



ITE

Welcome Pack

2026-27

Working in partnership with:



Welcome to your new career

**Dear 2026-27 ITE trainees,
We are delighted that you have chosen
to train to become a teacher with us,
and we warmly welcome you to the
NlOT Initial Teacher Education (ITE)
Programme 2026-27.**

I am the National Faculty Lead for ITE and have been a teacher for 29 years - some proof that you are entering a profession where you can enjoy a long and fulfilling career.

Our ITE course is designed to maximise your teaching potential and help you become an inspirational, outstanding classroom practitioner.

Throughout the year, our national ITE team and Subject Leads will support your pedagogical and curriculum development. We have developed, and

continue to personalise, this unique programme to equip you with the skills, experiences, and strategies needed to succeed in your school and throughout your career.

At the NlOT, we are committed to the professional and personal development of our trainee teachers and to making a meaningful contribution to a self-improving school system. Our vision is of a system that nurtures the talents of teachers and leaders at every stage of their careers, enabling them to provide children with the excellent education they deserve.

Congratulations on your offer, and once again, welcome to the NlOT.

SHONA FINDLAY
ITE National Faculty Lead

Your ITE Welcome Pack

This Welcome Pack will provide you with all the information you need to prepare for our ITE programme. Please ensure you read through it thoroughly and are clear on what you'll need to do to be ready and prepared for when you begin in summer 2026.

What you'll find inside

- Dates for your diary
- What you'll get from our ITE programme
- Enrolment tasks
- Preparation tasks
- How to keep in touch

Dates for your diary

Following your offer and acceptance

Attend your half-day Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) appointment.

8th-10th July 2026

Flying Start.

25th-27th August 2026*

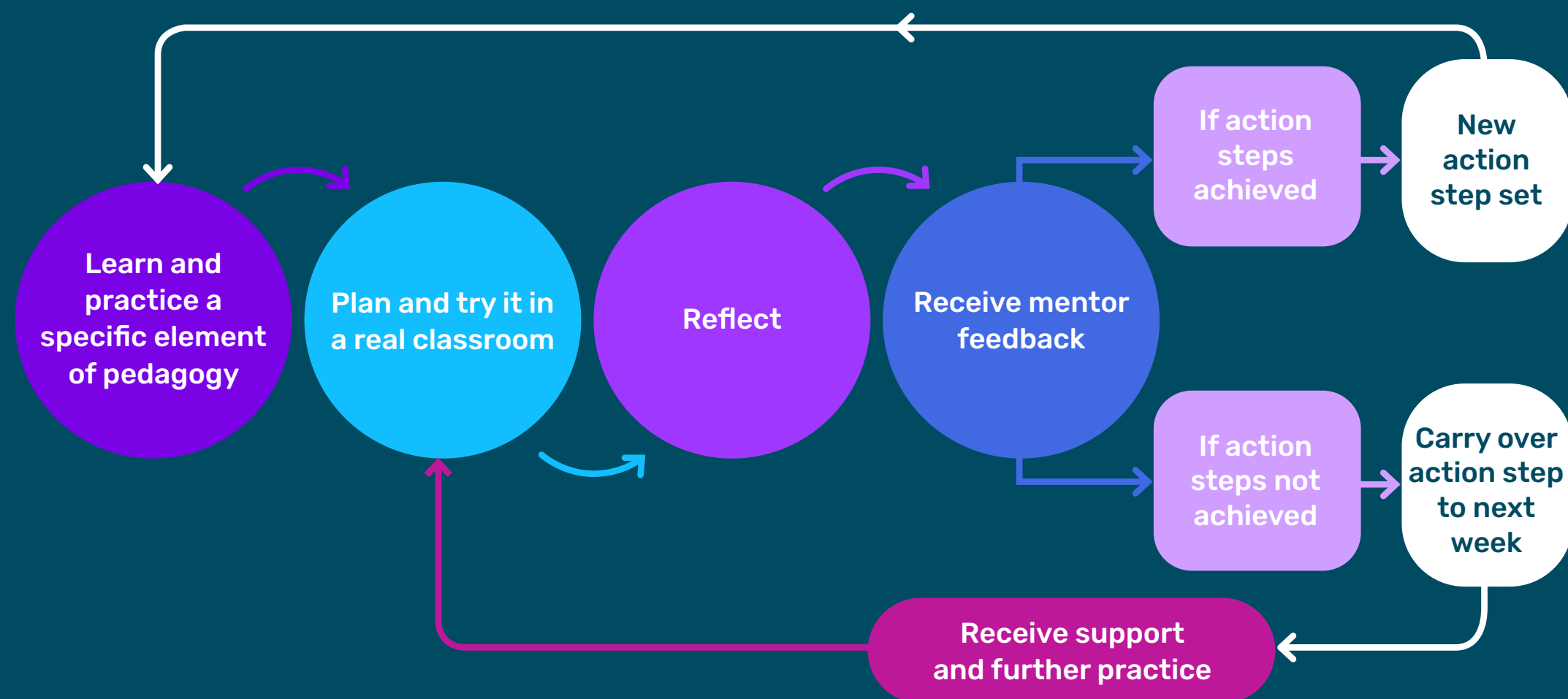
Intensive Training and Practice days (ITaP).

