

Primary Placement Guidance Notes

At Queen's University Belfast placement is an integral part of the PGCE course. Students will spend the second week of the course on a primary placement. The following document sets forth the expectations around this placement and the activities the students may be undertaking while on the primary placement.

Classes

Ideally students should be given the opportunity to observe a number of different classes to see a variety of teaching and learning techniques. Students will likely be placed for the majority of their time in one class. Ideally this would be a class in upper KS2 in order to facilitate comparisons and discussions around transition arrangements.

Purposes

The Primary placement has several specific purposes:

1. To gain insights into the professional work of teachers
2. To provide a practical experience of the Northern Ireland Curriculum
3. To understand issues of transition from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3

The period of Primary School Experience will begin on **Monday 9th September** and end on **Friday 13th September 2024**. This experience is an integral part of the teaching practice requirements for the PGCE and is **compulsory for all students**. During Induction week, students will be given further guidance on the placement and the activities they should be completing.

Observation

A large part of this placement will be observing experienced teachers. Students should observe for the first three days in placement before they begin any teaching activities to allow time to get to know the class. Students on placement should aim to observe at least 1 lesson a day when in school. They will be provided with an observation template and will be encouraged to reflect and identify good practice.

Teaching

After the initial observation period students should be involved in some teaching activities. These can include teaching individuals or small groups as well as teaching whole class lessons. Students should be leading at least 2 lessons/ activities a day after the initial 3-day observation period.

Primary School Report Form

At the end of the placement, we would ask you to complete the online [Primary School Experience Report](#) (MS Form). The information you supply allows us to provide support where necessary.

Activities

Students may be involved in the following activities

- Observing teaching and learning
- Working with individuals
- Working with small groups
- Whole class teaching
- Listening to reading groups
- Marking work
- Preparing work
- Creating displays
- Taking part in out of class activities such as school trips and sports days
- Attending staff meetings
- Attending school assemblies

- Attending after school clubs
- Managing classroom transitions e.g. home or dinner time routine
- Explaining homework

Many thanks for your continued support. If you have any further questions, please do feel free to contact us.

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