



Best
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Mentor Training – November 2024 Update

Best Practice Network Response to the DfE Announcement- Removal of the 20-hour general mentor training and the 6-hour refresher training minimum time requirements, with immediate effect

At Best Practice Network we know the importance of expert mentors and their impact on the development of student teachers. We support the DfE stance that *“...accredited ITT providers should ensure that all mentors receive sufficient high-quality training to ensure they can effectively support a trainee teacher to obtain the knowledge and skills they need to successfully complete their ITT school placement.”*

We value our mentors who play such an important role in the development and training of our student teachers. We designed our BPN Mentor curriculum to avoid mentor training having a detrimental impact on mentor wellbeing and workload. We are always working to ensure we get the balance right. We understand that the required mentor training hours was putting pressure on both schools and mentors and so in light of the recent announcement, regarding the removal of the 20-hour general mentor training and the 6-hour refresher training minimum time requirements, with immediate effect, we have revisited the hours assigned to our mentoring curriculum.

For the rest of this academic year Mentors still can complete the full 20 hours of training, and their school will be able to claim their full funding entitlement. Where a school chooses not to take up this offer mentors will engage with the Best Practice Network mentor essentials. This will ensure that the mentor *“...can effectively support a trainee teacher to obtain the knowledge and skills they need to successfully complete their ITT school placement.”*

We pride ourselves on the strength of our mentor community and the sharing of best practice so that our mentors continue to learn and grow throughout their time as a BPN mentor. We are therefore committed to offering optional enhancements for all mentors who wish to further develop their area of expertise.

Best Practice Network Mentor Essentials: As a minimum

A package designed to ensure that mentors are well equipped to support their student teachers throughout the BPN learning journey whilst avoiding creating an unnecessary workload through onerous tasks. This package can be found on Canvas.

All Mentors will continue to be allocated a Lead Mentor. The Lead Mentor role is designed to support mentors during their time as a Best Practice Network Mentor. The Lead Mentors will also play a key role in the quality assurance of student teacher experience of mentoring.

We have summarised the essentials programme that each mentor will follow.



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Main placement mentors

Mentors who are mentoring student teachers on the Best Practice ITT Programme for the first time.

To ensure the best possible outcomes for our student teachers Mentors meet with their student teacher once a week for one hour. During this meeting Mentors should work through the BPN Mentor session plans provided on Canvas. The session plans need to be engaged with prior to the session to aid understanding of the BPN ITT curriculum (by relevant phase). Targets should be set during this session and uploaded-on Mosaic.

Attend the online Induction event (3 hours) and engage with the Canvas Online Induction Module to include the guide to Mentoring Expectations and Best Practice (one hour).

Mentors should engage with the ITT Guide to Mentoring Expectations and Best Practices and the Frequently asked questions information.

Mentors should engage with the programme overview for their phase and engage with the key mentor information (programme handbooks, Curriculum Overview, BPN ITT competencies, formal observation feedback, target setting, key dates and assessment information.)

Mentors should engage with the Intensive Training and Practice (ITaP) Introduction and information videos.

Contrasting Placement Mentors

Mentors who are mentoring student teachers on the Best Practice ITT Programme for their six-week contrasting placement.

To ensure the best possible outcomes for our student teachers Mentors meet with their student teacher once a week for one hour. During this meeting Mentors should work through the BPN Mentor session plans provided on Canvas. The session plans need to be engaged with prior to the session to aid understanding of the BPN ITT curriculum (by relevant phase). Targets should be set during this session and uploaded-on Mosaic. Familiarisation with curriculum and session plans delivered prior to the Student Teacher starting their placement will also be beneficial.

Attend the online Induction event (1 hour) and engage with the Canvas Online Induction Module to include the guide to Mentoring Expectations and Best Practice (one hour).

Mentors should engage with the ITT Guide to Mentoring Expectations and Best Practices and the Frequently asked questions information.

Mentors should engage with the programme overview for their phase and engage with the key mentor information (programme handbooks, Curriculum Overview, BPN ITT competencies, formal observation feedback, target setting, key dates and assessment information.)

Best Practice Network Mentor Enhancement options for all mentors

In addition to the mentor essentials package, all mentors have the option to engage in the following activities:



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Mentors can engage with the online mentor module and complete the reflection activity (there is a shortened refresher option available for returning mentors).

Mentors can engage with the Mentor Development Review (MDR) review process and receive one to one coaching support from their Lead Mentor.

Mentors will have the opportunity to attend Sharing best practice meetings. These meetings will provide updates on the programme, an opportunity to network with other mentors and an opportunity to engage in topics relevant in supporting mentors in their role.

Mentors can engage in online discussion forums. These forums provide an opportunity to discuss relevant research and learn from fellow mentors. The Lead Mentors will facilitate the discussion forums.

Mentors can access the mentor research and resource bank.

Where a mentor engages with all the Best Practice Network essential and enhancement options their setting will be eligible to claim for the full 20 hours of DfE funding.