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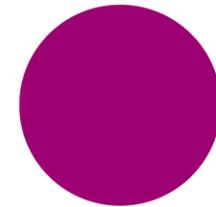
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# Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT)

September 2026



# Welcome to Best Practice Network



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# BPN Values

## Our Values



Inspire learning



Work together



Act with Integrity



Strive for excellence



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# Why train with us?



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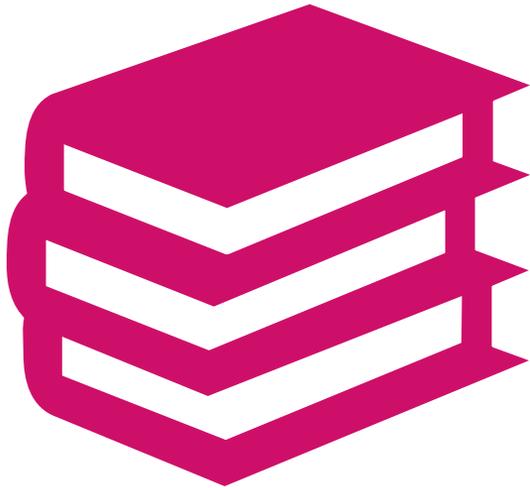
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# Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS)

- Become an expert in leading teaching across the Birth to 5yrs age range
- Teach in Reception class in academies and free schools with EYTS
- **Train for free** with DfE funding (all routes)
- Gain up to date subject knowledge on best practice in the Early Years
- Develop leadership skills to support successful team development in the setting and work with other professionals
- Increase and improve support for children and families in the Early Years



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# Introduction to the Routes



Funding



Placement



Status



Training

	Funding	Placement	Status	Training
<b>Graduate Entry Route (GE)</b>	Fully funded by the DfE Up to £5,000 bursary	120 days of placements	Full-time training	Monthly training days
<b>Graduate Employment-based Route (GEB)</b>	Fully funded by the DfE £7,000 employer incentive	Typically 25-30 day school placement or second placement	Part-time training Experience needed in at least two settings (one of which must be reception)	1-2 training days a month

**You can work towards Early Years Teacher Status whilst being employed in an early years setting/school**



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# What is the programme like?



- Face to face or virtual sessions for training days
- Online platform for uploading work and assessment and accessing modules
- A dedicated personal tutor to support you throughout the programme
- A lead trainer in setting to help organise training, study time and placements
- A setting and placement mentor to support and observe you each week
- Individual plan to help you make progress and offer challenge



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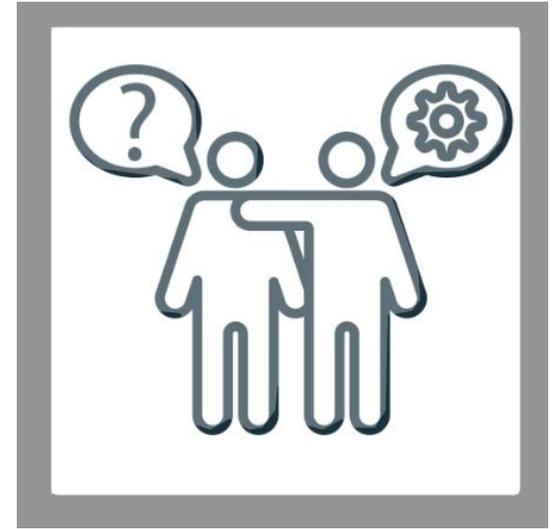
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# The Role of the Personal Tutor

- Remains without throughout the programme
- Visits 5 times during the year whilst on placement
- Observes you on placement
- Liaises with your setting mentor and lead trainer
- Reviews your work uploaded and provides feedback
- Conduct termly Professional learning conversations to set targets
- Complete recommendation documentation when all programme requirements are met.



