

“Trainee Chat”



Victoria Broadhead Primary (5-11)

Why did you decide to train to teach? What inspired you?

Teaching has always been something I wanted to do, since my careers meetings at secondary school. I have worked with children ever since leaving education and it is an area I absolutely love. The knowledge and experience I have gained prior to starting my teacher training has aided me throughout the process and has deepened my drive to succeed in this sector. Watching young people achieve milestones is the greatest thing to be a part of.

Why did you choose to train to teach with Outwood and the National Institute of Teaching?

I chose to train with Outwood and the NIoT as they offer lots of support throughout the training year and beyond. The Outwood vision of ‘Children First’ aligns with my own, with the children in my care being the forefront of all I do. I feel strongly that the NIoT and Outwood will fully support my own progression beyond my ECT years and this is something I am very excited about.

Please describe your experiences so far?

The experience for me has been enjoyable but not without its difficulties. As a mature student and a parent there has been lots to navigate but I have given it everything I have got to ensure I have taken as much from the experience as possible. Training days, especially subject specific days have been really engaging and offer great resources that can really enhance our classrooms. The experiences within my placements at OPA Park Hill and OPA Lofthouse Gate have been great! All staff, including my mentor, have been extremely supportive and everyone has been keen to help. There is a lot of work involved but if you organise yourself efficiently, it is a manageable workload.

What level of support have you received in your training so far?

All the NIoT and Outwood members of staff have been extremely supportive with my requirements. They have listened to my queries and have taken my views into account. Everyone you contact are always on hand to offer advice and support. There have been numerous different online sessions to help with the different PGCE elements, which have also been useful.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about becoming a teacher?

If you have the passion and drive to work with young people - do it!! It is such a rewarding career. Fully immerse yourself into every aspect of your training year and grab hold of every opportunity you are presented with. Surround yourself with people who are there to support your journey and enjoy it. It's never too late to make this career change so don't let that stop you.