Fundamental English and maths skills

Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers are expected to make an assessment of the English and maths knowledge of a trainee before Qualified Teacher Status is awarded. The following guidance demonstrates the fundamental skills required to be a teacher. The interview process assesses a candidate's strengths in these areas. Once accepted onto one of our courses, it is the responsibility of trainees to fill any gaps before the end of their training year.

Speaking, Listening and Communicating:

- Identify key information and main points from discussion or presentations.
- Demonstrate effective listening skills and the ability to follow a line of thought.
- Use a range of questions appropriate to purpose and context.
- Communicate information and ideas clearly, adding appropriate detail.
- Speak with Standard English grammar and clear pronunciation, using vocabulary relevant to the situation.
- Manage discussions effectively.

Reading:

- Extract key points and more specific information from texts.
- Recognise that different texts convey information, opinions and ideas in different ways
- Accurately comprehend meanings in texts.
- Use dictionaries, glossaries, internet searches and other reference materials in your own work.
- Know how to use organisational features of texts to rapidly locate and retrieve information.
- Be able to identify different points of view from reading material and distinguish fact from opinion.

Writing:

- Demonstrate a range of sentence constructions and punctuation in written work.
- Use Standard English grammar in written work.
- Spell common and everyday words that a professional would be expected to know.
- Ensure written work conveys meaning clearly, coherently and effectively using appropriate detail and length.
- Use a range of organisational devices in written work, ensuring the text is coherent and cohesive
- Use legible and clear writing appropriate to the situation and audience.

Data and Graphs:

- Describe simple mathematical relationships between two variables.
- Analyse data in a table and draw conclusions from the information provided.

- Make sense of statistics and graphs in the news, in academic reports and relevant papers.
- Identify and interpret anomalies and outliers in data tables or on graphs.

Mathematical Calculations:

- Calculate using whole and decimal numbers.
- Make changes to an existing mathematical formula to carry out calculations.
- Work out percentages of amounts, express one amount as a percentage of another and calculate percentage change.
- Order, approximate and compare decimals, fractions and percentages.
- Understand and calculate using ratios, direct proportion and inverse proportion.
- Carry out simple budgeting by calculating amounts of money, percentage increases, decreases and discounts.

Solve Mathematical Problems:

- Solve mathematical problems by breaking them down into a series of simpler steps and selecting appropriate operations.
- Make general estimates of calculations to be able to judge the reasonableness of an answer.
- Know how to use a variety of strategies when counting, measuring or estimating.
- Calculate using units of time.