

Need to know

Early Career Training Programme

Key information and updates

September 2025
Edition 1



A warm welcome to all early career teachers, induction tutors, and mentors.

The South Yorkshire Teaching Hub is delighted to be working with you as your delivery partner - in collaboration with our provider, Education Development Trust.

As two programmes are currently running in parallel (pre-September 2025 and September 2025 onwards), this edition is structured to include:

- General information relevant to both programmes.
- Pre September 2025: Early Career Professional Development Programme (ECPDP) updates.
- September 2025 and onwards: Early Career Training Programme (ECTP) updates.

This 'Need to know' aims to provide you with the key information you need for the start of the new academic year and the term ahead. We kindly ask induction tutors to share and discuss relevant details with ECTs, mentors, and other colleagues involved in the induction journey.

We wish you all the very best as you begin or continue your induction journey. Here's to a successful term and year ahead, and please remember, we're always here to support you.

General information

Registrations

The school must register ECTs by the following the steps below:

The Appropriate Body

Schools must register all ECTs with their local Appropriate Body (AB). South Yorkshire Teaching Hub is the local AB for Sheffield and Rotherham schools. Please visit ECT Manager to register your ECTs with South Yorkshire Teaching Hub:

<https://southyorkshireteachinghub.ectmanager.com/Login.aspx>

The provider, Education Development Trust (EDT)

This stage is required for schools who are new to working with EDT and schools who did not have an ECT in the academic year 2024/25. The expression of interest link can be found here: <http://www.educationdevelopmenttrust.com/ECF>

Department for Education (DfE)

Ensure your DfE self service portal is up to date with details of the induction tutor, ECT and mentors. Please remember to link your ECTs and mentors. [View the 'How to guide'](#).

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

For new schools, once the induction tutor has completed the expression of interest (EOI), EDT will send a MOU for the induction tutor to complete and return to EDT. Please note the MOU will be sent to the person who has completed the EOI.

Additional induction tutors

The DfE only shares records of the school's main induction tutor with EDT. It is important that the induction tutor has access to the EDT learning portal in order to have an overview of the ECPDP programme, specific blocks and to support in the monitoring of ECT and mentor engagement with the self-study materials/blocks.

For additional induction tutors to have access to the learning portal, the delivery partner must request this to the provider.

Funding

ECTE: September 2025 onwards	
Year 1	Year 2
ECTs: Funding from dedicated schools grant: 10% time off timetable	ECTs: 'Grant funding' 5% off timetable & 20 hours of mentor support: £1100
Mentors: 'Grant funding' 20 hours of training: £721.68 (Start: £144.34 & completion: £577.35) based on evidence of engagement and meeting success criteria (Payment in November 2026)	Mentors: 1 hour per fortnight mentor time: £700 Mentors who have completed the 2-year cycle will not receive funding. DfE will fund new mentors
ECPDP: Pre September 2025	
Year 2	
ECTs: 5% off timetable & 20 hours of mentor support: £1400	
Mentors: 1 hour per fortnight mentor time: £1000 start	
In addition: schools choosing a DfE provider-led programme via a delivery partner will receive additional funding to cover mentor training time over the 2 years of the programme. This will consist of 36 hours per mentor over two years (£856.93 in Year 1 & Year 2: Total £1713.86). Schools receive this in two instalments – one at the end of year 1 and one at the end of year 2.	

For further information about funding, [visit the DfE website](#).

Event dates for all cohorts, both programmes

Get ready for the new 2025/26 Academic Year. Click on the link [here](#) to view this year's training opportunities, select your cohort and book your termly training sessions via the ECPDP or ECTP portals.

ECPDP (Participants Pre-September 2025)

There are no changes to the structure or content of the ECPDP programme for Early Career Teachers (ECTs) and their mentors. Please continue to engage in:

- Self-directed study via the online platform
- Termly training sessions
- Mentor meetings

Self-directed study

Please ensure you complete the blocks relevant to your current term of induction. Kindly note that engagement with blocks ahead of your designated induction period is not recognised by the DfE.

All tasks should be completed via the EDT Learning Portal. Offline completion will not be accepted.

