



St Anne's Community College – Student Teacher Placement Policy

The school's policy on student teacher placement informs the understanding of the whole school community (management, staff, parents and students) regarding the school's engagement with the initial teacher education (ITE) programmes – particularly the school placement component of those programmes.

This policy was created taking into account the particular circumstances in St Anne's Community College and its commitment to engaging in the process of , teacher education, in partnership with the Higher Education Institutes (HEI) and includes the Teaching Council's Guidelines on Student Teacher Placement.

1. Introduction

The Board of Management of St. Anne's Community College acknowledges the following regarding the initial teacher education and the role of school placement in this process.

- a. Positive school placement experiences are critical to ensuring appropriate initial teacher education for all student teachers.
- b. Close collaboration between schools and HEIs is essential to positive and meaningful school placement experiences for student teachers.
- c. St Anne's Community College supports student teacher placement providing student teachers with the opportunity to both observe the teaching of suitably qualified practicing teachers and to teach independently where applicable.

- d. In the course of teacher placement, student teachers are supported by the whole-school community as they develop professional competence.
- e. Hosting student teachers on placement is enriching for learners, student teachers, co-operating teachers, the wider school community and HEIs. In particular, learners benefit from the great variety of teaching, learning and co-curricular experiences through the structured participation of student teachers in the school. St Anne's Community College also gains access to a variety of up to date approaches to teaching and learning through its engagement with student teachers and HEI staff.
- f. HEI placement tutors benefit from partnership experiences with schools and from being in the school setting during visits to student teachers.
- g. Mentoring for student teachers ensures the parameters for professional a teacher/student relationship are established at an early stage in a teacher's career.

2. Aims of Student Teacher Placement

- a. To provide an opportunity for student teachers to work with learners on a professional level in a structured environment.
- b. To enable a controlled exchange of teaching methodologies and skills between student teachers and co-operating teachers.
- c. To enable learners to be exposed to alternative teaching methodologies.
- d. To support student teachers in their professional development.

3. Implications for St Anne's Community College hosting student teachers on placement

- a. The student teacher will observe classes being taught by members of the school's teaching staff.
- b. The student teacher will teach classes, in the first instance, while being observed and supported by the teacher.
- c. The primary responsibility of both the co-operating teacher and student teacher will be the welfare and educational progress of the co-operating teacher's class.

- d. As the student teacher gains in competence, the student teacher will move to teaching classes independently in line with HEI requirements and the student teacher's particular stage of development on the ITE programme.
- e. The student teacher's progress with the class will be monitored throughout the placement by the co-operating teacher.
- f. The co-operating teacher may be required to give further in-class support to the student teacher if any difficulties with students arise.

4. Scheduling of student teachers on placement

- a. A request for a student teaching placement will only be considered following a written request from a HEI or from an individual to the Principal or Deputy Principal.
- b. The Deputy Principal will allocate student teachers to co-operating teachers and classes, having regard to:
 - i. The particular needs of learners.
 - ii. The stage the student teacher is at in his/her initial teacher education.
 - iii. The requirement of the student teacher to experience an appropriate range of placement contexts.
 - iv. Maintaining the balance between teacher led and student teacher led classes across year groups.

5. Induction of student teacher on placement

- a. Student teachers will, prior to commencing their placement, be provided with an orientation to the key personnel, ethos and work of the school.
 - b. Student teachers will be provided with an information pack that will include details of key school policies, in particular the school's:
 - i. Code of Positive Behaviour.
 - ii. Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures.
 - iii. Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment
 - iv. ICT and Acceptable Usage Policy
- 6. Responsibility for students in terms of 'duty of care' and 'in loco parentis'.**

Supports for the Student Teacher

- a. St Anne's whole-school community is committed to supporting positively and sensitively the student teacher in accordance with the Guidelines on School Placement developed by the Teaching Council in consultation with all relevant education partners.
- b. St Anne's Community College is committed to allocating the student teacher to (an) appropriate co-operating teacher(s) and to the classes essential to him/her undertaking his/her school placement successfully.
- c. St Anne's Community College will provide the student teacher with the teaching facilities and resources necessary to his/her work during the placement.

7. Professional Conduct

Student Teachers are expected to:

- a. Be professionally presented in terms of attire and overall appearance.
- b. Be punctual.
- c. Respect the privacy and confidentiality of all members of the school community.
- d. Show interest and enthusiasm in the preparation and teaching of lessons.
- e. Adhere to the school's policies and procedures.

8. Continuing professional development for staff involved in supporting/facilitating student teacher placement.

- a. St Anne's senior management are committed to promoting and facilitating the participation of school staff in continuing professional development programmes essential to ensuring the successful operation of student teacher placement in the school.

9. Communication of school placement policy to school community.

- a. A copy of the Student Teacher School Placement Policy is made available to student teachers, school personnel and the parents association.
- b. The policy is readily accessible to parents on request. In particular, a copy of the policy shall be published on the school website.

10. Policy review

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management of St Anne's Community College periodically.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 16th June 2022.

Signed



Chairperson to the Board of Management

Signed



Principal