MARLFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

EARLY CAREER TEACHER (ECT) POLICY

Part of the

The ECT Policy in respect of Marlfields Primary School has been discussed and adopted by the Local Advisory Board in Aut 2026
Chair of Board: *Mr Gary Provis*
Responsible Officer: *Mrs C Sleath (Headteacher)*
Agreed and ratified by the Local Advisory Board on: 21.10.26
To be reviewed: *October 2027*

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- ✓ Department for Education (2026) Induction for Early Career Teachers (England): Statutory Guidance for Appropriate Bodies, Headteachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies.
- ✓ Department for Education (2026) Appropriate Bodies Guidance: Induction and the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF).
- ✓ Department for Education (2025) Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF).
- ✓ Department for Education (2011) Teachers' Standards (updated December 2021).
- ✓ Education Act 2002.
- ✓ The Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- ✓ Department for Education (2025) School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document and Guidance on School Teachers' Pay and Conditions.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- ✓ Grievance Policy
- ✓ Staff Code of Conduct
- ✓ Behavioural Policy
- ✓ Disciplinary Policy and Procedure
- ✓ Teachers' Pay Policy
- ✓ Safeguarding Policy
- ✓ Safer Recruitment Policy

Roles and responsibilities

ECTs are responsible for: Providing evidence that they have QTS and are eligible to start their inductions.

- ✓ Meeting with their induction tutor to agree on priorities for their programme and review these at regular intervals.
- ✓ Discussing and agreeing with their induction tutor on how best to use their reduced timetable allowance to guarantee engagement with the ITTECF induction.
- ✓ Participating fully in the agreed monitoring and development programmes.
- ✓ Providing evidence of their progress against the 'Teachers' Standards'.
- ✓ Raising any concerns that they have with their induction tutor as soon as practicable.
- ✓ Consulting their appropriate body named contact at an early stage if there are difficulties with resolving issues with the tutor or school.
- ✓ Keeping track of and participating in the scheduled classroom observations, progress reviews and formal assessment meetings.
- ✓ Agreeing on the start and end dates of the induction - period, including any absences, with their induction tutor.
- ✓ Retaining copies of all assessment reports.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- ✓ Monitoring, supporting and assessing the ECT throughout their induction in conjunction with the appropriate body.
- ✓ Ensuring that the ECT has been awarded QTS prior to undertaking induction at the school.
- ✓ Clarifying whether the ECT needs to serve an induction period or is exempt from it.
- ✓ Informing the appropriate body of when an ECT is taking up a post in which they will be undertaking induction.
- ✓ Ensuring the requirements of a suitable post for induction are met.
- ✓ Agreeing with the ECT on which body will act as the appropriate body, in advance of the ECT starting the induction programme.
- ✓ Making sure that the induction tutor has received suitable training and has the time to carry out the role effectively.
- ✓ Ensuring that a personalised ITTECF-based induction programme is in place.
- ✓ Ensuring that the progress of the ECT is reviewed regularly via termly assessments, observations and feedback of their teaching.
- ✓ Making sure that completed reports are sent to the appropriate body for review. Retaining accurate records of employment that will count towards the induction period.
- ✓ Ensuring that all monitoring and record-keeping regarding induction at the school is completed in a manner that is streamlined and reduces burdens for all involved.
- ✓ Informing the Local Advisory board about the arrangements which have been put in place to support ECTs who are undergoing induction.
- ✓ Making a recommendation to the appropriate body on whether the ECT's performance against the 'Teachers' Standards' is satisfactory or requires an extension.
- ✓ Participating in the appropriate body's quality assurance process.
- ✓ Ensuring the school retains all relevant documentation and evidence on file for six years.
- ✓ Ensuring that a teacher who does not satisfactorily complete an induction period is eligible to carry out short term supply work.
- ✓ Ensuring that the ECT is provided with the Safeguarding Policy, Behavioural Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct.
- ✓ Ensuring the ECT knows the identity and role of the DSL and any deputies.
- ✓ Ensuring the ECT knows the school's response to children who go missing from education. Ensuring that, under certain circumstances, the following steps are undertaken:
    - Obtaining interim assessments from the ECT's previous post
    - Acting early to alert the appropriate body when an ECT may not be completing induction satisfactorily
    - Ensuring that an ECT who may not be performing against the 'Teachers' Standards' is observed by a third party
    - Notifying the appropriate body if an ECT is absent for a total of 30 days or more
    - Regularly informing the Local Advisory board about the school's induction procedures
    - Discussing with the appropriate body in exceptional cases where it may be appropriate to reduce the length of the ECT's induction period, e.g. where it is deemed the induction period has been satisfactorily completed

