Hollymount School

Early Career Teacher (ECT) Policy

Issue Date:	Spring 2026	**Review Date:**	Spring Term 2027

1. Aims

The school aims to:

- Deliver an Early Career Teacher induction programme that meets all the statutory requirements and is underpinned by:

  - the Early Career Framework (ECF) for ECTs who started induction before 1 September 2025;

  - the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF) and Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE) for ECTs starting from 1 September 2025.

- 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

2. Early Career Teacher (ECT) induction transitional arrangements

This policy applies to ECTs who start their induction **from** 1 September 2025, following the ITTECF. For ECTs who have started but not completed their induction **before** 1 September 2025, the statutory guidance applicable to them remains the version in place at the start of their induction. When possible, and at the discretion of the headteacher and appropriate body, we will also provide them with a day out of class every half term in their ECT+1 year. This time will be used to support their professional development and planned in discussion with the Headteacher.

3. Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on:

- The Department for Education's (DfE's) statutory guidance Induction for Early Career Teachers in England
- The Early Career Teacher Entitlement
- The Early Career Framework (for ECTs starting **before** September 2025)
- The Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework
- The Teachers' Standards.

4. The ECT induction programme

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

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 Merton Local Authority our 'appropriate body'.

4.1 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 (this will normally be a member of the Senior Leadership Team), 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, support and discussion.
- Not normally teach outside the age range and/or subjects they have been employed to teach.

4.2 Support for ECTs

We support ECTs with:

- Their designated Induction Tutor 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.
- The Induction Tutor will conduct observations of their teaching at regular intervals as directed by the induction programme, 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.

4.3 Assessments of ECT performance

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 the ECT's Induction Lead.

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.

4.4 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 and an action plan is agreed upon.
- 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 Headteacher will be made aware that the ECT is at-risk and will meet with the Mentor and ECT to review action plan.

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

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 lead or headteacher will discuss this with the ECT, updating objectives as necessary and revising the support plan for the next assessment period.

ECTs are not subject to the school's appraisal policy during their induction period. Monitoring of performance will take place through the statutory induction process.

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 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 Lead how best to use their reduced timetable allowance and guarantee engagement with their Early Career Framework/Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework 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 Lead, 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 Lead 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.

5.2 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.
- Make sure the ECT's post is suitable according to statutory guidance (see section 4.1 above).
- Ensure the ECT is registered with the appropriate body using the new 'Record Inductions as an Appropriate Body' service introduced in April 2025.
- Make sure the induction lead is appropriately trained and has sufficient time to carry out their role effectively.
- Make sure an appropriate ECF-based induction programme is in place for ECTs starting before 1 September 2025.
- Ensure an appropriate ITTECF-based induction programme is in place for ECTs starting on/after 1 September 2025.
- 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 **all ECTs.**
- 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.

5.3 Role of the Induction Tutor

The induction lead will:

- Notify the appropriate body when an ECT is taking up a post and undertaking induction.
- 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 doesn't 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.

5.4 Role of the Induction Mentor

The induction mentor will:

- Regularly meet with the ECT 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 ECF-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 .

5.5 Role of the governing body

The governing body 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.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the Headteacher and approved by the Standards, Teaching and Learning Committee.

7. Links with other policies

This policy links to the following policies and procedures:

- Appraisal
- Grievance
- Pay