



WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs. S. Randle

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www.whitehousepri.org.uk

Whitehouse Primary School

School Training Centre for Durham University BA Ed students

Whitehouse Primary School hold a long record in hosting ITT students. For many years, it has been a successful and supportive partner in a local cluster of schools that hosted a full cohort of Durham University, BA Ed students.

This role was expanded upon in 2009, when Whitehouse became a School Training Centre (STC) in its own right. Becoming a STC has meant that Whitehouse has taken up a key role in the Durham Partnership.

On average, Whitehouse takes 8 teaching students per year, thereby totalling 24 in a full cohort (Year 1, 2 and 3 students). The students are initially placed in Whitehouse School in their first year, and this does, indeed, remain their base for the duration of their teaching degree. Their programme of study includes a series of weekly training days, followed by a teaching block in the summer term. In addition to the support and development that Whitehouse affords these students, we also take the opportunity to develop our teaching staff, as they take on the role of Class Based Tutors (CBT) and mentors. We have developed a programme of seminars that we deliver to the students, and also provide training for teachers who are new to the role of CBT, plus further training for those who already have some experience and so are able to develop their knowledge, experience and skills further. In addition, The University offers training, on the school site, for CBTs and staff from any of the schools involved are able to come together for this. Teachers have also become skilled at carrying out lesson observations and in providing effective and supportive feedback.

In addition to the CBTs who support and develop the students on a daily/weekly basis, we have key members of staff who co-ordinate the School / Durham partnership. These staff are the School Training Centre Co-ordinators (STCC) and they take a key role in managing and leading the schools partnership, both with the university and with the students, themselves. Whitehouse currently has 3 STCCs, two being senior members of staff (one, the Acting Deputy Head) and another teacher who took up the STCC post last year and has been successfully developing her role.





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These teachers attend meetings with the University and are the key people who develop close, professional relationships with the cohort of students. Furthermore, we have an STCC whom the University invites to deliver lectures each year to the full cohort of students at the University (c. 90 students). These lectures usually are delivered to the Year 2 students, and are on topics such as assessment, focussed marking, working with SEND pupils and AFL.

As the students' progress to their 2nd and 3rd years, they are able to take up placements in other schools in the area, who are members of our 'cluster'. These 'cluster' schools work closely with Whitehouse School, and their staff benefit from the training and development opportunities that taking on a student provides, in the same way that Whitehouse staff do. In addition, Whitehouse builds up a very close, professional relationship with the range of schools in its cluster, and the staff who are all involved in the training programme. The STCCs maintain close contact with any students who have been placed out in other schools, and also with their CBTs and the Senior Leaders of their schools. Moderation visits also take place by University staff, helping to keep the system robust and successful.

On completing their final year, our students have an extremely good record of not only achieving very high grades (often receiving 'firsts'), but also in successfully gaining their first teaching posts. Our students come from all over the UK (and further afield, sometimes), and they often get jobs back in their home area, though sometimes some choose to stay in the North East.

Having student teachers in our school is something that Whitehouse values very highly. We see the students as part of our 'Whitehouse family', and we always treat them as such. The students that we have come into contact with, who are not part of our cohort, tell us that Whitehouse STC is known for being a very effective, supportive and positive centre, and one that provides its students with the best opportunities and level of care and support. Whitehouse believes that, in addition, the student presence enriches our own experiences and ensures that we all remain reflective, supportive and focussed on what makes excellent teaching and learning.

L. James STCC Whitehouse Primary School

