

Student Teacher Placement Policy

Introduction

The Board of Management of Flowerfield NS acknowledges the following regarding initial teacher education and the role of school placement in this process.

+ Positive school placement experiences are critical to ensuring appropriate initial teacher education for all student teachers.

+ Close collaboration between schools and (Higher Education Institutes) HEIs is essential to give positive and meaningful school placement experiences to student teachers. · It is desirable that schools host student teachers for placement and, in doing so, provide student teachers with the opportunity to observe teaching and to teach classes independently, in collaboration with suitably qualified practicing teachers.

+ In the course of school placement, student teachers require the support of the whole-school community in their journey towards professional competence.

+ Hosting student teachers on placement is enriching for the learners in a school, student teachers, class teachers, the wider school community and HEIs. In particular, learners benefit from a greater variety of teaching, learning and co-curricular experiences through the structured participation of student teachers in the school. Furthermore, the school gains access to a variety of newer approaches to teaching and learning through its engagement with student teachers and HEI staff.

+ HEI placement tutors benefit from partnership experiences with schools and from being in the actual setting of a school during visits to student teachers.

Implications

Hosting a student teacher on placement will, among other things, involve the student teacher observing classes being taught by members of the school’s teaching staff.

It will also involve student teachers teaching classes, in the first instance, while being observed and supported by the teacher with primary responsibility for the welfare and educational progress of the class.

As the student teacher’s competence develops, the student teacher will move to teaching classes independently in line with HEI requirements and the student teacher’s particular stage of development on the initial teacher training programme.

Scheduling Of Student Teachers On Placement

Student teachers will be allocated to classes, having regard for: the stage the student teacher is at in his/her initial teacher education programme: the particular needs of the learners in a particular class; the requirement for the student teacher to experience an appropriate range of placement contexts; and any special circumstances of which the class teacher has an awareness. The student teacher should have an awareness of and a commitment to our school ethos as underpinned by the core principles and values of Flowerfield NS.

Induction Of Student Teachers On Placement

Student teachers will, prior to commencing their placement, be given guidance as to the ethos and values of the school as well as the school’s policies and procedures. All student teachers will be made aware of key school policies, in particular the school’s Code of Positive Behaviour, Child Safeguarding Statement, Health and Safety Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy and the Student Teacher Placement Policy. They will be given the Flowerfield Information Sheet, Pupils’ names and the School Calendar.

Supports For The Student Teacher

The school community is committed to supporting positively and sensitively the student teacher. Furthermore, the school is committed to allocating the student teacher to an appropriate class teacher and to the classes essential to him/ her undertaking his/her school placement successfully. The school will also provide the student teacher with the teaching facilities and resources necessary for his/her work during the placement.

Communication Of School Placement Policy

A copy of the School Placement Policy is made available to school personnel and the policy is readily accessible to parents on request. In particular, a copy of the policy shall be published on the school website.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Date Of Policy Adoption

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 27th September 2023

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please be advised that ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be doing her/his Teaching Practice in the Senior/Junior Room for the next \_\_\_\_weeks. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_\_ Year in college and will be doing some lessons each day/ taking the class to cover all areas of the curriculum. The rest of the day she/he will be available to help in the classroom where needed.