

# ECTP Registration Guide 2026-27

Registering your ECTs and mentors:  
A three-part process





# Overview

**Registration for the Early Career Teacher programme (ECTP), replaced the ECF (Early Careers Framework) from September 2025.**

Registration is crucial responsibility for induction tutors. Without completing the process, the ECT and mentor cannot begin their ECT programme because the Department for Education (DfE) and Teacher Regulation Agency (TRA) will not acknowledge that the ECT has started their statutory induction until such point as they have been registered with BOTH organisations.

Registration is a three-part process, meaning you need to register your ECTs and mentors with the DfE, with your lead provider and with your Appropriate Body (AB), which then informs the TRA (Teaching Regulation Authority) of their ECTP commencement.

Register with the  
DfE using the  
'Register Early  
Career Teachers'  
service

Register with NIOT  
using our website

Register with your  
school's  
Appropriate Body

# Jargon busting



## Lead Provider for 2026 onwards

National Institute of Teaching (NIOT). Responsible for delivering ECTP programmes in partnership with local delivery partners, who contextualise learning for participants to apply effectively in schools.



## Delivery Partner/Associate College

Local organisations collaborating with NIOT to deliver live sessions tailored to ECTs and mentors, utilising their local knowledge for effective support.



## Appropriate Body (AB)

Organisation to whom termly reviews of ECTs are submitted for progress assessments. An independent body, ABs address concerns about ECT progress, agreeing on extended or reduced inductions and ensuring adequate support for ECTs and mentors.



## Department for Education (DfE)

Government department (England) responsible for the ECTP. The ECTP is a statutory programme for all teachers in maintained schools who qualified from 2021 onwards.

## Our vision:

Our vision is of a school system that nurtures the talents of teachers and leaders at all stages of their careers, so they can provide children with the world-class education they deserve.

## Our mission:

Our mission is to improve the quality of teacher and leader development at a system level. We do this by generating and interpreting research, applying the insights to the design and delivery of high-quality teacher development programmes, and sharing it all with the sector.

## Part 1:

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# Department for Education (DfE) Registration Process



# Why

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Registering with the Department for Education (DfE) is a critical first step, as it acts as the central source of truth for all Early Career Teacher (ECT) and mentor data. Once registration is completed, this information is automatically shared with your Lead Provider and Delivery Partner. This enables:

- Creation of participant accounts on the provider's training platform.
- Access to programme materials (e.g. weekly self-study modules).
- Scheduling and invitations to live training sessions (such as local seminars and events).

Without accurate and up-to-date registration on the DfE system, ECTs and mentors may experience delays in onboarding, access, and programme engagement. **You must always keep the information on the DfE service up to date during the programme.**

The DfE registration portal has been enhanced for the 2026 cycle, providing induction tutors with improved visibility of participant status, eligibility, and training progress. You should have received communication outlining these updates; further guidance is available via the [DfE Sign-in service](#).

Important: ECTs are only eligible to begin the ECTP once they have been awarded Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). Any delay in QTS confirmation will prevent access to training and programme commencement.



# When

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For the **September 2026 cohort**, you should complete registration as soon as you receive the official invitation email from the DfE. This is sent between 15 June and 30 June 2026. Registration should **not be completed before this invitation is received**, as the system will not yet be open for the new cohort.

For ECTs or mentors joining mid-year, registration should be completed as soon as you are aware they will be starting their ECTP at your school. The DfE system remains open throughout the academic year to allow for these updates.

In practice, the majority of ECT registrations take place towards the end of the summer term, when the DfE opens its system for the upcoming academic year (e.g. from 15 June 2026 for September starters).

Once the system opens:

- You (or your headteacher) will receive an invitation to register
- You can begin adding and assigning ECTs and mentors
- You will retain access to the system to edit, add, or remove participants throughout the year

Important: Register ECTs **promptly once confirmed**, as delays may impact programme access, training schedules, and induction timelines.



