

ITE Primary Mentor Newsletter

W/C 22nd January 2024

St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London
School of
Education



Dear Professional Coordinating Mentors (PCMs), Training Coordinators and Class Based Mentors (CBMs),
We hope you are staying warm during the cold weather recently! This week's newsletter contains details of our Year 1 trainees' focus for the week ahead and how mentors might support them. We have also included an update on the resources we offer our Partnership schools, which we hope will be of use to training coordinators, mentors and other staff in your school. Please do share the details below with those you feel would benefit from them.

Thank you for your ongoing support of St Mary's trainees. As ever, please do let us know if there is any other support we can provide for our school partners.
Best wishes,
The St Mary's Partnership Team

BA Year 1 Foundation Week 3: 22nd to 26th January

Weekly Theme: This week's theme concerns developing as a professional in an education setting and considering how equality, diversity and inclusion forms a core part of one's work in schools. Trainees should be supported in understanding the legislation that underpins our practice and have the opportunity to observe this in action. They should continue to demonstrate their own professionalism through reflective practice and seeking feedback from expert colleagues.

Research Focus: The Equality Act (2010) provides the literature to refer to in professional dialogue this week. Mentors can support trainees by considering how trainees can explore its impact in schools and how it informs many of the practices in the daily life of a teacher.

St Mary's Resources for Schools

Alongside training for our mentors, we are proud to support our partnership schools in developing their staff teams. Please find below details of some of the resources available to you:

The Professionals Podcast: Our repository of discussions with expert colleagues on a wide variety of topics, which includes prompts for running training in your schools or for personal reflection alongside resources for further thinking and engagement with the topic. This is an ever-growing library of content, and we hope you enjoy listening! [Find more here.](#)

CPD Library: Our selection of CPD offers expert colleagues the opportunity to tune into Themed Talk Times we host at the University, as well as accessing interesting research-informed articles that we share with trainees. Topics include safeguarding, artificial intelligence and the science of learning, with many more important topics being covered soon. [Please browse our collection here](#) and let us know if you would like to see coverage of particular content in the future!

Useful Links

[St Mary's Partnership Portal](#)
[School Experience Handbook](#)
[ITT Safeguarding Policy](#)
[Key Documents for Partnership Schools](#)
[Overview of Year 1 BA QTS School Experience](#)
[Year 1 BA QTS Training Plan](#)
[Year 1 BA QTS Training Plan \(EYES\)](#)

Key Documents

Our [Policy, Procedures and Frameworks](#) document outlines key processes in ITE programmes.
The [School Experience Overview](#) provides mentors and PCMs with clear information about QA, timelines and intended learning outcomes for each period of school experience.

Make it even better! Enhancing the partnership

Thank you for providing feedback on mentor workload and wellbeing. Based on responses:

- We would like to remind our PCMs to support mentors by protecting time for them to complete training and fulfil mentor responsibilities
- We would like to share the following [podcast episode](#) around 'Wellbeing and Workload'
- We have enabled an Abyasa function on the LFR to allow observers to [either](#) upload and/or type observation notes

Useful Contacts

[Eleanor Stewart](#) (Head of Education Partnership & Apprenticeships)
[Mary Nkune](#) (Head of Education Partnerships)
[Jemima Davey](#) (Subject Lead Education Partnerships)
Primary Partnerships Team
[Abyasa Help](#) (Support with Abyasa)
Your trainee's Link Tutor is the first port of call for placement queries, but please do not hesitate to contact the Partnership team if additional support is needed.