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Stakeholder brief – ECTE guidance

22 April 2025

On 22 April 2025 the Department for Education (DfE) published updated guidance to reflect the changes being made to the training and support for early career teachers (ECTs) starting September 2025. This briefing pack is provided to update our key stakeholders to support their understanding of the updated guidance and changes from September 2025, and to support their own communications with their networks.

We have updated the guidance available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) to reflect the following:

- introduction of new early career teacher entitlement (ECTE) terminology
- implementation of the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF) which supersedes the Early Career Framework (ECF) from September 2025 – including transitional arrangements
- information on the training options available to schools (including provider-led and school-led options)
- clarification of the roles and responsibilities for headteachers, induction tutors and mentors involved in the delivery of the ECTE

The [statutory induction guidance](#) has also been updated to reflect these changes. Updates to the guidance for appropriate bodies, (including updated guidance on fidelity checking) will be published in the coming weeks.

Updated guidance

Links to the updated guidance pages can be found below:

[Early career teacher entitlement \(ECTE\) support](#) (collection page)

Information on ETCE - the 2 year program of training and support for early career teachers (ECTs).

[Early Career Teacher Entitlement](#)

Information on the 2-year programme that supports early career teachers (ECTs) when they start their teaching career. This includes the changes to the programme for 2025.

[Early career teacher entitlement: roles and responsibilities](#)

How headteachers, induction tutors and mentors can support ECTs during their ECTE.



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Early career teachers: your training and support entitlement

What ECTs can expect during their ECTE.

Set up and manage the early career teacher entitlement

What schools need to do to set up and manage training, support, assessment and changing circumstances for the ECTE.

Eligibility and funding for early career teacher entitlement

ECTE eligibility criteria and DfE grant funding for schools, ECTs and mentors.

Statutory Guidance: Induction for Early Career Teachers (England)

Guidance for appropriate bodies, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies.

Changes for 2025

We have included a summary of the changes being implemented from September 2025 in this document for your information:

The term early career teacher entitlement (ECTE) replaces ECF-based training and induction from 2025

From September 2025, building on the support available to early career teachers, we are introducing the Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE). The ECTE will revise and improve the delivery of what we formerly referred to as the ECF programme, maintaining the grounding in evidence, to ensure the highest standards of professional development for new teachers.

ECT training programmes will be based on the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF)

The ITT Core Content Framework (CCF) and the ECF have been updated and combined to create the initial teacher training and early career framework (ITTECF).

The content of the ITTECF includes updates to:

- adaptive teaching and special educational needs and disability (SEND)
- high quality oral language (oracy)
- early cognitive development
- evidence literacy

From September 2025, training programmes for ECTs should be based on the ITTECF. As per the current arrangements, schools can either use a DfE-funded lead provider to provide and deliver training (we call this 'provider-led') or design and deliver training themselves (we call this 'school-led').



ECTs and mentors who started training before September 2025

ECTs or mentors who started training before 1st September 2025 should continue to use the same course and materials. If these ECTs have not completed their training programme by August 2027, they will be expected to receive training based on the ITTECF from September 2027 for the remainder of their ECTE.

Provider-led training

The following lead providers offer funded provider-led training for ECTs from September 2025:

- [Ambition Institute](#)
- [Education Development Trust](#)
- [National Institute of Teaching, founded by the School-Led Development Trust](#)
- [Teach First](#)
- [UCL Institute of Education](#)

There are updates to the provider-led programmes that will be delivered from September 2025:

- **Tailor training content for ECTs** – training programmes will include diagnostic tools to allow ECTs to focus on areas they most need to develop.
 - **Greater contextualisation** – training programmes will include more contextualisation to subject and phase with enhanced subject-specific materials and resources. This will include materials and resources to support teaching pupils with SEND.
 - **Pitch and tone** – providers will pitch their programmes in recognition that most ECTs will begin their training with a greater understanding of the framework from their ITT
- Reduced mentor workload** – reduced mentor workload by shortening the training requirement from 2 years to 1 year; and introducing mentor session materials so mentors can spend their valuable time supporting their ECT, rather than planning and creating resources.