- Providing interim assessment reports for staff moving in between formal assessment periods
- Informing the appropriate body when an ECT serving induction leaves the school

Induction tutors are responsible for:

- ✓ Coordinating, guiding and supporting ECTs' professional development.
- ✓ Reviewing ECTs' progress regularly during the induction period.
- ✓ Undertaking two formal assessment meetings over the induction period.
- ✓ Coordinating input from other staff if required.
- ✓ Carrying out progress reviews in terms where a formal assessment does not occur.
- ✓ Informing ECTs following progress reviews of the determination of their progress against the 'Teachers' Standards'. Sharing progress review records with ECTs, the headteacher and the appropriate body.
- ✓ Informing ECTs of the judgements to be recorded in the formal assessment record and inviting ECTs to give their comments.
- ✓ Observing the teaching of ECTs and providing feedback.
- ✓ Letting ECTs know how they may raise concerns about their induction programme and personal progress both inside and outside the school. Taking prompt, appropriate action if ECTs are facing difficulties.
- ✓ Ensuring all monitoring and record-keeping is completed in a manner which is streamlined and reduces burdens, including ensuring all evidence requested from ECTs draws on existing or working documents.

Mentors are responsible for:

- ✓ Regularly meeting with the ECT for structured sessions to provide effective, targeted feedback.
- ✓ Working in collaboration with the ECT and other staff members involved in the ECT's induction to help ensure the ECT receives a high-quality induction programme based with fidelity on the ITTECF.
- ✓ Providing or coordinating effective support for the ECT, including phase- or subject-specific mentoring.
- ✓ Taking prompt, appropriate action if the ECT is facing difficulties.

Appropriate bodies have a quality assurance role and are responsible for:

- ✓ Ensuring the headteacher and Local Advisory board are aware of their responsibilities and are capable of meeting these responsibilities regarding monitoring support and assessment. This includes making sure that each ECT receives a personalised induction programme, designated tutor support and a reduced timetable.
- ✓ Ensuring procedures in place with regard to support, monitoring, assessment and guidance are fair and appropriate.
- ✓ Maintaining full responsibility for their regulatory duties, and not delegating these.
- ✓ Consulting with the headteacher on the nature and extent of the quality assurance procedures in the school.
- ✓ Ensuring the headteacher has implemented a programme which is clearly based with fidelity on the ITTECF.
- ✓ Taking action to address areas that require further development and support, where an ECT is facing difficulties. Ensuring induction tutors have the ability and time to carry out their role effectively.
- ✓ Contacting a school when the school's responsibilities are not being fulfilled. Ensuring that the headteacher has confirmed that the award of QTS has been made.
- ✓ Ensuring the school is providing a reduced timetable in addition to planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time.
- ✓ Ensuring ECTs are provided with a named contact within the appropriate body to raise concerns if they have any.
- ✓ Ensuring records and assessment reports of ECTs are maintained.
- ✓ Ensuring an agreement is reached with the headteacher and the ECT to determine where a reduced induction period maybe appropriate.
- ✓ Ensuring a final decision is made on whether the ECT's performance is satisfactory against the 'Teachers' Standards'.
- ✓ Ensuring they provide the DfE Appropriate Body with information about ECTs who have started, completed, or left partway through an induction period, or require an extension, as well as details of the type of induction the ECT is undertaking.
- ✓ Ensuring they respond to requests from schools and colleges for support and guidance with regard to the ECT's induction programmes.
- ✓ Responding to requests for assistance and advice with training for induction tutors.
- ✓ Providing the headteacher with information on the types of induction available.
- ✓ Ensuring all monitoring and record-keeping is completed in a manner which is streamlined and reduces burdens, including ensuring all evidence requested from ECTs draws on existing or working documents.

