

ECT Align Update

Looking after yourself by balancing the various demands of life and building professional resilience is a key message for all teachers, but especially for ECTs.

While every point in the school calendar can feel busy, many find the start of the summer term especially demanding. Tests and exams bring additional challenges across all schools; however, this is also a special time of year. Strong relationships have been established, classes are settled into routines, and plans for end of year transitions and celebrations begin to take shape.

With longer daylight hours, there is also more opportunity to enjoy the lighter evenings and take time for yourself outside of school.

As part of ECT Conference 1, a range of strategies are explored to support teacher wellbeing and effective time management. Striking a healthy balance between work and rest is essential to being at your best in the classroom.

Whether it's a change of scenery, spending time with family and friends, getting some exercise, or simply taking time to relax, on behalf of the whole ECT Align team, we hope you use at least some of your half term break to rest, recharge and reflect.

DfE satisfaction survey

This year's DfE satisfaction survey will be available for ECTs and mentors from 12 May and will pop up as soon as you log into Steplab.

A further short survey will pop up the next time you log into Steplab about knowledge and behaviour change, along with recommendations to a colleague.

We would really appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete these surveys. Your feedback is invaluable in helping the DfE understand what's working well and how the programme can continue to improve. Thank you for your support.

Registration update

The Department of Education (DfE) launched a new, improved platform for all Early Career Teacher Entitlement (ECTE) registrations on 28 April.

From now on, you will need to sign in to [Register early career teachers](#) (RECT) using your DfE sign in to:

- register ECTs and mentors
- make mentor amendments
- update participants' personal details.

Mentor funding

Your school will recently have received a reminder from the DfE regarding funding for your mentors on the ECTP. If you have any questions about whether your mentors will be eligible for funding, please contact Rachel at ECT.Align@hants.gov.uk.

ECT Align 2026-28

We are really excited to launch **ECT Align 2026-28** where we are continuing our partnership with Ambition Institute, a nationally recognised lead provider whose Early Career Training programme was judged *Outstanding* by Ofsted in 2025.



**Give your early
career teachers
the best start**

with our Early Career Training
Programme



95% of school leaders would
recommend Ambition's ECT
programme to another leader



Key features:

- **fully funded** by the Department of Education (based on full participation)
- expert trainers with classroom examples and experience to draw on to help your ECTs in their journey
- aimed at sharing the joy and self fulfilment of teaching whilst balancing workload and wellbeing
- helping your ECTs become more confident, competent and expert in the classroom through our open approaches

More details can be found in our [School Comm](#) published on Monday 18 May.

If you have any questions about the programme, or the registration process, please get in touch with Rachel and she will be happy to help ECT.Align@hants.gov.uk

Our forms

[ECT registration form](#)

[ECT Leavers form](#)

[Mentor amendments form](#)

[Extension request](#)

[Reduction request](#)



Get in touch with Rachel and the ECT
Align team

ECT.Align@hants.gov.uk