

Diary of a North West SCITT Associate Teacher

I'm sure you've heard the saying "Every day is a school day!" and, as clichéd as that sounds, when you are a trainee teacher it really is. As I come to the end of week eight, the week before the Autumn half term, I would never have imagined the progress I'd have made. The varied and fast-paced nature of teaching is partly what drew me to the profession. It has not disappointed.

It was great to meet my cohort from the start, whether that be virtually or in person. Our three week induction and subsequent weekly training has not only provided me with the pedagogy I need, but has also given me the opportunity to meet others on the same journey.

With North West SCITT, I feel like a 'real' teacher. There's no sitting on the side-lines or observing from afar – I am considered an 'associate teacher' at my placement school. For me, this is important to build the rapport with the children I teach. With support from my mentor, link tutor and the SCITT, I have the opportunity to deliver the best teaching I can. In return, the children I teach treat me as the teacher I want to be.

North West SCITT have provided the group with a clear outline of our weekly expectations. This is great to keep track of our weekly progress. There is time to build a rapport with my mentor, and get to know the children in my placement year group. As I have progressed through the half term, I have developed from supporting the class teacher, to leading small groups and finally teaching my own lessons. I then act on the feedback received from experienced practitioners and then use this to help me become a better teacher. At the end of the day, as a trainee teacher, I am still learning. Mistakes can be good, it gives us something to improve on for next time we teach.

If there's one piece of advice I'd give, it is to be flexible. Say 'yes'. Of course, take this advice with a pinch of salt. Nobody, not your placement school, training provider or peers want you to become burnt out. However, I wouldn't have learnt nearly as much if I didn't say 'yes' to helping out with netball club, 'yes' to then helping out in chess club when netball was rained off and 'yes' to supporting in another class for the day. Not only will your fellow educators be extremely grateful, but you will learn how to be a better teacher by stepping out of your comfort zone.

As I hang up my school bag for a week, I know I've made the right decision to complete my teacher training with North West SCITT. Has it been tiring? Yes. Is it worth it to start to make a difference to children's lives? Absolutely.

Happy Half Term!

Olivia Stone
Primary Cohort 2021/2022