



## Student Teacher Placement Policy

### 1 Introduction

The Board of Management of Dalkey School Project 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 (HEI) is essential to positive and meaningful school placement experiences for 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, co-operating 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.

## **2 Development of Policy**

This policy was developed by the Board of Management following consultations with all members of the school community – school management, teachers and other relevant staff, parents, students and the school patron.

## **3 Commitment to hosting student teachers**

Dalkey School Project is committed to hosting student teachers for school placement and, in this context, adopts without modification as part of this school placement policy the Guidelines on School Placement developed by the Teaching Council in consultation with all relevant education partners.

## **4 Implications for the school hosting student teachers on placement**

Hosting a student teacher on placement will, inter alia, 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 (the co-operating teacher). Then, 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 Education (ITE) programme.

## **5 Scheduling of student teachers on placement**

The principal, or staff members to whom this task is delegated, will allocate student teachers to co-operating teachers and 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 co-operating teacher has an awareness.

## **6 Induction of student teachers on placement**

Student teachers will, prior to commencing their placement, be provided with an orientation to the key personnel, ethos and work of the school. This orientation shall involve student teachers being provided with an information pack that will include details of key school policies, in particular the school's Student Code of Behaviour, Child Protection, Health and Safety, Homework and Student Teacher Placement Policies.

## **7 Supports for the student teacher**

The school community is committed to supporting positively and sensitively the student teacher in accordance with the Guidelines on School Placement developed by the Teaching Council in consultation with all relevant education partners. Furthermore, the school is committed to allocating the student teacher to (an) appropriate co-operating teacher(s) 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 to his/her work during the placement.

## 8 Continuing professional development for staff involved in supporting/ facilitating student teacher placement

The school management authority and the school's senior management are committed to promoting and facilitating the participation of school staff in continuing professional development programmes essential to ensuring the successful operation of student teacher placement in the school.

## 9 Communication of school placement policy to school community

A copy of the school placement policy is made available to school personnel and the parents association and the policy is readily accessible to parents on request. In particular, a copy of the policy shall be published on the school website (where applicable) and a copy is made available to parents/guardians of all learners enrolling in the school and all new teachers at the point of their employment, either electronically or in hard copy.

## 10 Policy reviews

This policy will be reviewed by the school management authority periodically.

## 11 Date of policy adoption

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 22 February 2021

Signed:  Ciaran Byrne (Feb 1, 2022 12:55 GMT)

Chairperson of Board of Management

Feb 1, 2022

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

Signed: 

Principal

Date: 01.02.2022

Date of next review:

## Appendix 1: Student Teacher Placements Checklist

<b>Classroom management</b>	Y	N
Do you have a reward system in place (individual, group, whole class)? Discuss with class teacher.		
Establish a good rapport with the children (e.g. use of positive reinforcement, restorative practice etc).		
Are you ready for your lessons each day? Do you have the resources, is the laptop set up in advance of the lesson etc.		
<b>Curriculum</b>		
Objectives for a lesson should be clear and achievable – A. Introduce topic/objectives B. Body of lesson / task C. Recap at the end.		
Ensure correction of all work / lessons. All work should be dated.		
Class displays – check with teacher how often these are changed and when you will need to change them.		
What resources are you using? Are they ready in advance of your lesson(s).		
Have you individual folders or a copy for each child. Check with class teacher.		
Work out your timetable with the class teacher and send a copy to the teacher.		
Have sufficient early finishers work.		
The class teacher will need student teacher lesson plans to save on server.		
Have transition lessons ready for if you finish a lesson early or to teach between subjects.		
Students should observe lessons by external teachers e.g. PE, dance, yoga etc.		
<b>Assessment</b>		
What forms of assessment are you using e.g. checklists / observation etc		
Important to do AOL / AFL e.g. in maths who has understood a concept / who has not, how this will inform my lesson plan for the next day.		
<b>Relationships</b>		
Notice and adopt the use of positive language e.g. Thank you X for putting up your hand; I like the way X is looking at me and listening; That's lovely sharing X; Well done X for continuing to listen even though someone is trying to chat at your table.		
Check in on children's feeling and mood. How are you? What is one good thing that happened to you?		
What can you do to make yourself feel better?		
<b>Yard / Break time / Home time</b>		
When teaching for the full day check lunch times / collection times and home time with the class teacher. The student teacher should walk the children to the yard and collect the children from the yard.		
Depending on numbers, we will try to accommodate student teachers using the staffroom. If this is not possible, the student teacher may eat in the classroom or in outdoor areas.		
<b>Other</b>		
Do you need /have your own laptop?		
Check with the class teacher where you can store your belongings.		
Check with the class teacher re use of desk etc		
You should arrive at least 10 minutes before school starts.		
All students should stay in the school until the end of the school day.		