which are not immediately matched to the TRA records. The Department will work with lead providers to get data on their delivery partner platforms updated as frequently as possible.

4. Showing the Mentor/ECT relationship within the digital service

Schools were less likely to assign mentors to ECTs this academic year (70% of cases) compared to last year (90%+). The Department will be looking to close this gap in data by improving the design of the service to easily enable induction tutors to assign / update mentors, and reminding schools where the ECT-mentor pairings are not entered.

5. Transfer process when ECTs move schools mid-programme

The Department recognises the school transfer issues and has already fixed a lot of teething problems within the process. These included:

- Being able to transfer someone in and out of a school
- Being able to (re-)confirm the Provider of a transferring ECT, either a change or a continuation
- Being able to transfer people between induction routes (FIP to CIP, FIP with Provider A to FIP with Provider B)

The Department is committed to continue to improve this transfer journey given the volume of ECTs (and mentors) that will complete their training across multiple schools. They continue to welcome feedback from schools on the effectiveness of this journey.

6. Enable schools to select an Appropriate Body on the portal

In order to enable the eventual incorporation of AB registration within the Departments service, the Department has undertaken an initial review of the Appropriate Body journey. The first step of this was to enable Schools to indicate which Appropriate Body had been appointed within the Manage training for early career teachers service so as to allow ABs to follow up where required. This work is ongoing. They are keen to simplify and improve these processes working alongside the Teacher Regulation Agency, who maintain the current service for appointed ABs to register inductions.

Customer Satisfaction

The support process has been improved significantly over the past few months, with the addition of extra agents, streamlined processes and improved processes for escalating issues to lead providers. The key focus moving forwards will be reducing ticket numbers in total and then reducing the time it takes to resolve the query. The Department will also be looking to improve the join up between our support desk and lead providers' support desks. As ever, delivery partner's assistance in ensuring issues are raised via the most effective method are vital and additional guidance for delivery partners to triage issues experienced by schools and participants will be prepared.

Sound bites from schools involved in the ECF

We are hoping to hear from schools about your experience being involved in the Full Induction Programme with Teach First and Vantage TSH. Would you be willing to have a short visit from one of our team who will record a sound bite about your experience?

Please email teachingschoolhub@smchull.org

If you are willing to take part – we would love to hear from you!

My Teach First and Brightspace

My Teach First is the home page that you log on to access the ECF Programme. The platform Brightspace is where all of the curriculum materials are housed and this is accessed once you log onto My Teach First.

We appreciate that some programme members have experienced issues with their functionality on My Teach First and Brightspace. We have been advised by Teach First that many of these issues have been caused by the incorrect inputting or transference of information from the DfE portal.

Our advice is to check all details are correct on the DfE portal in the first instance if there are any issues with Brightspace functionality. Induction Tutors will need to click on this link to access the portal: <https://manage-training-for-early-career-teachers.education.gov.uk/>

Once this has been done, please take a screenshot of the problem on Brightspace and email along with a short explanation to: contactcentre@teachfirst.org.uk

If any issues have not been resolved in a timely manner, then do let us know by emailing: teachingschoolhub@smchull.org and we will aim to support with the resolution of the query. We have included a link here to a very useful document to support schools with access issues: [\(link here\)](#).

How Mentors can check on the progress of their ECTs

A reminder to Mentors about how to check on the progress of your ECT within a Module on Brightspace. The pathway to do so is as follows:

Login to My TeachFirst > Click on ECF2021 (Year 2 ECTs) Click on ECF2022 (Year 1 ECTs)
> Click on the chosen Module for ECTs (Do not click on the Module for Mentors) > Click on Audit Users > Select the ECT

You will then be able to see an overview of their engagement in the content of the Module

ECF Mythbuster

The DfE has published new guidance regarding the ECF. This guidance covers the most common questions regarding ECF, and we hope will be a valuable resource for hubs. Please find the links below and please do share these within your networks:

- ECF induction and training: additional information for early career teachers
Manage training for early career teachers ([click here](#)).
- ECF induction and training: additional information for school leaders - Manage training for early career teachers ([click here](#)).
- ECF induction and training: additional information for mentors - Manage training for early career teachers ([click here](#))

Year 1 ECTs/ Mentors and Induction Tutors 2022/23 (Including those who started their induction in April 2022)

Please follow the link here to open the section of the Bulletin that is specific to your cohort: ([link here](#))

Year 2 ECTs/ Mentors and Induction Tutors 2021/22 (Including January Cohort 2022)

Please follow the link here to open the section of the Bulletin that is specific to your cohort: ([link here](#))

Year 1 ECTs/Mentors and Induction Tutors January Cohort 2023

Please follow the link here to open the section of the Bulletin that is specific to your cohort: ([link here](#))

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Best Wishes

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