The Local Advisory board is responsible for:

- ✓ Ensuring staff and the school are compliant with this policy and all relevant guidance.
- ✓ Ensuring the school has the capacity to support the ECT.
- ✓ Ensuring the headteacher is fulfilling their responsibilities.
- ✓ Investigating concerns raised by an ECT as part of the school's Grievance Policy.
- ✓ Asking for advice from the appropriate body on the school's induction procedures and the responsibilities of staff involved in the process.
- ✓ Requesting general reports from the induction tutors on the progress of an ECT.

Statutory induction

The statutory induction of an ECT is the bridge between ITT and a career in teaching. The school will support ECTs in demonstrating that their performance against relevant standards is satisfactory and equip them with the tools to be a successful teacher.

The 'Teachers' Standards' will be used to assess an ECT's performance during their induction period. These standards will be considered against what can reasonably be expected of the ECT within their work context. All judgements will reflect the expectation that the ECT has effectively consolidated their ITT and demonstrated their ability to meet the relevant standards consistently over a sustained period. The ITTECF will not be used as an assessment tool.

A qualified teacher will not be employed as a teacher by the school unless they have satisfactorily completed their induction period, or if they meet any of the exemptions listed in DfE (2026) Induction for Early Career Teachers (England)

ECTs serving induction on a full-time basis are required to complete an induction period of two academic years, unless they are subject to an official and agreed reduction or extension to this period in some circumstances. ECTs serving induction on a parttime basis are required to serve the full-time equivalent of two full academic years.

Short-term supply teaching of less than one term will not count towards an ECT's induction, as the time frame is too short to enable them to demonstrate performance against relevant standards. If a supply term is extended, the school will not backdate the induction, but will begin the induction upon extension.

Where an ECT is judged to have failed to meet the 'Teachers' Standards' at the end of their induction period, they will not be permitted to repeat induction. They will, however, have the opportunity to appeal against the decision.

Eligibility

In order to determine eligibility, the headteacher will undertake pre-employment checks on the ECT before the ECT takes up the post – these will be verified by the appropriate body. These pre-employment checks will include determining that the ECT holds QTS. The school will ensure all required induction information is submitted via the Appropriate Body and relevant DfE systems in accordance with statutory guidance.

If an ECT holds QTS but has already completed a period of induction which resulted in a judgement of failing to meet the 'Teachers' Standards', they will not be eligible to undertake statutory induction at the school. The headteacher will confirm whether this is the case by consulting the DfE Appropriate Body.

The school will not refuse an induction post to an ECT whose QTS was obtained several years ago; although ECTs are encouraged to undertake induction as soon as possible after gaining QTS, there are no barriers to them undertaking induction later.

Teachers who completed their ITT between 1 May 2000 and 30 April 2001 (known as Cohort 1 teachers) are also required to pass the QTS numeracy skills test before completing an induction.

Suitable posts

The headteacher and appropriate body will first agree on the suitability of a post for induction, guided by the following considerations. The post will:

- ✓ Have a headteacher who can make a recommendation about whether the ECT's performance against the 'Teachers' Standards' is satisfactory.
- ✓ Have an agreement with an appropriate body to quality-assure the process.
- ✓ Provide the ECT with the tasks, experience and support needed to enable them to demonstrate satisfactory performance against the 'Teachers' Standards'.
- ✓ Ensure the appointment of an induction tutor who holds QTS, and has relevant knowledge and experience.
- ✓ Provide the ECT with a reduced timetable to enable them to undertake the activities involved in their induction programme.
- ✓ Not make unreasonable demands upon the ECT. Not normally demand teaching outside the phase or subject(s) for which the ECT has been employed to teach.
- ✓ Not present, on a day-to-day basis, the ECT with unreasonably demanding discipline problems.
- ✓ Involve the ECT regularly teaching the same classes.
- ✓ Involve planning, teaching and assessment processes similar to those in which other teachers working in similar posts are engaged.
- ✓ Not involve non-teaching responsibilities without the provision of appropriate preparation and support.

