

ITT information summary 6: The role of the Mentor

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- DfE requirements from September 2024.
- Trainees to receive at least 1.5 hours of mentoring per week on placement.
- Mentors are required to undertake at least 20 hours of initial training.
- Mentors are required to undertake at least 6 hours of annual refresher training.
- Mentor training typically will commence at the start of the academic year or during the preceding summer term, and in many cases, will be spread across the year.
- Not all mentor training has to be completed before mentors can begin to support trainees. Providers will be able to give more detail on how their mentor training programme will work.

The role of the Lead Mentor:

- Lead Mentors should have an advanced level of ITT knowledge and expertise that will play a key role in curriculum design and implementation, mentor training and ITAP.
- Their overarching role is to ensure that trainees receive mentoring and support across placement schools which is aligned with the ITT curriculum and informed by practice.
- Minimum of 30 hours initial training time for Lead Mentors.
- Minimum of 12 hours annual refresher training for Lead Mentors.
- This role may be an in-school role, or a provider-led role.
- Mentors required to undertake at least 6 hours of annual refresher training.

Working with different ITT providers

- Some training will be generic mentor skills, some ITTECF.
- Some training will be relevant to each provider's curriculum.
- Providers will work with mentors to ensure training is not duplicated.
- ITT providers will need to ascertain the prior knowledge and training of all mentors.
- ITT providers must be able to demonstrate that all mentors have been trained in all areas of the mentor training curriculum.

How will mentoring be funded?

- Schools will be able to claim this funding at the end of the 2024/25 academic year and will be paid in arrears between September 2025 and January 2026.
- When schools make a claim, DfE may ask for evidence of:
 - * A mentor's employment at the school.
 - * Arranging placements at their school for ITT trainees.
 - * The hours of initial mentor training.

1.5 hours mentoring support for trainees per week

This will look different for different ITT providers. Mentoring support might consist of:

- * Mentor meetings
- * Instructional coaching
- * Targeted and actionable input and feedback
- * Co-planning opportunities
- * Reflection of key readings
- * Learning walks
- * Observation and deconstruction of good practice

Partnership Agreements

- * All ITT providers will have a partnership agreement that is shared with partner schools.
- * This agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders.
- * It also sets out expectations regarding mentor training and mentoring requirements during placements.
- * Roles and responsibilities can, and do, vary between providers.

Further information:

[Exceed Teaching School Hub | ITT plus Teacher and Leader training and development](#)

[Bradford for Teaching | Home \(bradfordteaching.org\)](#)

DfE ITT update: [Offer a trainee teacher placement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

DfE Funding guidance: [Initial Teacher Training ITT Reform Funding Guidance.pdf](#)