



May 2017

Dear Head Teacher

I am writing to you with details of our placement opportunities for 2017-18 and thought I would begin by outlining some of the benefits of hosting trainee teachers on school based training placements.

Schools that welcome our trainee teachers into their classrooms for school based training play a crucial role in developing future teachers and supporting teacher recruitment in the West Midlands area. Schools in our partnership successfully recruit NQTs from trainee teachers placed in their schools. Many schools have found that this is an opportunity to significantly reduce the risks of recruiting NQTs, because they are recruiting trainee teachers that have been teaching in their school, who have established working relationships with staff and who already understand the context of the school.

Teachers are lifelong learners and many teachers have commented that working with trainee teachers can improve their own teaching. Trainee teachers can bring a fresh outlook on teaching into the classroom and many teachers are happy to 'magpie' new ideas and innovative approaches. Trainee teachers can also contribute areas of expertise to enhance and develop curriculum provision.

Trainee teachers also offer the opportunity for true collaboration in planning learning, to meet the needs of all groups of children, so class teachers are able to work closely with identified groups and can plan and deliver focused interventions that can have a real impact on pupil progress.

Our schools-led partnership offers school based training to over 700 primary trainee teachers, and is at the heart of the high quality initial teacher education offered by Birmingham City University. We value our strong and collaborative relationships with over 400 primary schools in the West Midlands and we are always keen to extend and develop our Partnership with new schools.

Working in partnership with the School of Education and Social Work can take a number of forms, including offering school based training placements, interviewing course applicants, delivering specialist teaching sessions and joining the Primary Partnership Strategic Leadership Group.

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you in the coming academic year so please look at the Placement Opportunities Pack that we have enclosed. Your placement offers can be made on the form enclosed or via the email pack we have sent you.

If you are unable to offer us any placements this year it would be really helpful if you could still return the form to us so that we can gather information from schools about the challenges of hosting placements and work in partnership to use this evidence to develop more effective practices.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss working in partnership with us please contact our partnership team [Education.Partnerships@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Education.Partnerships@bcu.ac.uk) or 0121 331 7702 and Kul, Rhian or Craig will be very happy to talk to you!

Best wishes

Helen Yorke

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