School-led training

For schools who want to deliver their own 'school-led' training, school-led materials are free to use. They are designed to cover the ITTECF statements in full and provide schools the opportunity to adapt and contextualise the training for the needs of their ECTs. These materials have been accredited by DfE and quality assured by the Education Endowment Foundation.



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For delivery from September 2025, school-led materials based on the ITTECF will be provided by [National Institute of Teaching](#) and [UCL Institute of Education](#) via their own platforms:

- National Institute of Teaching: [Materials for school-led ECT Programme 2025/26 – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
- UCL Institute of Education: [CEL - The Source - Home](#)



Annex: Example text to include in correspondence to schools and other eligible settings

On 22 April 2025, the Department for Education (DfE) updated their guidance to reflect changes to training and induction for Early Career Teachers (ECTs) starting September 2025.

Summary of the key changes:

- From September 2025, all new ECT training programmes should be based on the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework (ITTECF) which will replace the Early Career Framework (ECF)
- The term early career teacher entitlement (ECTE) replaces ECF-based training and induction.
- In response to feedback, there are changes to the DfE funded provider-led training programmes:
 - Training for new mentors has been reduced from 2 years to 1 year to reduce workload.
 - Programmes include mentor session materials so mentors can spend their valuable time supporting their ECT, rather than planning and creating resources.
 - Programmes include diagnostic tools to allow ECTs to focus on areas they most need to develop.
 - Programmes include more contextualisation to subject and phase with enhanced subject-specific materials and resources. This will include materials and resources to support teaching pupils with SEND.
 - Programmes are pitched in recognition that most ECTs will begin their training with a greater understanding of the framework from their ITT
- For schools delivering their own training, there are new freely available DfE-accredited school-led materials which cover the ITTECF in full which schools can use in full or in part to design and deliver their own training

Frequently asked questions:

What about ECTs currently completing an ECF-based programme?

These changes won't impact the majority of ECTs who are currently completing an ECF-based training programme. ECTs or mentors who start training before 1 September 2025 should:

- continue to use the same course and materials until August 2027
- move to training based on the ITTECF from September 2027 if they've not completed by August 2027

What support is available to previously trained mentors from September 2025?

Mentors who completed a mentor training programme prior to September 2025 as



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part of a provider-led ECF-based programme will not be eligible for the new mentor training programmes from September 2025.

However, all mentors, including those previously trained as part of an ECF-based programme, will as a minimum have access to the mentor training materials which are included as part of the provider-led programmes, which they can use to refresh themselves as needed. All mentors also have access to the mentor session materials as part of the provider-led programmes based on the ITTECF. Mentor session materials will support the regular mentoring sessions and engagement between the ECT and their mentor on the content of the ITTECF.

Some providers may provide additional support for previously trained mentors such as mentor support clinics or drop-in sessions. To find out what ongoing support is available for trained mentors as part of the provider-led programmes, please enquire with individual Lead Providers.

Does this affect any funding my setting receives?

There are no planned changes to the current funding arrangements, except in relation to the streamlining of mentor training; as the mentor training for new mentors is being shortened from two years to one year, the amount of funding eligible schools receive to backfill their mentors time will be reduced to reflect that. However, the required time for training will continue to be covered in full.

Which providers are offering the DfE-funded training programmes?

The following lead providers offer funded provider-led training for ECTs from September 2025:

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- [Education Development Trust](#)
- [National Institute of Teaching, founded by the School-Led Development Trust](#)
- [Teach First](#)
- [UCL Institute of Education](#)

Which providers are offering the freely available school-led materials?

For delivery from September 2025, school-led materials based on the ITTECF will be provided by [National Institute of Teaching](#) and [UCL Institute of Education](#) via their own platforms:

- National Institute of Teaching: [Materials for school-led ECT Programme 2025/26 – The National Institute of Teaching](#)
- UCL Institute of Education: [CEL - The Source - Home](#)



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For further information, please see the updated guidance published by DfE:

[Early career teacher entitlement \(ECTE\) support - GOV.UK](#)

Information on the 2-year programme that supports early career teachers (ECTs) when they start their teaching career. This includes the changes to the programme for 2025.