# How

First, ensure that the invitation to register email will come to the correct person in your school by visiting the website here to [create a DfE account](#). This will make sure the correct person receives the invitation to register. If you have any trouble with this process, please contact the DfE here: [DfE sign in help](#).

The [Register Early Career Teachers](#) website is the 'go to' place for ECTP registration and where you can make changes to all ECT and mentor details – you MUST keep this up to date at all times, throughout the year, as this is how your provider (NlOT) gets details of ECTs and mentors on their programme.

TRN: 0000013  
**Stephen Hughes**

**ECT details**

Name	Stephen Hughes	<a href="#">Change</a>
Email address	stephen.smith@e.com	<a href="#">Change</a>
Mentor	<a href="#">Dame Helen Mirren</a>	<a href="#">Change</a>
Status	Registered	
School start date	1 September 2021	
Working pattern	Part time	<a href="#">Change</a>

**Induction details**

Appropriate body	South Yorkshire Studio Hub
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## [Register your ECTs and mentors](#)

Image 1 – How you make changes to your ECTs and mentors on the DfE site

You will need to have the following details about your school, ECTs and mentors to complete their registration on the DfE:

- School name and URN
- Name and email address of your school induction tutor
- Your Lead Provider name
- ECT and mentor full names, dates of birth, teacher reference numbers (TRN), school email address
- Working pattern (full time/part time) for ECTs and mentors
- Knowledge of which ECT will work with each mentor to pair (see image 2)
- Details of your Appropriate Body



Check back to the DfE [Register Early Career Teachers](#) website to ensure you assign mentors for all your ECTs and also to check the eligibility of your ECTs, by clicking on 'Early Careers Teachers' on the top bar of the website and clicking 'assign a mentor for this ECT'.

**Early career teachers (ECT)**

Register an ECT starting at your school

Search by name or teacher reference number (TRN)

Search

**Buffy Summers**

<b>Status</b>	Mentor required	<b>Appropriate body</b>	Bright Futures Teaching School Hub (Salford & Trafford)
<b>TRN</b>	3012240	<b>Lead provider</b>	Grove Institute
<b>School start date</b>	3 September 2025	<b>Delivery partner</b>	Their lead provider will confirm this
<b>Mentor</b>	! <a href="#">Assign a mentor for this ECT</a>		

Image 2 – assigning a mentor on DfE site

If your ECTs are showing as 'ineligible' or 'training' and this does not match your expectations, you should check with your Appropriate Body (AB). This may indicate that their training has not yet started or that their QTS has not been confirmed.

Plymouth Primary School  
**Manage mentors and ECTs**

[Add ECT or mentor](#)

**Show**

- Currently training (9)
- Completed induction (3)
- No longer training (2)

[Apply](#)

Sort by: **Mentor (A-Z)** [Induction start date](#)

**!** You need to assign a mentor to these ECTs:

[Jason Blue](#)  
[Violet Brown](#)

Mentor	ECTs
<a href="#">Caiden Hendrix</a> <b>MENTORING</b>	<a href="#">Hadley Deleon</a> <b>ELIGIBLE FOR TRAINING</b>
<a href="#">Corinne Dickerson</a> <b>MENTORING</b>	<a href="#">Ray Kirby</a> <b>TRAINING</b>

Image 3 – 'Manage Mentors and ECTs' view on DfE site

If an ECT is joining your school having already started their induction at another school, follow the same process but confirm that they are moving schools. Ensure you provide the correct start date for ECTs transferring to your school.