The Local Advisory board will be satisfied that the school has the capacity to support the ECT in the role and that the headteacher is fulfilling their responsibilities.

The school will recognise that if it enters special measures following an Ofsted inspection, it will not be permitted to offer inductions to ECTs, unless it is given specific permission to do so from an Ofsted inspector. The appropriate body will also need to be satisfied that such circumstance would not unfairly compromise the ECT's ability to successfully their induction.

Beginning induction

Once an ECT has been appointed to a suitable post, the headteacher will notify the DfE Appropriate Body in advance of the ECT taking up the post. Upon registration, the ECT will be provided with a named contact to which they may raise any concerns about the induction programme.

The start date for the ECT's induction will be determined by the appropriate body, who will agree this date with the headteacher and the ECT in advance. This start date will be the date the ECT's induction programme formally begins, which may be a different date from when the ECT's contract with the school begins.

The length of the induction period will also be determined prior to the induction commencing. ECTs are required to serve (part-time or full-time) the full-time equivalent of two academic years to complete their induction. Where an ECT is completing their induction on a part-time basis, the school and the appropriate body will liaise to decide the length of the induction period required for each individual case – this will be always be fair and consider the ECT's working pattern. Where an ECT is completing their induction across more than one school, the appropriate body will make the final decision about how the ECT will meet the equivalent of two years' work.

The school will not commence the ECT's induction until an appropriate body has been agreed. The headteacher will ensure that the appropriate body with whom an agreement is reached matches the criteria for organisations that can act as an appropriate body. When forming an agreement with an appropriate body, the appropriate body and the headteacher will agree any reasonable charges the appropriate body may make to the school for its service.

The headteacher will ensure the ECT is provided with a reduced timetable for their course of induction. This will amount to teaching:

- ✓ In the first year (terms 1-3), no more than 90 percent of the timetable of the school's existing teachers on the main pay range.
- ✓ In the second year (terms 4-6), no more than 95 percent of the timetable of the school's existing teachers on the main pay range.

These reductions will operate in addition to the timetable reduction related to PPA time.

Mentoring and support

ECTs will be provided with a designated mentor to support them through their induction period, usually a relevant member of the school's teaching staff. The individual who becomes the ECT's mentor will be identified by the headteacher. This mentor will hold QTS and have the necessary knowledge, experience and time available to carry out the role effectively.

The role of the mentor will be held by a different individual to the induction tutor where at all possible. Where this is not possible, the headteacher may decide to designate a single individual to hold both roles, which may be the headteacher themselves in exceptional circumstances. Where this is the case, the headteacher will ensure the individual understands that they are fulfilling two discrete roles and will ensure that the mentoring support offered is kept separate to any assessment of the ECT against the 'Teachers' Standards'.

Mentors are provided for ECTs in a supportive and advisory capacity only; mentors will not carry out formal assessments of ECTs (unless the mentor is the same individual as the induction tutor). Mentors will hold regular one-to-one sessions with ECTs to discuss how the ECT's induction is going, including offering advice and providing an opportunity for the ECT to ask questions or raise any issues. Mentors will receive training to support them in their role. Mentors will be expected to attend these training sessions to ensure they are successful in their role. Mentors will receive training to support them in their

role. Mentors will be expected to attend these training sessions to ensure they are successful in their role.

Monitoring and assessment

ECTs will also be provided with an induction tutor who will provide regular monitoring and support, and coordination of assessment. The induction tutor will be identified by the headteacher. This individual will hold QTS and will have the necessary skills, knowledge and time available to effectively work in this role. The role of the induction tutor will be held by a separate individual to the individual performing the role of the mentor where at all possible, as outlined above. In exceptional circumstances it may be appropriate for the headteacher themselves to perform the role of induction tutor.

