



# Host a trainee with the Sheffield Teacher Training Alliance

## Become a partner school with Sheffield Teacher Training Alliance

Joining Sheffield Teacher Training Alliance (STTA) as a partner school means helping to shape the next generation of excellent teachers, while bringing real benefits to your pupils, staff and wider school community. By working together, we create a strong network of schools committed to excellence - ensuring every trainee, and every child they go on to teach, has the opportunity to thrive.

Through our partnership with the National Institute of Teaching (NlOT), we offer a school-based training route that is highly practical, research-informed, and built around what schools tell us they need most from new teachers. Our trainees arrive ready to contribute from day one and continue to grow throughout the full academic year they spend with you.

## What you gain when you host an STTA trainee



### Well-prepared from day one

Before stepping into your classrooms, every trainee completes six full days of intensive training, including school visits. This ensures they begin their placement with strong foundations, confidence and a clear understanding of the realities of school life.



### Hands-on, bite-sized learning

Trainees receive dedicated weekly training every Thursday, enabling them to apply new approaches gradually and effectively. This step-by-step model helps them grow sustainably while supporting high-quality teaching in your classrooms.



### Full-year commitment

Your trainee becomes a genuine part of your team - building routines, contributing to pupil progress, connecting with families, and supporting your school culture across an entire academic year.



### ABA model advantage

Our curriculum follows the NlOT's Apprenticeship-Based Approach (ABA), placing trainees in schools from day one. They build strong relationships, reflect on their practice, and use evidence-based teaching. Additional visits to other settings broaden their experience and understanding of different educational contexts.



### Early placement confirmation to support your planning

We confirm placements with schools in the spring/summer term, giving you plenty of time to plan ahead. This also means your trainees can attend a school visit day in July, allowing them to meet key staff, understand routines and start building relationships before September.



### High levels of support for all

Every partner school has one clear, accessible point of contact at STTA. This ensures you receive prompt, highly accessible and bespoke support for both your trainee and your staff, whenever you need it.

## Why partner with us?

- A training programme shaped by schools, for schools.
- Trainees who are grounded in evidence-informed practice.
- Strong collaboration with the NlOT—raising the quality and consistency of teacher training.
- A meaningful way to develop future staff and strengthen recruitment pipelines.
- Opportunities for your teachers to grow as mentors, coaches and leaders.

Hosting a trainee isn't just about supporting their development - it's about bringing fresh ideas, energy, and the latest evidence-based practice into your classrooms.

## Frequently asked questions

### What if I work with other providers and our calendars don't align?

We understand how important consistent induction is across partners. Our full-year placement begins on the first day of the academic year, but trainees also visit their host school in July, and induction can take place then if that suits your school better. The ABA model offers year-long stability, stronger trainee progress, and avoids mid-year disruption. Induction expectations are the same as they are for staff, so that trainees can join any new staff induction day.

### How does this mentoring programme differ from previous ones I've experienced?

Mentor training will be delivered online by STTA and designed to be clear, manageable and genuinely empowering. Through the NIOTs mentor development framework, mentors are not only supported in their role – they are developed as inspirational leaders of practice, shaping the teaching landscape for years to come.

Our streamlined tracking system keeps everything effortless, and you will have one consistent point of contact for mentor training, trainee support and QA visits. Working with the same STTA tutor throughout the course ensures coherence, stability and a shared sense of purpose, enabling mentors to play a vital role in nurturing the next generation of teachers who will transform lives and strengthen communities.

## Placement payments

We recognise the important role schools play in supporting trainee development, and we provide financial contributions to acknowledge this commitment.

### Placement A (host placement): £1,000

This reflects the sustained support and mentoring provided across the full academic year.

### Placement B: (complementary placement) £200

A contribution for schools offering the shorter six week second placement in January.

These payments are designed to help cover mentoring time, training delivery and the wider support schools provide to ensure trainees thrive.

### This is a new programme to the region – how can I trust it?

The course is built on a strong foundation. STTA has over 12 years' experience working with schools across the region to train and develop high-quality teachers. The NIOT programme is well-established and nationally recognised, giving you the confidence that your trainees are part of a forward-thinking, research-informed pathway. Together, we are shaping educators who will inspire, elevate and transform the lives of the children they go on to teach.

### How much involvement is expected from my school?

We keep expectations clear and manageable. Schools provide a mentor and weekly meeting time, and we handle the training, support and QA so your role remains focused and achievable. The school's managing mentor acts as the main school contact and delivers NIOT-prepared, pre-planned training at key points in the year.

Our online tracking system also keeps administration simple and transparent, reducing workload and making it easy to record mentor meetings and observations.



Scan for more details about hosting a trainee.

