

Belfast Model School for Girls

Achievement for All



BEGINNING TEACHERS

EARLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Under the Guidelines of the BELB

Early Professional Development is intended to be a two-year period (Years 2 and 3 of a Beginning Teacher's career) building on Induction. This is a critical phase for the beginning teacher as professional attitudes, expectations, and practice mature and develop. During the EPD process the school acts as the lead partner but will be actively supported by the BELB staff. In school the Beginning Teacher will be supported by the relevant Teacher Tutor and Head of Department. The teacher may also elect to consult with a critical friend of his/her own choosing. It may also be useful for the BT at the outset of EPD to consult with colleagues who are midway through the cycle or have recently completed the EPD process.

EPD consists of two mandatory modules, Professional Development Activities (PDAs), which are normally completed in the second and third year of the EPD period. A PDA must focus on teaching and learning and may address areas such as the curriculum, classroom management, transferable skills etc. Education Technology must be incorporated in a meaningful way into each PDA. The firm focus will be on developing, supporting and improving practical teaching skills and encouraging the BT to become an increasingly reflective practitioner.

Information on the structure and content of PDAs and general information about EPD can be accessed on the NINE website (www.nine.org.uk). Each BT will receive introductory training on EPD from the BELB support staff early in the first year of the cycle. Substitute cover will be available for this essential training.

School support

Teacher Tutor (EPD): Dr Mary Pinkerton

BELB support

Beginning Teachers Support Officer - Advisory Officer Beginning Teachers, BELB, Telephone 9056 4000