The main responsibilities of the induction tutor will be to make rigorous and fair judgements about the ECT's progress against the 'Teachers' Standards', and to recognise when early action is required to support an ECT who is experiencing difficulties. ECTs will be informed that they should raise any concerns about their induction with their induction tutor in the first instance. If the matter is not resolved, the ECT will be informed that they can notify their named contact at the appropriate body, who will then investigate the issues raised.

Half termly observations of the ECT's lessons will be conducted, usually by the induction tutor. Post observation review meetings will be arranged in advance of an observation taking place. Following an observation, the ECT and the observer (induction tutor) will meet to review the teaching observed. All feedback provided by the induction tutor will be prompt and constructive. The induction tutor will make a brief written record of the feedback discussed in a review meeting, which will clearly indicate where any development needs have been identified as a result of the observation.

ECTs will receive progress reviews against the 'Teachers' Standards', conducted by their induction tutors, in each term of their induction where a formal assessment is not scheduled. Progress reviews will not require ECTs to produce any new evidence specifically to inform the review; all progress reviews will draw on existing evidence of ECTs' teaching. ECTs may be asked to provide copies of existing evidence to the induction tutor to help inform the review. A written record of each progress review will be retained by the school and a copy will be provided to the ECT.

This record will include:

- ✓ Whether the induction tutor believes the ECT is on track to successfully complete their induction.
- ✓ A brief summary of the evidence collected by the induction tutor.
- ✓ The agreed development targets for the ECT.
- ✓ A review of the ECT's objectives in relation to the 'Teachers' Standards' and the ECT's own individual strengths and needs.

The induction tutor will update the headteacher on the ECT's progress after each progress review. The induction tutor will also notify the appropriate body whether the ECT is making satisfactory progress towards successfully completing their induction. Where the induction tutor believes the ECT is not making satisfactory progress, the induction will also outline to headteacher and the appropriate body the plan they have put in place to support the ECT.

The ECT will be clearly informed of the outcome of their progress review, to ensure that their formal assessments present no unexpected results to the ECT.

ECTs will be formally assessed in the final term of the first year of their induction and again in the final term of the second year of their induction. The exact dates of these assessments will be agreed between the headteacher and the ECT in advance. Formal assessments will be carried out by the induction tutor or the headteacher only.

All evidence used for formal assessment order to reduce the potential burden of evidence collection, the evidence used will largely All evidence used for formal assessments will be drawn from the ECT's teaching work during their induction. In order to reduce the potential burden of evidence collection, the evidence used will largely come from that collected during progress reviews, and will consist of existing or working documents. ECTs will not be required to create anything new for a formal assessment. Any evidence used during a formal assessment will be clear and transparent; copies of all evidence used will be provided to both the ECT and the appropriate body. As a result, the school aims for all formal assessments to work in combination with the regular progress reviews; where possible, the ECT should not find any unexpected results from a formal assessment.

The individual undertaking a formal assessment will produce a report following the assessment. This report will make clear how the ECT has been assessed against the 'Teachers' Standards'. Once the report has been completed, the headteacher will hold an assessment meeting with the ECT, where the ECT will be able to add their comments to the report. The report will be signed by the induction tutor, headteacher and ECT. The ECT will then be given the original report and a copy will be sent to the appropriate body. For the final assessment report, the headteacher will record their recommendation to the appropriate

body of whether the ECT's performance throughout their induction has been satisfactorily demonstrated their competence against the 'Teachers' Standards'. For the final assessment meeting, the headteacher will ensure a copy of the report is sent to the appropriate body within 10 working days of the final assessment meeting.

Where an ECT decides to leave their post at the school after completing one term or more, the induction tutor will complete an interim assessment before the ECT leaves the post.

Completing induction

ECTs will have completed their induction period when they have served:

The full-time equivalent of two standard academic years (usually six terms); or

- ✓ A reduced period of a minimum of one term (as agreed with the appropriate body) based on previous teaching experience; or
- ✓ A reduced period for part-time ECTs covering but not equivalent to two academic years (as agreed with the appropriate body); or
- ✓ An extended period as a result of absences occurring during the period; or An extension following a decision by the appropriate body or the appeals body.

