

South West Teacher Training – Assessment-Only QTS Route

Our Assessment-Only Route enables candidates with relevant teaching experience to undertake a fast-tracked route to Qualified Teacher Status in situations where it is considered the applicant does not require additional training to meet the Teachers Standards. SWTT works with employing schools who propose suitable candidates for this route.

Entry Requirements

Candidates will only be considered if:

- They have significant experience of working and teaching in a school setting
- They have completed teaching experience in two contrasting settings in the two years prior to starting the programme
- They can provide references and recommendations from two different education settings
- They meet the Department for Education's usual requirements for ITT candidates
- They successfully complete a selection interview with SWTT and the employing school
- They can commit to a two to three-month period of evidence gathering and assessment
- They have the right to work in the UK.

Process

Once candidates have met the above criteria, including having completed any contrasting experience, they begin the two-month period of teaching and evidence gathering. The candidate must use the SWTT processes to gather evidence that they meet the Teachers Standards.

Over this two-month period, it is essential that the employing school is able to provide support for the candidate to gather their evidence. It is not a requirement that the candidate receives specific training to complete the assessment. But they will need support to evidence their competence in the Teachers Standards. This support commitment from the employing school will involve:

- Weekly meetings, minuted, to review their progress
- Weekly lesson observations to provide feedback and evidence
- The opportunity to observe other teachers teaching
- Time to gather evidence and manage their portfolio
- Provision of evidence of Safeguarding and Prevent training
- Provision of evidence of Occupational Health Assessment
- Provision of evidence of Right to Work in the UK checks
- Provision of a reference of the candidate's professional conduct and whole school participation
- Release time for the final Assessment and Quality Assurance visit.

During the two-month period, the candidate will maintain an online Evidence Portfolio using systems designed by SWTT to evidence that the Teachers Standards have been consistently met. For each of the 8 Standards in Part 1 candidates will gather at least 3 of the following proforma:

- Lesson Plan and Reflection Forms – These will support the candidate to evidence their ability to plan for pupil progress and to reflect on their impact, Standards 1-7.

- Lesson Plan Observation and Feedback – These will support the candidate to evidence their ability to plan, make good use of lesson time, manage behaviour and set high expectations, Standards 1-7
- Modelling Practice Record – These will support the candidate to demonstrate they are a reflective practitioner, Standard 4
- Mentor Meeting Minutes – These will support the candidate to demonstrate they are a reflective practitioner who can act on feedback, Standards 4 and 8.
- Assessment Point Record. Only one of these forms is required as it provides a summary of and a structure for the Professional Conversation at the final Assessment Point.

Timeline

When	What
Prior to application	The candidate should complete at least two months experience teaching in a contrasting school, if they have not already done so in the two years prior to starting the programme.
As soon as entry requirements have been met	Candidate applies to SWTT and is interviewed by SWTT and the employing school. The interview ensures that the candidate is suitable for an AO route, has the relevant qualifications and can commit to the two-month evidence gathering period.
On acceptance to the programme	SWTT visits the Candidate and the employing school for an orientation meeting to explain the processes and requirements. From that point forward, the candidate begins the two-month period of evidence gathering.
At the end of month one	SWTT visits for a mid-point check-in to review the online portfolio and trouble-shoot any difficulties.
<i>Before the end of month two</i>	<i>Optional extra visit from SWTT if any issues have been highlighted at the mid-point check-in visit.</i>
At the end of month two	SWTT visits for the Assessment and Quality Assurance Point. During this visit the SWTT representative will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe the candidate teach, jointly with a representative from the employing school • Meet with the candidate and a representative from the employing school for a Professional Conversation. How does their evidence demonstrate their ability to meet the Teachers Standards? What are their strengths? What development points will they take into their NQT year?
After Assessment and Quality Assurance Point visit	SWTT employs an External Reviewer and Exam Board to quality assure the decision.
After Exam Board	SWTT recommends the candidate to the DfE for QTS or indicates that the candidate does not meet QTS and may wish to consider an ITT course.

Costs

Activity	Cost
Application processing, document quality assurance	£400
Interview and selection	£300
Orientation meeting	£200
Mid-point Check-In	£350

EPortfolio Review	£200
Assessment and Quality Assurance Point visit	£200
External Reviewer	£350
Total	£2000
<i>Should an optional extra visit be deemed necessary after the Mid-Point Check-in, this will be charged at an additional cost of £200.</i>	