

ECT/ECF Bulletin w/b 31.1.22

Module 3: Developing High Quality Pedagogy

Teacher Standards 4 and 5: Plan and teach well-structured lessons and adapt teaching to respond to pupil needs

Week 5: Developing High Quality Classroom Talk

ECT Self Study Actions (to be completed prior to your mentor meeting)

The focus this week is on developing talk and specifically through group work. High quality talk can support pupils to articulate key ideas, to consolidate their understanding as well as to extend their vocabulary. This also links back to module 2 with its focus on literacy.

The materials stress that it is ‘thoughtful groupings’ - with the associated link to collaborative learning - that become the tool for supporting more effective learning. Group and oral work need to be carefully planned for. Simply putting pupils in groups and expecting them to talk about learning will not produce great outcomes.

There is a focus in the materials on the different types of groupings you can use. Remember, implementing effective group work can take weeks of practice and establishing the routines for group work is essential (back to module 1).

Your task – to plan two different type of group activities for one of your lessons next week. This could involve, for example, mixed ability groupings, mixed gender groupings, working in pairs or fours.

Mentor meeting key actions

This week your ECT has considered how the development of high-quality classroom talk should be embedded in the principles of effective pupil grouping.

In your weekly meeting you will help your ECT to understand:

- a) the importance of planning what they want their pupils to talk and think hard about and
- b) how to develop scaffolds and routines for high quality talk linked to that thinking

There could also be a focus on vocabulary in this session and I would recommend the work of Alex Quigley who has written on the ‘vocabulary gap’ to supplement any discussion on vocabulary development. Please Google him!

Additional Information

Facilitation meetings – these are coming up in the next few weeks and because of our late mid-term break the two ECT sessions will run back-to-back in weeks 6 and 7 of this half term. Facilitators will send out emails with specific dates and agenda details; please make a note of these in your diaries.

ECTs – OLC w/b 7th February
- Training session w/b 14th February

Mentors – OLC w/b 28th Feb

Even though module 3 lasts for the whole term there will still be a module assessment form to be completed in week 6 of this half term. It will, however, be a shortened version with quantitative responses only, meaning it will not take long to fill in.

Observations – There are no observations scheduled in the mentor meetings for this half term but feel free to get into classrooms and observe your ECT. They are saying, in feedback, that they learn much from this. Also, don’t forget a formal observation will be needed for this term’s statutory induction requirements.