Found on the block dashboard, please ensure the following are completed in every block:

- Mentor session record – indication that ECT: mentor session has taken place
- Start of block diagnostic quiz and end of block diagnostic quiz
- End of block survey

Training attendance

Attendance at one training session per term is required and contributes to meeting the programme's success criteria.

Please book training relevant to your phase or specialist setting via the [EDT Learning Portal](#). You can also access your training booklet on the portal - please print this before attending.

You can also access the [mentor training booklets](#) here, and the [ECT training booklets](#) here.

New training venues

Please note that training venues have changed. Plan travel time accordingly and ensure cover is arranged in your school ahead of your attendance. We recommend checking the venue details on the portal or with your Delivery Partner for specifics.

Refreshments

Refreshments (tea, coffee, water, juice) will be provided at all training events, but lunch is not included. Please make your own arrangements for lunch when attending training events.

Please note that there is a café at [The Centre](#) and [Burton Street Foundation](#).



Milestone Date – 31 December 2025

The milestone date refers to the deadline by which evidence of engagement must be recorded and submitted to the Department for Education (DfE).

For this term, the milestone end date is 31 December 2025.

This applies to:

- ECTs and mentors at their current stage of the programme.
- Completion or active engagement in two blocks of self-study.

Why engagement matters:

- It is a part of statutory induction
- It supports professional development aligned with the Teachers' Standards.
- It also contributes to school funding.

ECTP (Participants September 2025 and onwards)

What cohort am I?

There are three starting points for the ECTP; September, January and April. The name given to your cohort is determined by your starting point and the academic year in which you start. If your induction starts in September, in the academic year 2025/26, your cohort is September 2025.

The delivery partner, South Yorkshire Teaching Hub, monitor engagement in the ECPDP programme of the early career teacher (ECT) and mentor, with the induction tutor overseeing engagement, progress and development.

Standard vs extended Early Career Professional Development Programme (ECPDP)

ECTs working on a full-time contract or 0.8 FTE and above, will follow the **'standard induction programme'** and will be expected to engage in **one block of ITTECF content per half-term and in sequence** – i.e. Term 1: Module 1 and topics 1 and 2, Term 2: Module 2 and topics 3 and 4, Term 3: Module 3 and topics 5 and 6.

ECTs working on a contract less than 0.8 FTE, will choose to follow the standard programme or the **'extended induction programme'** where engagement in ECF is **one topic per term, in sequence** – i.e. Topic 1 during term 1, Topic 2 during term 2, and Topic 3 during term 3. We ask that the induction tutor advises the delivery partner as to which programme ECTs are following, where this is applicable.

If you require any further information, contact us at ectp@southyorkshireteachinghub.org.

ECTP learning platform

The ECTP Online Learning Platform (ectp.edt.org) serves as the central hub for eLearning, training planning, and meeting records, with tailored access for facilitators, ECTs, mentors, and school staff (SLT and Induction Tutors). It is distinct from the ECPDP platform, which differs in training structure, mentor roles, and activity credit-based completion tracking.

Programme structure for ECTs and mentors:

- Self-directed study via the online platform
- Termly training sessions
- Mentor meetings

ECT programme overview

ECTs must complete an online induction (via EDT platform) before starting their learning and attending the first training session. This covers programme info, roles, and platform navigation.

Modules: 6 total — 3 in Year 1, 3 in Year 2. Includes in-person training, self-study, and 1:1 mentoring, with the focus on Year 1, based on ITTECF content.

Learning Paths: For each topic, the ECT and mentor will decide which pathway is most appropriate to engage with the materials. This is chosen via diagnostics and mentor judgement.

- Consolidate: Embeds core knowledge.
- Extend: Adds challenge with complex scenarios.

Application: All paths support practical classroom impact.

Click here for an overview of the ECT programme.

Training sessions

ECTs should attend one training event per term: each being six hours and in-person.

ECT training is organised so all cohorts attend the same training:

- Autumn term: ECTP1: for ECTs in April 2024/25 and September 2025 cohort.
- Spring term: ECTP 2: for ECTs in April 2024/25, September 2025 and January 2025/26 cohorts.
- Summer term: ECTP 3: ECTs in April 2024/25 , September 2025, January 2025/26 and April 2025/26 cohorts.