ECTs are still able to progress both their career and pay grade during and after the two-year induction period, and are not adversely impacted by this.

The appropriate body will make the final decision as to whether an ECT's performance against the 'Teachers' Standards' has been satisfactory, taking into account the recommendations of the headteacher. The appropriate body will make a decision within 20 working days of receiving the headteacher's recommendation. They will then send written notification within three working days of reaching the decision to the ECT and the headteacher.

If the decision is taken to extend the period of induction, the ECT will be informed of their right to appeal against this decision and provided with the name and address of the DfE Appropriate Body. Any appeal will be notified within 20 working days or the appeal will be deemed to have expired.

Failure to complete the induction period will mean an ECT is no longer eligible to be employed as a teacher in a maintained school.

Where an ECT fails induction and gives notice that they do not intend to exercise their right to appeal, or when the time limit for an appeal expires, the school will dismiss the ECT within 10 working days. If the appeal is heard but not upheld, the school will dismiss the ECT within 10 days of receiving the outcome of the hearing. The ECT's name will then be held on the list of persons who have failed to satisfactorily complete an induction period by the DfE Appropriate Body.

Record-keeping

The school will work with the Appropriate Body to ensure induction records are maintained and reported through DfE-approved systems in accordance with current statutory guidance.

Assessment forms will be signed by the headteacher and submitted to the appropriate body in a timely manner. Assessment forms will be completed at the end of each formal assessment period, stating the

date an ECT's employment began, how much of the period has been completed, and any changes in work patterns and absences. Assessment reports will be retained for six years, as recommended by the DfE. ECTs will be advised by the school to retain their original copies of assessment reports.

The DfE keeps records of all submitted appeals and will be contacted as needed. The school will consult the Employer Access Online service for records of individuals who have passed or failed their induction.

Where an ECT has already completed part of their period of induction in another school, the headteacher will contact the ECT's previous appropriate body to obtain copies of any progress review records or assessment reports, including any interim reports. The headteacher will therefore establish how much required induction time remains for the ECT. The headteacher will also alert the ECT's new appropriate body of any concerns that were raised about the ECT's progress by previous employers, as necessary.

Confidentiality

The school will work with the appropriate body and the DfE to ensure that effective arrangements are in place to facilitate the protection and secure transfer of data related to ECT inductions.
The induction process and assessments will not be shared with others involved in the process and will be treated as confidential.
All ECTs will be made aware of who has been granted access to their assessments. The Local Advisory board can request termly general reports on the progress of an ECT but cannot automatically have access to this information. The only exception to this is when an ECT has a concern about an assessment, which would require the Local Advisory board to access the assessment forms to review the situation.

Special circumstances

To recognise the experience of ECTs who already have significant experience teaching whole classes and working to the 'Teachers' Standards', appropriate bodies have discretion to reduce the length of the induction period to a minimum of one term; however, the ECT can still serve a full induction if they wish. The appropriate body also has discretion to reduce the prescribed induction period to a minimum of one term. When considering reducing an induction period, the appropriate body will consider advice from the headteacher and ensure the ECT is in agreement with the decision.

If an ECT is absent for a total of 30 days or more, the induction period will be extended by the aggregate of total days absent.

ECTs who take statutory maternity leave, statutory paternity leave, neo natal care, statutory adoption leave, shared parental leave, parental bereavement leave or neonatal care leave during their induction period may decide whether their induction period should be extended accordingly.

Any outstanding assessments will not be made until the ECT returns to work and has had the opportunity to decide whether to extend induction. If an ECT chooses to extend their induction in these circumstances, the request will be granted. If an ECT chooses not to extend the induction period, their performance will still be assessed against the relevant standards.

The appropriate body has the option to extend the period after induction has been completed where it would be unreasonable to expect the ECT to have demonstrated satisfactory performance. Reasons for this may include illness, personal crisis, disability, a lack of support during induction, etc.