From 1st September 2026

Start in your placement school.

*Please note your Campus/Associate College will advise on the specific timings and arrangements for the training.

What you'll get from our ITE programme



Flying Start

We're committed to giving you the strongest possible start to your training year – and that means starting early.

In July, you'll take part in our Flying Start days, designed to prepare you for the classroom, answer your questions, and clear up common misconceptions.

These sessions will help you feel confident, informed, and excited as you head into the summer, ready to begin your teaching journey.

Core training

Our core training takes place at our campus and Associate College venues every Thursday. This is supplemented with six additional days for Intensive Training and Practice (seven for Primary trainees), and regional input. The training is highly engaging, research-informed, and focused on application in the classroom.

Intensive Training and Practice

Our programme embeds Intensive Training and Practice (ITaP) as a distinct and focused element alongside your general placement experience.

Your first ITaP episode will concentrate on behaviour, relationships, and routines – the core foundations of effective classroom practice.

Across the first half of the programme, you'll take part in 20 dedicated ITaP days, each designed to build your confidence and competence in the essential elements of successful teaching.

Subject and phase specific training

Subject and phase-specific training is built into the full programme, ensuring you are supported in applying your learning to the context of your own subject or phase. To enhance this further, you'll attend multiple subject-specific days throughout the year, as part of your weekly training. These sessions are led by subject experts.

Tutor support

All our trainees are supported by a highly skilled NIoT tutor with years of experience in developing teachers. Your tutor will support you through every step of your journey with personalised support, both in-school and in training. They'll also work with your school mentor to ensure the support is wraparound and comprehensive.

Enrolment and preparation tasks checklist

You'll need to complete a range of enrolment and preparation tasks before you begin the programme. Please find a checklist of these below, and further information in the following pages.

Enrolment tasks

1. Attend your DBS processing appointment with all required documentation
2. Register for the DBS Update Service
3. Complete your mathematics proficiency audit
4. Complete your Trainee Pre-Enrolment form
5. Submit and confirm your references
6. a) Complete the Fitness to Teach questionnaire
b) Apply for reasonable adjustments (if applicable)
7. Obtain an overseas criminal records check (if applicable)
8. Complete your Subject Knowledge Enhancement/Development Course (if applicable)
9. Obtain a letter of Professional Standing (if applicable)
10. Confirm method of tuition fee-payment and apply for Student Finance, once open (if applicable)
11. Provide evidence of your qualifications

Preparation tasks

1. Complete your required pre-reading
2. Complete the Educational Autobiography task
3. Complete your Place2Be mental health training
4. Update your social media privacy settings



Enrolment tasks

1. Attend your DBS processing appointment with all required documentation

We'll be in touch in due course regarding booking a half-day appointment with us, so we can review your Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) documentation. It is important you attend this. You'll be able to select a slot that works for you within our allocated timeframe, and should expect your appointment to take the full time.

Required documentation for DBS processing

Please bring original hard copies of all required documentation with you to your processing appointment. A full list of acceptable documents can be found in the list [here](#). Our preferred documents are:

- Passport
- Photocard driving licence
- Bank statement, dated within 3 months.

Alternative documentation can be provided if you don't have the above - please review the list.

All documents must be original. We cannot accept photocopies or printouts. Any missing documents will cause a delay in your enrolment and may affect your start in school in September.

Documents must also bear your full name (including middle names or initials).

