

I am currently an associate teacher at St George's Primary School as part of the SCITT programme, (school centred initial teacher training). Being in school from day one has enabled me to be involved with the school; get to know how the school is run as well as being in class straight away. The school have welcomed me with open arms from my very first day and I have felt like part of the team, this has helped me to settle in a lot quicker and encouraged new relationships with staff and children.

This route into teacher training is direct and practical. I have learnt from my class mentor everyday which has enabled me to demonstrate my understanding and apply this to my own teaching practice.

My class mentor has been brilliant; she has supported and guided me from day one until my last day. For the first few weeks I just observed the class teacher, from this I learnt how the school day ran, the transitions throughout the day and gained an understanding of how I needed to teach through modelling skills and techniques used by my class teacher. The process of direct teacher training is very gradual, first you observe lessons, then you take small groups, you start to plan little activities, plan for introductions of lessons then full lessons.

My class teacher has given me the opportunity to share new ideas, set homework for the children and share the classroom environment. I have worked closely with the school behaviour policy and developed my own behaviour system for the children for when I teach them.

My confidence in the classroom has improved massively this has solely been down to the support and guidance I have been given through my time in school. I very much believe that this route into teaching will give me the knowledge and understanding to improve and develop as a teacher and I will feel confident by the end of term three to begin my career as a teacher.

Yasmin Bennison