**Assurance of Fundamental English and Mathematics Competencies**

All teachers are expected to be competent in Fundamental English and mathematics. By the end of the period of initial teacher training, all trainees must be able to demonstrate competence in the following areas:

**Speaking, listening and communicating**

Speaking, listening and communicating are fundamental to a teacher’s role. Teachers should use standard English grammar, clear pronunciation and vocabulary relevant to the situation to convey instructions, questions, information, concepts and ideas with clarity.

**Reading**

Teachers should read fluently and with good understanding.

**Writing**

Writing by teachers will be seen by colleagues, pupils and parents and, as such, it is important that a teacher’s writing reflects the high standards of accuracy their professional role demands. They should write clearly, accurately, legibly and coherently using correct spelling and punctuation.

**Mathematics**

Teachers should use data and graphs to interpret information, identify patterns and trends and draw appropriate conclusions. They need to interpret pupil data and understand statistics and graphs in the news, academic reports and relevant papers.

Teachers should be able to complete mathematical calculations fluently with whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percentages. They should be able to solve mathematical problems using a variety of methods and approaches including: estimating and rounding, sense checking answers, breaking down problems into simpler steps and explaining and justifying answers using appropriate language.

This will be achieved through initial diagnostic assessment of fundamental English and mathematics skills at interview and ongoing development through formative and summative course assignments and tasks. Those identified as needing further development in English will be targeted for additional support from the Academic Skills Tutor. An online development programme for fundamental mathematics skills will be targeted at those identified at interview as needing development in maths.

Trainees’ skills will be monitored throughout the programme and assured as part of the final assessment of the trainees against the Teachers’ Standards.

Diagnostic tests at interview:

1. Mathematics competencies will be tested through a multiple choice paper test at interview.
2. English competencies will be assessed through the formal interview, teaching task and written responses.

**Interview support**

If you require any additional support to complete the interview tasks, for example as a result of a disability, please notify us in advance. Please bring evidence of additional needs with you to the interview.