In circumstances where records have been lost due to an error or a data loss which is through no fault of the concerned teacher, the appropriate body has the discretion to decide if the ECT can be exempt from induction. The appropriate body will ensure that every avenue has been explored to recover the missing data or identify an audit trail before making such a decision. In reaching its decision, the appropriate body will consider the strength of evidence that an error has occurred or that records are missing or lost.

The appropriate body will also account for any evidence that the teacher has demonstrated they have performed satisfactorily against the relevant standards on the basis of evidence from the teacher's pervious performance management reviews, and where appropriate, the most recent performance management review statements.

For ECTs completing induction in more than one school simultaneously:

- ✓ The separate contracts are added together to calculate the number of days of the induction period; each contract must meet the minimum period criteria.
- ✓ One headteacher acts as the lead and will fulfil duties and responsibilities as outlined in this policy.
- ✓ One appropriate body will also take the lead in making the decision and is also responsible for gathering evidence from other appropriate bodies who are involved in the process

Unsatisfactory progress and appeals

Additional monitoring and support measures will be put in place when an ECT is not making satisfactory progress, such as holding meetings between the ECT and the headteacher, organising refresher training, and providing more guided supervision. The induction tutor will record unsatisfactory progress within progress review records and clearly outline the support plan in place. The induction tutor will notify the appropriate body of this determination and will share the support plan to be reviewed. The appropriate body and the headteacher will be satisfied that:

- ✓ Areas of improvement have been correctly identified.
- ✓ Appropriate objectives have been set to guide the ECT to perform against the relevant standards.
- ✓ An effective support program is in place to help the ECT improve performance.

When there are still concerns about the ECT's progress following intervention, the headteacher will explain to the ECT the consequences of failure to complete the induction period satisfactorily, and discuss the following with them:

- ✓ The identified weaknesses
- ✓ The agreed objectives set in order to have them satisfactorily complete the induction to the required standards
- ✓ Details of additional support put in place
- ✓ Evidence used to inform the judgement
- ✓ Details of the improvement plan for the next assessment period

If there are serious capability issues, capability procedures may be instigated before the end of the induction, which may lead to dismissal. This does not prevent them from completing their induction at another school.

If the ECT has had their induction extended or has failed it, the appropriate body will inform the ECT of their right to appeal and the time limit for doing so.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for ECTs

The school recognises the importance of supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Early Career Teachers (ECTs). We are committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment that promotes positive mental health and enables ECTs to thrive professionally and personally.

Key provisions include:
- Access to mental health resources and support services, including confidential counselling and employee assistance programmes.
- Regular mentoring sessions that provide a safe space for ECTs to discuss challenges and receive guidance.
- Workload management strategies to ensure a healthy work-life balance, including protected time for planning, preparation, and assessment.
- Signposting to external mental health organisations and services for additional support.

The school will ensure that ECTs receive their statutory timetable reduction entitlement of 10% in year one and 5% in year two, in addition to PPA time, and that this time is protected for induction-related professional development activities.

The school encourages open dialogue about mental health and will take proactive steps to support any ECT experiencing difficulties. All staff are encouraged to be vigilant and supportive of colleagues, and to promote a culture of care and wellbeing.

Monitoring and review

The Local Advisory board is responsible for reviewing this policy annually. The next scheduled review of this policy is September 2027

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by all members of staff. Any concerns will be reported to the headteacher immediately. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

Version	Date	Amendment	By
V2	27.07.25	2025 Policy Update This policy has been updated to reflect the April 2025 DfE statutory guidance. Key changes include the transition from the Early Career Framework (ECF) to the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF), updates to statutory leave entitlements including neonatal care leave, and revised legal references and terminology throughout the document.	CEO
V2	27.07.25	Added a section on Mental Health and Wellbeing of ECT's	CEO
V2	27.07.25	He/She references changed to they	CEO
V3	10.08.26	References to TRA changed to DfE and Appropriate Body	CEO
V3	10.08.26	Neo natal care added to special circumstances list	CEO
V3	10.08.26	New guidance references updated	CEO