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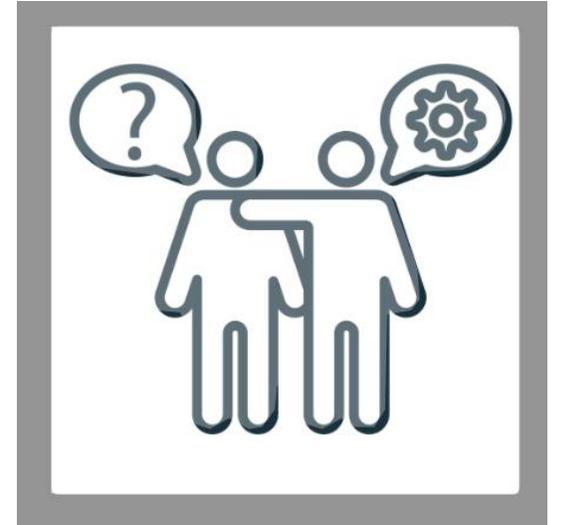
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# The role of the setting/placement mentor

- Mentors are 'expert colleagues' who will help you to develop your skills and knowledge as an EY Teacher
- Mentors will share their experience, expertise and skills on different aspects on the curriculum
- Observe you each week and give detailed feedback
- Set SMART targets to help you progress and master the Early Years Teaching Standards
- Plan and monitor your time spent and work completed in each age group



