



Appropriate Body Services

All schools that offer a statutory induction are required to have an Appropriate Body (AB) for their Early Career Teachers (ECTs). An ECT cannot begin their statutory induction until they have been registered with an AB.

As well as ensuring that ECTs receive their statutory entitlements, Appropriate Bodies will ensure that the statutory guidance is followed and that ECTs are fairly and consistently assessed against the [Teachers' Standards](#). ABs are also expected to check that ECTs are receiving a programme of support and training based on the [Early Career Framework \(ECF\)](#).

Following the [reform of AB services](#), from 2023-24 Local Authorities are not permitted to take on new ECTs, and from August 2024 the AB role will be provided exclusively by Teaching School Hubs, like [Pathfinder Teaching School Hub](#). Pathfinder can provide Appropriate Body Services for schools following any of the three routes that schools can access for an ECF-based induction. The DfE preference, and AB recommendation, is that schools follow a [fully-funded training provider induction programme](#) using a lead provider, for their ECTs. In line with this, Pathfinder Teaching School Hub uses [Ambition Institute's ECF Programme](#).

The core section of Pathfinder's AB services across all ECF-based induction routes includes:

- Providing a 'named contact' within the AB for questions and concerns.
- Providing access to ECT Manager, the online platform to manage and record AB Services, reducing administrative burdens for schools.
- Providing briefing meetings and guidance for Induction Tutors on making assessments and review writing.
- Providing welcome meetings for ECTs in September.
- Reviewing termly assessments and providing feedback.
- Reviewing annual assessments and providing feedback.
- Signing off successful completion of induction.
- Considering and agreeing extensions or early/fast track completing of induction where appropriate.
- Communicating key information to the TRA about new ECTs, leavers, outcomes of induction, extensions etc.
- Telephone and email support for queries.
- Visits and meetings if additional support is required.
- Quality assurance visits to a sample of schools annually.

In addition to the above, schools that choose an alternative to the fully funded provider-led route will have additional quality assurance and fidelity checks. These schools have greater responsibilities on them to ensure they are providing an appropriate ECF-based induction. If you are considering pursuing an alternative to the fully funded provider-led route, please [contact us](#) so we can discuss these additional responsibilities with you.

2023-24 Charges for Appropriate Body Services

	YEAR 1 ECT	YEAR 2 ECT
Fully Funded provider-led programme (using a lead provider)	£225	£225
DfE accredited materials (additional QA and fidelity checks required)	£550	£550
School-led design and delivery (additional QA and fidelity checks required)	POA	POA

Please note that the statutory [Induction for early career teachers](#) and [Appropriate bodies guidance](#) documents have been updated for September 2023. There is now a requirement to ensure:

"ECT and mentor sessions are expected to be timetabled during teaching hours. In exceptional circumstances however where schools require flexibility due to timetabling constraints, mentoring may take place outside of teaching hours but should always be scheduled within contracted time (see para 2.44)."

I have an ECT starting in September 2023, what do I do next?

Check you are meeting the mentor, induction tutor and timetable requirements as per the [NEW guidance documents](#) then:

- 1) Register your ECTs for the ECF Full Induction Programme and Appropriate Body Services [here](#).
- 2) Register with the [DfE](#) when the portal opens - date TBC but expected from 3 July onwards.
- 3) Register with [Pathfinder's ECT Manager portal](#).