In addition to the documentation above, you should also bring (if relevant):

- Proof of a change in name e.g. Deed Poll, Marriage Certificate, Adoption Certificate
- Overseas police check documentation (if you have been abroad for more than three months in the last 10 years. See section 6 for more detail)

2. Register for the DBS Update Service

Once you have completed your DBS appointment, the NIoT will pay for the initial DBS.

Once we have applied for your initial DBS, there is a requirement that you register for the DBS Update Service. You can register for the DBS Update Service while your DBS check is still in progress using your application reference number. For this method, DBS must receive your application form within 28 days of your application reference being available. Further information on how to register with the DSB Update Service is available on the [Government website](#).

If you are registering for the DBS Update Service, you must do so within 30 days of the DBS certificate being

issued. You will need your certificate number to do this.

Whilst the NIoT will pay for the initial DBS application cost, candidates are required to pay for their inclusion in the DBS Update Service (currently sixteen pounds per year). If we have completed a DBS application and you do not register for the DBS Update Service, the NIoT will not be able to complete an Update Service check (Update Service checks will begin from the 1st June). In those cases where we are not able to complete this check and the NIoT is required to complete another DBS application, you will have to pay for this DBS application and any application fees.

Applicants already registered with the Update Service

If you are already registered on the Enhanced DBS Update Service, please bring the original hard copy of your DBS to the appointment, and be aware you will still need to present all the required documentation listed previously. Please note that the DBS must be Enhanced, including children's barred list information; if this is not the case, we will be required to complete a new DBS application.

By accepting an offer onto an NIoT programme, you agree that, within the NIoT, the central NIoT team and any relevant person(s) responsible at each school where you are deployed are entitled to carry out a DBS Update Service Check.

3. Complete your mathematics proficiency audit

Prior to the start of the programme, we also need to assess your mathematics proficiency. You will be issued with an audit prior to September and you will then be responsible for upskilling any areas of mathematics in which you cannot evidence your proficiency. We will support the improvement of any areas that you are still finding difficult, so please speak to your tutor at the start of the year about this in more detail, if required.

4. Complete a trainee Pre-Enrolment form

Please complete your [Pre-Enrolment Form by clicking here](#) as soon as possible after receiving this Welcome Pack.

One of the questions asks you to review the NIoT Privacy Notice. You can find this [here](#).

We will be in touch nearer the start of the programme with a further request for information, as we appreciate that you may not have all details regarding your funding available at this stage.

5. Submit and confirm your references

References on your DfE application must comply with the DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education and Safer Recruitment guidelines. To be compliant, you must ensure we receive TWO references, ideally both professional, from an email with a professional domain.

If this is not possible, the following are acceptable:

- School-based reference. This must be from a Head Teacher (or equivalent).
- University based reference. This is acceptable as long as you have completed your studies within the last five years. The reference must comment on your academic ability and potential.
- If it is not possible to provide a professional or academic second reference, then we can accept ONE character reference. This is only if absolutely necessary and can be accompanied by a professional email address.

Personal email addresses will not be accepted under any circumstances. Please request that your referees provide a professional (work) email address.

6a. Complete the Fitness to Teach questionnaire

You will be required to complete a mandatory medical questionnaire, in order to ascertain your Fitness to Teach. It is important the questionnaire is completed accurately, as we use the outcome to prepare for any reasonable adjustments that need to be made to support you during your training year. You will be contacted in the Summer term to complete your Fitness to Teach Assessment. This must be completed as soon as possible upon receipt and no later than the 1st August 2026.

6b. Applying for Reasonable Adjustments at NIoT

We are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment where all trainee teachers can thrive. If you have a disability, long-term health condition, or other additional needs, you may be eligible for **reasonable adjustments** to support your learning, teaching, and assessment throughout your programme. More information can be found in the guidance document [here](#). Should reasonable adjustments be required, to begin the process, please complete the Additional Needs and Reasonable Adjustments Questionnaire as soon as possible using the following link: [Apply for Reasonable Adjustments](#).

7. Obtain an overseas criminal records check (if applicable)

If you have lived abroad for a period of three months or more within the last ten years, you will be required to provide an overseas criminal records check. Please start this process now, as it can take a number of weeks to receive. For more information, please click [here](#).