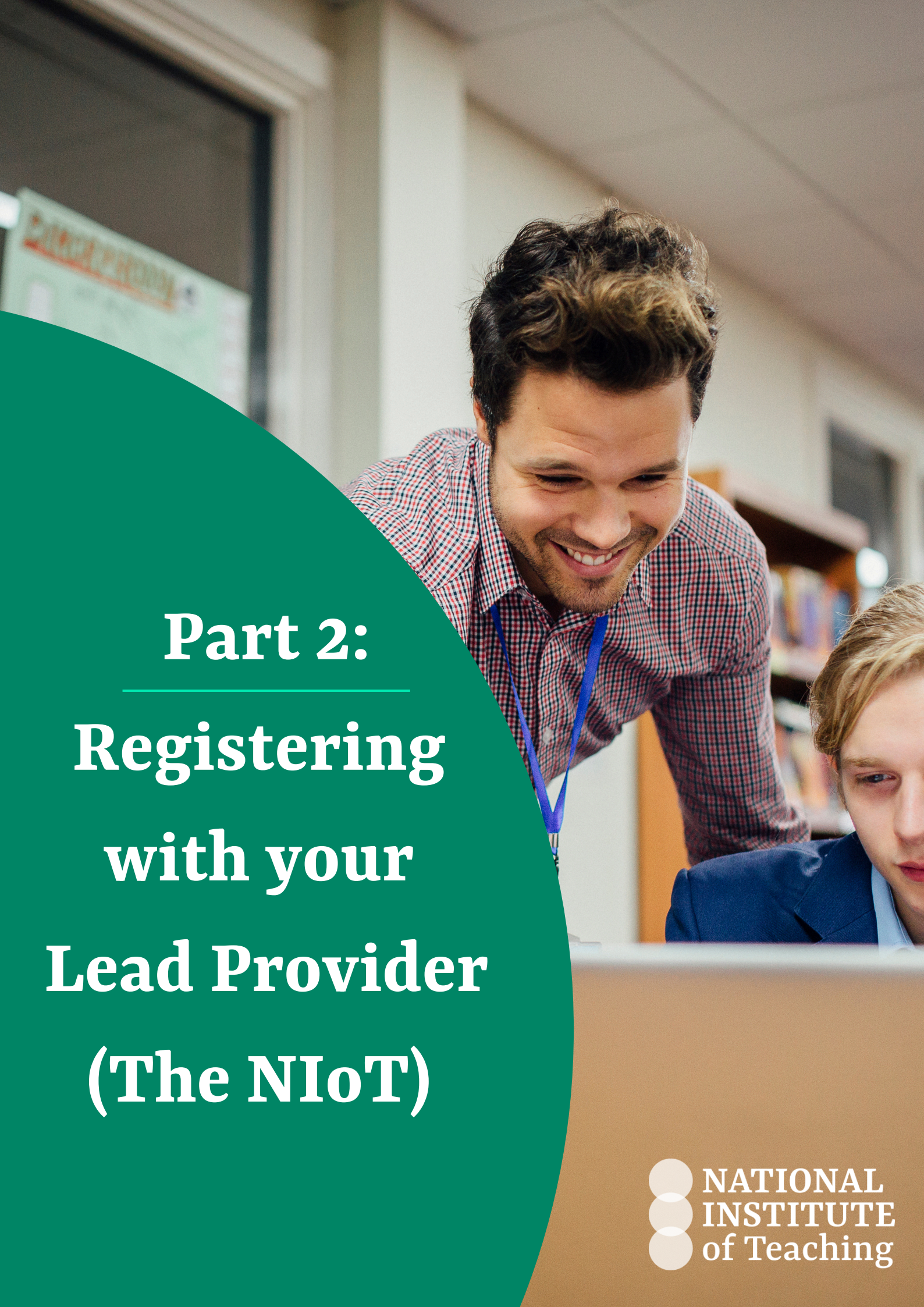
**Buffy Summers has been registered before**

Previously registered details	
<b>School name</b>	Greyfriars School
<b>Induction start date</b>	Not confirmed
<b>Appropriate body</b>	Not confirmed
<b>Training programme</b>	Provider-led
<b>Lead provider</b>	Grove Institute
<b>Delivery partner</b>	Rising Minds Network

You'll be able to tell us what kind of training they'll continue with later.

[Continue](#)

Image 4 – message on DfE site if a participant is moving schools



**Part 2:**

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**Registering  
with your  
Lead Provider  
(The NIoT)**

# Why

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Your Lead Provider (NloT) cannot 'claim' a school or their ECTs and mentors unless they are expecting them, which means, if you're a new school to the NloT, you need to let us know you're joining us by clicking [on this link](#) and submitting the information the form asks you for. NOTE: this will be closed from 31 May – 15 June 2026.

