

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the ITE Primary and Early Years Forum held at 1pm on Tuesday 3 March 2020 at Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3RB**

Welcome, introduction & minutes

Colleagues were welcomed to the meeting and those attending for the first time introduced themselves. The note of the previous meeting held on 19 November 2019 was agreed. On matters arising, JNR reported that UCET was keeping a close eye on the DfE’s shape of the ITE market review and inputting into DfE discussions.

Discussion

Highlights from the afternoon’s discussions included:

* An update from JNR on non-primary and early years related issues, including: bursaries for post-compulsory student teachers; the early career framework; the 2020 UCET conference; and developments in Northern Ireland and Wales.
* Feedback from the morning symposium and discussions about the draft ITE inspection framework with David Storrie and Helen Matthews from OfSTED. Points made included: the unrealistic and undesirable expectations in regards consistency across partnerships; the importance of student teachers being able to engage critically with research, including that underpinning the core content framework; the inappropriate prohibition of teaching and critiquing approaches to early reading in addition to systematic synthetic phonics; the limited scope in some placement settings for student teachers to critique the curriculum followed by the school; unrealistic expectations that student teachers be trained to teach the full primary curriculum; the impossibility of providing subject specific mentors in all primary settings; the insufficient notice period given prior to inspections; the advisability of providers developing narratives for each subject and for cross cutting issues such as SEND; the difficulty of making comparisons with other providers given the absence of benchmarking data; and the inappropriateness of using institutional business plans to inform inspections.
* It was agreed that the topic for the next symposium would be on preparing for OfSTED inspections, with reference to the CCF and the assessment of student teachers.
* The ITE core content framework; with examples given of how providers are mapping the centre and school-based programmes against CCF expectations, and concern expressed about the readiness of partner schools to engage with the CCF and the difficulty of ensuring consistency across partnerships (resources for schools were being supplied in some instances).
* Recruitment to ITE, with a slower rate of applications compared to last year, but with a noticeable shift in several cases towards QTS programmes focusing on the early years, possibly reflecting the closure of many EYT programmes. A shift away from School Direct to core was reported in some instances. Concern was also expressed about comments at a Train to Teach event that applicants would only choose HE programmes if they wanted academic credit.
* The new Apply system, and worries that applicants might be diverted towards (predominately SCITT) providers involved in the pilots.
* The report from the Intellectual Base of Teacher Education group and the development of a new UCET strategy.
* Early years issues, including a recent report from TACTYC, and the tendency for EYT graduates to be employed in reception class settings.

Items for information

The following were noted for information: details of the 2020 ICET conference, and the December 2019 UCET newsletter.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9 June 2020.