8. Complete your Subject Knowledge Enhancement/ Development course (if applicable)

If your offer is conditional upon completion of a Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) or Subject Knowledge Development (SKD) course, please ensure you sign up and complete this before you begin the programme. More information can be found on the guidance document [here](#). Please reach out to your regional NIoT contact if you have any questions.



9. Obtain a letter of Professional Standing (if applicable)

If you have taught overseas as a registered teacher prior to applying for this training programme, you will need to provide evidence of professional standing. This applies if you have been registered under the regulatory body for teaching in the associated country (e.g. Ministry of Education). This does not include TEFL, independent schools etc.

An example would be a letter from the organisation that regulates teachers in the country where you qualified, which confirms your status as a teacher in that country. This document should also confirm that your authorisation to teach has never been suspended, barred, cancelled, revoked or restricted and that you have no sanctions against you.

10. Confirm method of tuition fee-payment and apply for Student Finance, once open (if applicable)

The information below is for fee-paying trainees. Please review and ensure you're clear on actions regarding tuition fees, student finance, and bursary/scholarship payments.

- Tuition fees for 2025-26 trainees were £9,535 per academic year for full-time training, and £7,145 per academic year for part-time training. The amount that part-time trainees need to pay in their second year will depend on how many terms they are required to complete (linked to number of days per week).
- Please note that tuition fees for UK/Home students may change in line with government policy and will be subject to the maximum fee limits set out in regulations.
- At your DBS processing appointment, we will ask how you intend to pay your tuition fees. You can pay directly, or apply for student finance, so please make this decision beforehand.

- If you're choosing to use student finance to pay your tuition fees, you will need to apply for this directly. The website to begin your application is [here](#). Select 'National Institute of Teaching' as your provider, and then choose your subject/phase from the drop-down box.
- If you are eligible to receive a bursary or scholarship, you will need to have an approved Student Finance application for this to be paid (with the exception of languages and physics). Your first payment will be made in October 2026.

11. Provide evidence of your qualifications

Prior to the start of the programme, we need to ensure you have provided relevant proof of your qualifications. These qualifications include proof of GCSE's or equivalent qualifications and proof of your Degree qualifications. We must have received this proof no later than the 20th August 2026.

Preparation tasks

1. Complete your required pre-reading

Please find [here](#) your introductory reading list.

This is required reading for familiarising yourself with the course content that will support you throughout the training year. There will be further required reading, relating to your subject or phase, disseminated before the programme begins.

2. Complete the Educational Autobiography task

Prior to your DBS processing appointment, please complete the [Educational Autobiography task](#).

This is a useful opportunity to reflect on your own educational experiences, and to consider how this may inform your approach in the classroom. Please print a copy of your completed task, and bring along to your DBS processing appointment.

3. Complete your Place2Be mental health training

Our specialist partner, Place2Be, has created a Mental Health Champions Foundation Programme, which you will be required to complete between Flying Start in July 2026 and ITaP days in August 2026. The purpose of the course is to gain an understanding of children's mental health and learn how to foster positive wellbeing in our schools. For more information, please visit the following link: [View more details](#).

4. Update your social media privacy settings

Before you begin, it's important to ensure you secure your social media accounts with enhanced privacy settings. More information on this will be shared during Flying Start.



My first term as a trainee teacher

Embarking on a year of teacher training can perhaps feel like a daunting task. So, we wanted to hear directly from one of our trainees about their experience of the programme so far. We caught up with Natasha, a new English teacher trainee who has just finished her first term in a school. From teaching her first class to making friends with fellow trainees, she shares her reflections from the first few months of her PGCE.

Read more about Natasha's first term [here](#).

“One of the most rewarding experiences I’ve been involved in is teaching and marking my year 8 class for two assessments. Not only does getting to mark their books fill me with so much pride, from their beautiful hard work to their gorgeous handwriting, but it gives me the opportunity to reflect on how far my teaching has come in that time. Nearly half of the class improved by at least one grade - I marked their books with a grin on my face the whole time!”



Final checklist for starting the programme

- Complete your Enrolment Tasks
- Complete your Preparation tasks
- Review our Privacy Notices
- Add the dates of Flying Start and Intensive Training and Practice to your calendar
- Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and X - @NatInstTeaching
- Keep in touch with us before you begin with any questions or concerns
- Look out for our bulletins in your emails