We will ask you for your delivery partner; this will be the local organisation delivering your programme; please check with your headteacher or local TSH or trust if you're not sure who this is or get in touch with us so we can help.

# When

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For new September 2026 cohort, do this as soon as you receive the email from DfE, but not before.

For any participants joining at another point in the year, do this as soon as you have registered on the DfE 'register early career teachers' site.

In both cases; it can take up to a week for all the information to be passed to NloT from the DfE once you have completed all steps.



# How

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To notify NIoT that your school, ECTs, and mentors will be joining the programme, complete the registration form via the provided link [NIOT: register your school for our ECTP](#). NIoT will then 'claim' your school and let you know once your ECTs and Mentors are successfully registered with us. This normally takes around a week from completing your DfE registration.

You may also be asked to provide your Delivery Partner. This is the local organisation delivering your programme. If you are unsure, check with your Headteacher, local Teaching School Hub (TSH), or trust, or contact NIoT for support.



**Part 3:**  

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**Appropriate  
Body  
Registration**

# Why

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Appropriate bodies (ABs) are organisations who have the main quality assurance role in statutory teacher induction. ABs ensure that early career teachers (ECTs) receive their statutory entitlement and that the support, assessment and guidance procedures in place are fair and appropriate.

Your AB is responsible for assuring the provision for ECTs in your school and reviewing their progress against the Teacher Standards. All ECTs must be registered with an Appropriate Body so that termly review information can be submitted. The AB will formally sign off an ECT's induction upon satisfactory progress against the Teacher Standards. They must also be kept informed of any concerns regarding an ECT's progress and can approve extended or reduced induction periods where appropriate.

[Appropriate Body Guidance \(DfE\)](#) - More detail can be found here on appropriate body responsibilities

[Find an Appropriate Body](#) - If you are unsure who your appropriate body are or need a new one

[Teacher Standards UK \(DfE\)](#) - Everything you need to know about the Teacher Standards

# When

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This must be completed **before** the ECT commences their induction\*. It is sensible to register them with your AB as soon as you have the required details about your ECTs.

You will also be asked to provide details of your AB when registering on the DfE 'Register Early Career Teachers' service.

# How

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Most ABs have an online platform where you can upload the details of your ECTs. Some provide 'bulk upload' spreadsheets that you can complete. Check with your AB about their timeline and processes as each may be slightly different.

**TIP:** Schedule time now to meet your ECTs and mentors towards the end of each full term to complete their termly AB reviews (December, April and July) and consider booking an earlier one with the ECT to check they've settled into their induction well and put any support in place early – all this will save you time and workload later on!

***As per the statutory guidance\*:*** 2.11 The ECT must be registered with an Appropriate Body before the start of the induction. 2.12 The start date for induction will be determined by the appropriate body and should be agreed in advance with the headteacher/principal and ECT. 2.13 The start date for induction should be the date when the ECT's induction programme formally commences. This may be a different date from when the ECT's contract starts.

# Useful websites

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- The DfE Register Early Career Teachers service is the primary platform used by schools and induction tutors for all ECF and ECTP related activity. It is where you register participants, update details, make changes and track the training status of ECTs and mentors - [www.register-early-career-teachers.education.gov.uk](http://www.register-early-career-teachers.education.gov.uk)
- Find out who your appropriate body is at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-teacher-induction-appropriate-bodies/find-an-appropriate-body](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-teacher-induction-appropriate-bodies/find-an-appropriate-body).
- DfE guidance on the ECTP more generally, including on funding, responsibilities of schools and participants, policy papers and how to set up the ECTP for your ECTs and Mentors - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/induction-for-early-career-teachers>
- Visit the NIoT website to find out more about the ECT programme - <https://niot.org.uk/programmes/ECF>
- DfE guidance on funding and eligibility for ECF-based training; useful for understanding eligibility requirements - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-and-eligibility-for-ecf-based-training>

**For further information,  
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