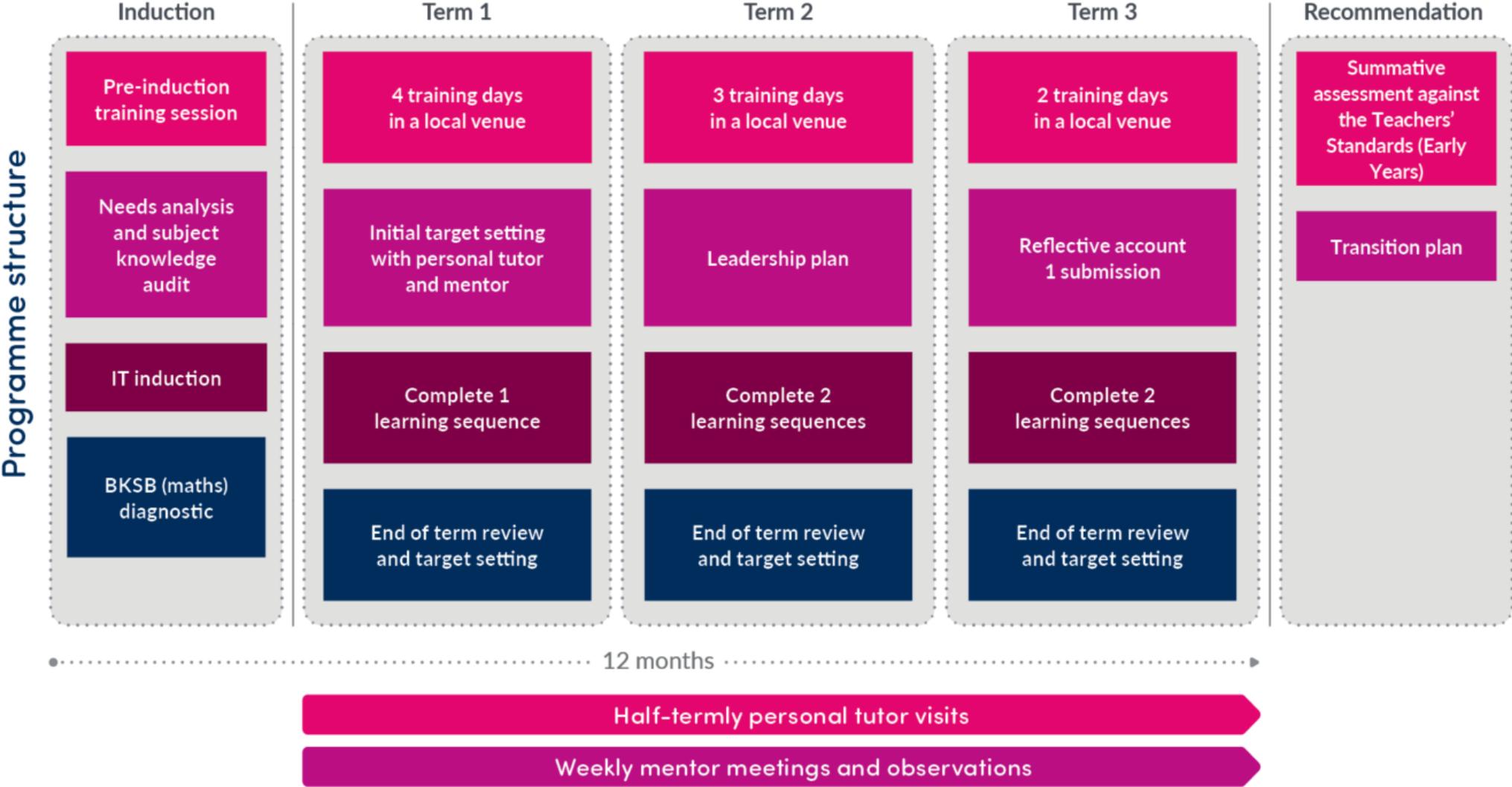
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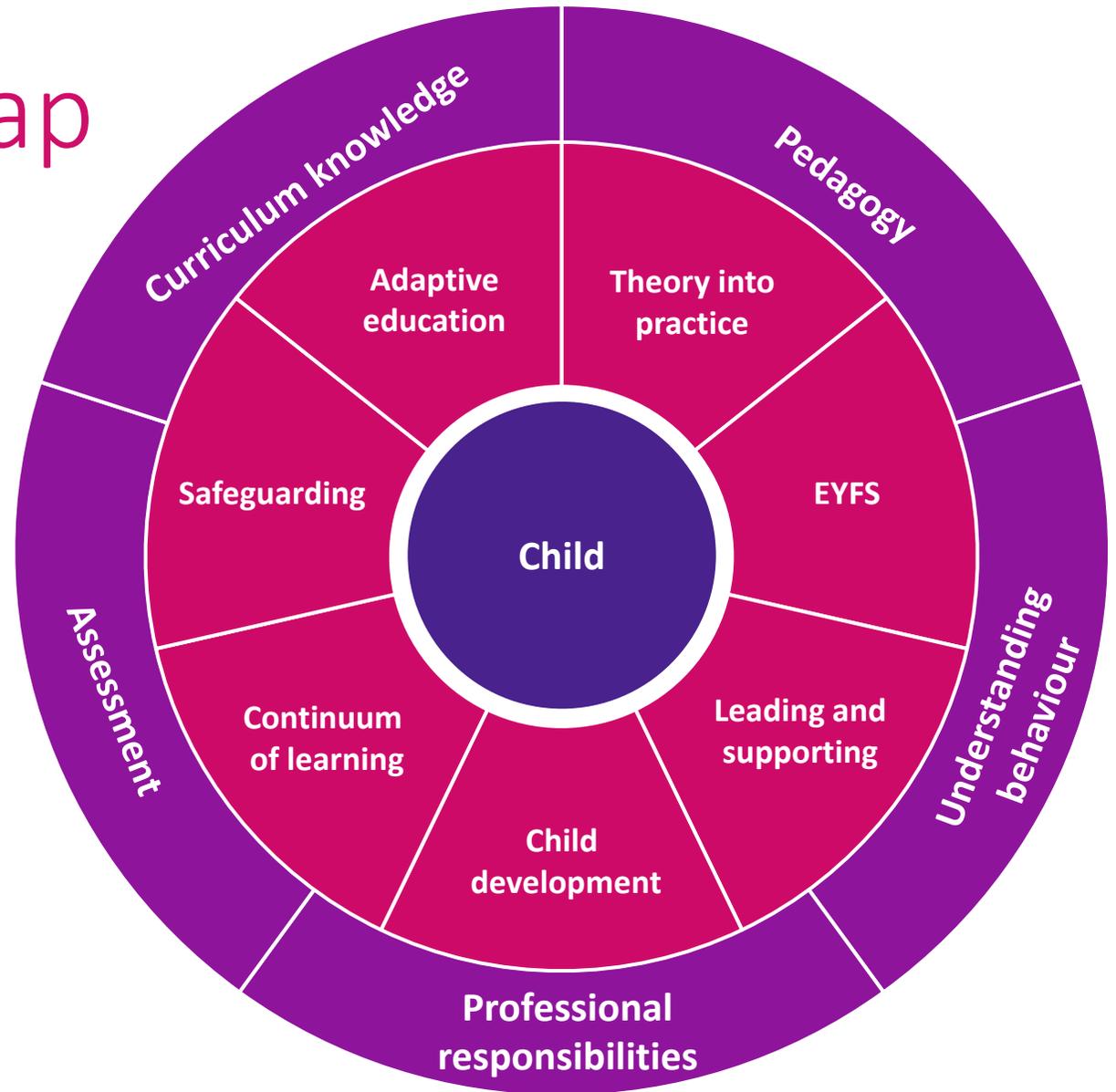
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# Programme Structure



# EYITT Curriculum Map

- Our curriculum is:
- Broad and balanced
- Relevant
- Forward thinking
- Key themes for ITT
- Focus on safeguarding, leadership and well-being, will also be threaded through each training day.



