

## Strengthening Early Career Teacher and Teaching Assistant Deployment for Educational Inclusion: Professional Development for School Practitioners

### Course at a glance

<b>Audience</b>	ECTs and TAs working in primary and secondary schools
<b>Dates</b>	3-session hybrid programme taking place between February – April 2026
<b>Content</b>	Inclusive pedagogy, effective TA deployment, planning and feedback, strategies for pupil support, and teacher-TA collaboration
<b>Cost</b>	£55 per school – covers one ECT plus one additional staff member (e.g., TA or second ECT) & asynchronous resources

Take part in the programme by completing this [expression of interest form](#)

### What is the course about and why is it important?

Teacher attitudes towards inclusion and special educational needs and/or disabilities are critical in shaping children's experiences of school. Equally, the effective deployment of teaching assistants has been identified as a key factor in developing classroom practices that are inclusive of all learners. Yet, for many early career teachers, these are areas where they often feel most underprepared.

This professional development programme aims to work with early career teachers and teaching assistants to develop inclusive teaching that is enhanced by, but not wholly reliant on teaching assistant support. Throughout the programme's three sessions, participants will be given the opportunity to engage with current research and use this to explore their own school and classroom context as part of an ongoing process of professional inquiry.

Co-designed with early career teachers and experts in the field and drawing on data from case studies and a national survey, the programme will address the most pressing challenges facing classroom practitioners in this area. It will cover the following key themes:

- Inclusive pedagogy and Universal Design for Learning
- Models of practitioner classroom deployment
- Strategies for pupil support
- Planning, preparation and feedback
- Teacher-TA relationships

The programme will be run by Dr Geoffrey Lewis from the Department of Education Studies, University of Warwick, who led the [Strengthening Early Career Teacher and Teaching Assistant Deployment for Educational Inclusion](#) project. Before becoming a researcher, he worked in primary schools for fifteen years in various roles, including senior leader and SENCo.

## Who is the professional development aimed at and what will it cost?

The programme is aimed at early career teachers and teaching assistants who currently work in primary and secondary schools located in Coventry Local Authority. The cost of the programme is £55 per school, which covers the cost of an early career teacher and up to one other member of staff to attend (e.g., a teaching assistant, a second early career teacher). This will also include access to shorter, recorded versions of the programme's core content that can be watched asynchronously by other practitioners at your school.

## What impact will the professional development have?

The programme was piloted in May and June 2025 with 19 practitioners from 12 primary schools across England. The impact of the programme was measured using a pre- and post-programme questionnaire, with the majority of participants reporting moderate, significant or very significant change in areas covered by the programme. 100% of participants said they were likely or very likely to recommend the programme to colleagues.

## How do schools sign up and when will the course run?

You can take part in the programme by completing this [expression of interest form](#). Once submitted, you will receive further details confirming your school's place. In the event that there are no places left on the programme, your name will be added to a waiting list. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

The programme will run between February and April 2026 and will take place over three sessions (see next page for details).

If you would like further information about the programme or to discuss bespoke options for delivering the training across a partnership or academy trust, then please get in touch by emailing [Geoffrey.Lewis@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:Geoffrey.Lewis@warwick.ac.uk)

## Dates for Academic Year 2025-26

Programme for Primary Schools	Programme for Secondary Schools
<b>Session 1</b> Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 1430-1700 In-person, Westwood Campus, University of Warwick (Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided)	<b>Session 1</b> Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 1430-1700 In-person, Westwood Campus, University of Warwick (Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided)
<b>Session 2</b> Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 1545-1715 Online via MS Teams	<b>Session 2</b> Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 1545-1715 Online via MS Teams
<b>Session 3</b> Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2026 1545-1715 Online via MS Teams	<b>Session 3</b> Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026 1545-1715 Online via MS Teams