

Communication to Partners: 18th September 2020

Dear Colleague,

We hope you are well as you navigate the new academic year and become familiar with the new way of working that we are all adopting currently. If you would like further information about the adjustments the university has made in relation to teaching on campus, please click here <https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/startingthenewacademicyear/>

Placement Risk Assessments

In our communication last week, we talked about working with our partnership to update guidance in relation to Covid-19 and how we were preparing to provide support to our settings in relation to placements. As promised, we can now share the University Placement Risk Assessment with you for you to consider. We hope, having worked with school leaders and Health & Safety Managers from across the partnership, that this will complement the induction documentation that you already have in place for welcoming trainees into your setting. This is a live document which will be continually updated in light of any government or policy announcements.

Updated Partnership Agreement

Please also find attached here an updated copy of our Partnership Agreement with its new Covid-19 related section.

The significant changes for partners in respect of the agreement are:

- ensure that trainees are covered under the health and safety procedures and risk assessments in place for existing employees, including procedures and guidelines relating to Covid-19
- notify the university via email partnershipoffice@hope.ac.uk if you have closed your setting or if a year group has been required to isolate
- ensuring where possible, students are placed in Covid-19 'school bubbles' of pupils and staff or alternative measures that are in place for your setting.
- where there is a class, school or local lockdown, you will endeavour to support trainees in continuing to be involved with alternative teaching arrangements for the duration of their placement

Please be assured that if you have already signed the partnership agreement for this year, whether through the Partnership Hub or via email, this remains in place and you need take no further action. However, if you feel that you would like to discuss these changes before committing to the updated agreement do let us know via email partnershipoffice@hope.ac.uk

Hosting Trainee Placements

If you have already submitted your placement requests for this academic year, we thank you sincerely. If you have not yet considered your requests, you still have time and we would be very grateful for your support. Please see attached Placement Calendar for specific dates and the link to the Partnership Hub here:

[LINK TO PARTNERSHIP HUB](#)

Username: URN134245

If you would like to discuss this further with your Professional Placement Tutor or Subject Lead please don't hesitate to contact them directly, or a member of our partnership team can put you in touch.

We realise it will be difficult for partner schools to balance the additional needs and demands in the immediate future and we really do appreciate that. However, during this time of rapid change, we will still need to educate a strong cohort of well qualified new teachers to continue to provide excellent, enthusiastic input for our pupils.

Keeping in Touch

We will continue to update you with developments at the university and ask that you do the same so that we can continue to ensure that our strategies complement those of your setting. Importantly we will continue to put the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and partners at the forefront of any decisions we make.

Stay safe and well and thank you for all you do in supporting the education of our children and the next generation of teachers.

Best wishes,

Louise

Louise Daley
Head of Professional Formation