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# 8 Core Training Days

Day 1-The Effective  
Early Years Teacher

Day 2-Adapting  
Teaching for  
the Unique Child

Day 3-Starting Strong

Day 4- Foundations for  
success

Day 5-Leading and  
supporting in the Early  
Years

Day 6- Promoting  
Equality, Diversity and  
Inclusion

Day 7-Unlocking  
potential and  
widening opportunitie  
s

Day 8-The Reflective  
Early Years Teacher

Final Interview  
(virtual)



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# GE workshops Term 1

September	October	November	December
Training Day 1 – <b>The Effective Early Years Teacher</b>	Training Day 2 – <b>Adapting teaching for the Unique Child</b>	Training Day 3 – <b>Starting Strong</b>	Training Day 4 - <b>Foundations for Success Literacy and Maths in Early Years Education</b>
Module 1: Safeguarding and Welfare  Module 2: Professional Behaviours	Module 5: Adaptive Teaching	Module 3: Promoting Good Progress	Module 8: Early Learning and EYFS



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# GE workshops Term 2

January	February	March	May
Training Day 5 – <b>Leading in the Early Years</b>	Training Day 6 – <b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b>	Training Day 7 – <b>Unlocking Potential: Early Years Strategies for Widening Opportunities</b>	Training Day 8 – <b>The Reflective Early Years Teacher</b>
Module 4: Plan Education	Module 6: Assessment	Module 7: High Expectations	Final GE Workshop: Pulling it all Together



# ITT requirements for placement

- Every student must cover the age groups from 0-5 years as a minimum (DfE requirement)
- GE students must complete a minimum of 120 placement days. (**At least 4 days a week**) We will support with organising placements.
- Placements need to offer a variety and depth of experience to enable student teachers to meet all of the Early Years Teaching Standards
- **Placements are completed in at least 2** different settings (Rated good or Outstanding with Ofsted) Your own setting is setting number one! Some students may need 3 settings.
- Placements must be in a setting which delivers the EYFS or works to National Curriculum expectations

# Age Range Experience for All Students

Everyone undertaking EYITT needs as a minimum experience of teaching/care with:

Babies (0-2)

Toddlers (2-3)

Young children (3-5 years olds)

- This will include pre-school / nursery with 3 – 4-year-olds
- At least 20 days in reception with 4 – 5-year-olds
- 5 days engagement with KS1 and KS2



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# How is Early Years Teacher Status assessed?



- Formatively which leads into summative assessment
- Includes observations, a reflective account, sequences of work and termly targets
- Demonstration of mastery of the EYITT curriculum
- A summative judgement that each trainee meets the Teachers' Standards (Early Years)
- Exam board and recommendation for the award of Early Years Teacher Status



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# What are the entry criteria?

- A degree (or equivalent Level 6)
- GCSE in English, Maths and Science at grade C/ grade 4 or above.... or a recognised equivalent
- The right to study and work in the UK
- Competence in spoken and written English
- A satisfactory DBS check
- For all students: meeting the health and physical capacity to teach requirements



# Equivalency Tests

## GCSE Qualifications and equivalency tests

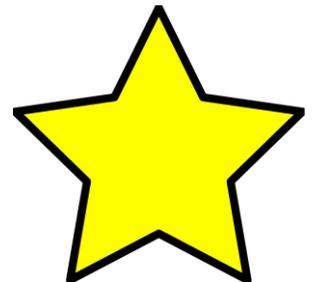
If applicants do not hold GCSEs in maths, English or science (no grade C/4 or above), they can complete equivalency tests.

\*GCSE science equivalency test can be either Biology or combined.

We will accept equivalency tests from:

<https://astarequivalency.co.uk/>

Or any other equivalency provider!



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# Maths for free!

If applicants require their maths equivalency test, they can complete this through BPN:

- BKS B platform
- This will enable them to meet the ITT requirements to access our programmes

\*May not be valid with another provider



# We can help you take the next step!



Have a look on our website:

[www.bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/eyitt](http://www.bestpracticenetwork.co.uk/eyitt)

**Check our GE website page!**

Talk to our team

[EYITT@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk](mailto:EYITT@bestpracticenetwork.co.uk)



**@bestpracticenetwork**



**facebook.com/bestpracticenetwork/**

Our GE application  
portal will be  
opening on 16th  
February and  
close by 1st March  
2026



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# Any Questions



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