The schedule of training for ECTs can be found [here](#).

Mentor sessions

ECTs will meet with their mentors weekly in Year 1. A strong mentor-ECT relationship is central to the ECTP, driving growth in knowledge, skills, and confidence. The mentor will, with the help of the materials, support pedagogy and practice through modelling, explanations, role play, discussion, drill-downs, drop-ins and targeted feedback. Contextualisation is key.

Mentor programme overview

Mentors must also complete an online induction. This covers programme details, their role, and how to use the online platform. Access to the full learning course will only be granted once the induction is complete, so please ensure access to the online platform and complete this step.

Mentors also engage in self-study via the dedicated platform. These resources enhance their contributions to training sessions and include:

- Evidence summaries at the module level.
- Guidance sheets and tools for each mentoring session.
- “Understanding the Evidence” documents aligned with ECT self-study sessions, helping mentors stay informed and deepen their understanding of the evidence base.

Training sessions

Mentors on the programme will be trained in instructional coaching from the outset. This approach focuses on revisiting specific skills and providing targeted, manageable feedback to help ECTs understand both what to improve and how to do so.

Mentors are expected to attend one training event each term, as follows:

- An online induction at the start of the programme.
- Six hours of in-person training in Term 1.
- A two-hour online session in Term 2 (with a choice of topics).
- A two-hour training session in Term 3, either in person or online.

Training for mentors is in Year 1 of induction and remains in specific cohorts: September, January and April.

The schedule of training for mentors can be found [here](#).

Mentor sessions

In Year 1, mentors meet with their ECTs weekly and in Year 2, fortnightly, to support their chosen study options and help them navigate classroom challenges and opportunities. The programme supports mentors in building constructive professional relationships.

Your fabulous facilitators

Your training sessions on both the ECPDP and the ECTP programmes are led by a team of experienced facilitators, all of whom are either currently working in schools, or have previously taught, across various educational phases. With their extensive teaching experience and deep knowledge, they are well-equipped to provide the most relevant and effective training for our ECTs and mentors.

[Check out your facilitators to learn more about them](#) including their top tips to guide mentors and ECTs through their induction.



Important notice from EDT

As with any large-scale launch, a few teething issues are to be expected. We thank you for your patience while we resolve them.

The emails to induction tutors referencing mentor instructional coaching was sent in error and has now been turned off. Induction tutors can delete these emails. Our apologies for filling up inboxes unnecessarily.

Information for onboarding mentors

Mentor types vary based on their status and the ECT they support. Schools select mentors based on experience and capability. All mentors are expected to hold QTS and a TRN.

Mentor roles are identified during onboarding to the EDT platform, using DfE-provided participant details and responses to the onboarding questionnaire. This information will determine if the mentor is a:

- New mentor.
- Mentor who has previous ITT and/or ITTECF mentoring knowledge/experience.
- Replacement mentor.
- Mentor training on ECPDP.
- Fully trained mentor.
- Mentor training with another training provider and supporting an EDT ECT.

All mentor role types, including those already trained through the Early Career Professional Development Programme (ECPDP), are expected to complete the mentor online induction course to ensure they are equipped with the vital information required to perform their role on the new ECTP programme.

All mentors will have access to all the mentor and ECT online training content on the ECTP.

Further details on the ECTP mentor programme and the mentor status can be found [here](#).

IRIS Connect

IRIS is not being offered from EDT for the ECTP programme. This is following a full review of usage during bid stage, which showed it was not used, or schools had access to the product directly, therefore duplicating efforts. Therefore, the decision was taken to invest this spend into other areas of the programme. If schools have access to IRIS, this can still be used in mentoring scenarios.



We are here to help

Our friendly ECTP team at the South Yorkshire Teaching Hub includes:

Jennifer Mann - Director of ITE and ECF

Rachel Cassim - Senior Administrator

As always, we are here to help. If you require any further support or information, please contact us:

 ectp@southyorkshireteachinghub.org  0114 235 7980

Here's to a successful term, year, and continued induction ahead. 😊