

TIS and the role of the supporter

Q&A

Last updated: 19 August 2020

Q: Should a probationer be full time class committed after the Easter break?

A: If a probationer increases their class contact time to full time after Easter, it must be their choice. It should be recorded as professional learning in their profile, and they should still be released to attend any core professional learning sessions.

Q: Could I have some more clarity on the three-weekly cycle for observations? i.e. week 1 - discuss focus for observation week 2 - undertake observation + feedback - week 3 review action steps?

A: The three weekly cycle is not prescriptive but it gives time in between observations for the probationer to receive the feedback from their observation, work on the suggestions in the feedback and then start planning for the next observation without being under too much pressure.

Q: Just wanting to check - their whole day out of class counts towards their NCCT time? So we don't have to give them a further 2 hours?

A: I would suggest doing it the other way and counting their contact time rather than time out of class. Their contact time must be between 12 hours 23 mins and 18 hours. Any NCCT time is then included in the remaining non-contact time.

Q: Just out of interest, do we have more probationers this year than in a normal non-Covid year?

A: No, numbers of probationers are very similar to recent years.

Q: Just wondering how much time out of class the supporter should have? Is it just the one hour for the meeting?

A: Supporter time out of class is something for each local authority to decide. Funding is allocated to the local authority for each probationer and this includes funding to release the supporter, but how this is used varies. GTC Scotland would expect that a supporter is given an hour a week for the supporter meeting and some time to prepare and time to do observations – but we cannot insist.

Q: Is there a supporter's handbook that we will be sent?

A: Check with your probation manager as this may be something that your local authority has produced. This is a good idea and something that maybe GTC Scotland should produce in the future!

Q: Is there an allocated time that supporters should have non-contact time to meet with probationers or is this to be done in RICCT time?

A: Supporter meetings should happen during the probationer's non-contact time if possible.

Q: Current climate doesn't allow for active learning - this is not possible. Also, unable to observe various curricular areas as a focus on Lit, Num & HWB. Will this be acceptable for up to December at least?

A: Yes.

Q: Will we be able to see the IPDAP before 1st September or is that part of profile?

A: The IPDAP is part of the profile. However the information in the IPDAP is copied from the ITE profile. The probationer may have a copy of the ITE profile that they can share with you before 1 September.

Q: Can you clarify do probationers receive additional non-contact time as part of a school's RCCT planning?

A: Their class contact time is between 12hours 23mins and 18 hours. Any non-contact outwith this includes RCCT planning.

Q: So, do probationers not submit any mentor meeting etc until after Sep 1st?

A: They should keep a record of any supporter meetings that have happened prior to their profile being available and enter these retrospectively once the profile is available to them.

Q: If we have a meeting before profile is active can the details be added in retrospectively?

A: Yes.

Q: If HT is the mentor does it just get signed off by the same person rather than passed on to someone else?

A: In this situation the HT is required to sign in as the supporter when in this role and then log in as the HT when logging in to confirm the recommendation. There will be two links to click on to gain access to the profile – one for supporter and one for the HT.

Q: I realise the question was asked, but I'm still not sure how the supporters access the profiles to sign off on meetings etc?

A: Supporters log in to MyGTCS on the GTC Scotland website and click on 'Profiles'. The probationer's profile will then be visible and a list of any areas requiring to be signed off will be visible.

Q: Can I check that when the NQTs get their profile do they add their supporter?

A: The supporter's details will already have been entered by the probation manager.

Q: As we are unable to do any collaborative/active learning with shared resources at the moment, I presume this won't negatively impact their profile as the vast majority of lessons will be "chalk and talk"? I'm worried about her not being able to do any big, collaborative lessons to trial various strategies. Thanks.

A: No, this won't have a negative impact.

Q: How will supporter teachers get access the probation teacher's profile, do they need to add us or will that be done by the Probationer manager?

A: The probation manager will already have entered the supporter's details.

Q: Should we expect these probationers to require more support than previous probationers given that their placements were cut short?

A: Every probationer who is starting TIS has met the Standard for Provisional Registration – the same as any other year. They may have had less classroom

experience depending on the disruption to their placement pattern before the summer. We will monitor the impact of this in the early part of this session and offer support if required.

Q: Would you still be looking for team teaching or should that be on the back burner at the moment?

A: Team teaching should be recorded as professional learning and is optional.

Q: where can the mentors/supporters see the probationer's profile for sign off?

A: The profile can be viewed by logging in to MyGTCS.

Q: For probationer days - is these will be virtual will they be recorded so that our probationers can access them on their day out or will they all need to get cover on the same day to join virtual meetings live (we have 3 in one school)

A: I would suggest asking your probation manager about expectations for probationer days.

Q: Are there suggested durations for the probationers non class contact time activities? E.g how long for planning and preparation, team teaching, courses etc.

A: Timings can be flexible. I would suggest that the supporter and probationer discuss this at their weekly meeting.

Q: Is it expected that the supporter uses their weekly non- contact time to have the supporter meetings and conduct the class observations?

A: Yes, if possible.

Q: What happens with the probationer days if we go back to home schooling?

A: If this happens we will provide guidance and share expectations as we did before the summer.

Q: Should a probationer supporter be a full-time member of staff?

A: No, not necessarily.

Q: Do supporters usually have any time out of class apart from their NCCT, e.g. to observe the probationer?

A: Each LA manages how much time supporters are given out of class to support their probationer in weekly meetings, observations and preparation. This may vary in different schools.

Q: Is the Flexi-route completely different procedures to the TIS? IS there going to be a Webinar on supporting a Flexi-route probationer?

A: There are some similarities but also some significant differences to consider when supporting a Flexible Route probationer.

There will be a webinar on this topic on Tuesday 15 September, 4pm to 4.45pm.

We will share the link to join at the beginning of September.

Q: I believe the probationer profiles will be up and running by 1st Sept. Will details be sent to probationers? If so, will tis be sent to personal / university email?

A: The probationers will see their profile when they log in to their MyGTCS account – details of log in details are to be shared with the probationers by email from GTC Scotland at the end of August.

Q: As a supporter do I have to do anything to my existing GTCS account / profile?

A: You are not required to do anything to your account.

Q: Will there be a document template for October return?

A: Yes the Early Progress Report will be shared with probation managers to circulate to schools and supporters.

Q: What happens when it comes to self-isolation re. causes for concern?

A: If a probationer is self-isolating for 14 days then technically they are still working and the same arrangements should be made as for other members of staff. A probationer can still continue to work towards meeting the SFR when working from home.

Q: Is there a document template for weekly meetings?

A: There is a suggested template on the GTC Scotland website.