

Training to Teach at Sussex during the Covid-19 pandemic

The Sussex Initial Teacher Education (ITE) team has taken a proactive approach placing the wellbeing of the trainees, university and school staff and children in placement schools at the heart of our strategy.

Teaching

During our three week fulltime September Induction course trainees were taught 40% face to face and 60% online following stringent health and safety and social distancing regulations.

- Trainees taught face to face in small subject 'bubbles' with the same tutor
- Staggered starts and finishes to sessions
- Additional cleaning and wearing of masks in face to face teaching sessions

Sussex trainees attend training each Friday which this term alternates between face to face and remote teaching. As any further national Covid situation develops, together with our partner schools, we have a range of contingency plans to safeguard everyone's wellbeing and their continuation on their teacher training course.

School Placements

Placement One started on Monday 28th September with all 346 Sussex Primary and Secondary PGCE and School Direct trainees placed successfully in schools thanks to our highly committed partners. All trainees are in school Monday to Thursday each week following the Health, safety, safety and social distancing policies their individual placement schools.

Views from current Sussex trainees

"Thank you very much for being so welcoming (and awesome) throughout the induction period, I've felt like I've been in good hands the entire way and I have already learnt so much."

Secondary trainee

"Thank you for giving us a great start ahead of our teaching career. ITE team has been amazing and I feel you managed to create a great balance of blended learning. I have enjoyed all my sessions on and off campus. It is a crazy time in the world and I feel Sussex team has done an amazing job in adapting to the new regulations and guidance. I have made some great bonds with my peers and have had great support from all the teachers in preparation for school placement. I feel Canvas is an outstanding tool and has all the information that we need. It is very well organised."

Primary Trainee

Support from the wider University

The University of Sussex has so far seen a very small number of our community testing positive for Covid-19. The University traces all contacts and students have been exceptional in complying with a request to self-isolate.

The University will be providing all students in self-isolation with enhanced support.

For students on campus, clothes will be washed once a week, a pack of cleaning materials provided and cover for the delivery charge for grocery delivery slots. They will also be given £25 per week to help with food shopping. On campus students with a positive test will also receive a hot meal once a day without charge.

Students off campus will also get £40 per week financial assistance and the food delivery support, as well as an additional payment towards take-away hot meals if they are positive.

We will also provide proactive welfare support to all quarantined students wherever they live.