



Eleanor Jones

KS2 Teacher at Riverside Primary School, Wirral

Do you think that your attendance on the course has increased your confidence and/or expertise in relation to mentoring?

Yes definitely. I feel like I have a strong grasp of the role of a mentor and different approaches to this. As mentoring can often involve little training before you begin, it was nice to develop a bit of confidence in what I have been doing, such as questioning for reflection, providing emotional support.

How has what you have learned on the course so far impacted upon your role as a mentor? Has it had any wider impact?

It has had a wider impact as my SLT have now seen my passion for mentoring as it is something I really enjoy and they are aware of the course. Due to this, I have now started to become the PLC alongside another colleague as well as have it as part of my own professional development targets. I have felt more confident at supporting colleagues, especially when a student was needing support and was placed on a teacher support plan due to me spotting this.

How has the course contributed to your own professional development? Do you have a better understanding of the evidence base and current research?

Yes, the assignments have helped me to understand the research around mentoring as well as complete my own literature review. I have also been able to implement these strategies learnt into my own practice as a mentor and colleague.

Do you think the course has impacted, or will impact in the future, upon whole school strategic development?

Possibly - SLT have now placed leading mentoring at my school as one of my targets and they encourage me to involve myself with Hope when tutors have contacted me to involve me in things. We have an extremely close partnership with Hope and this course has allowed me to become part of that.



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How has the course helped you to develop skills of critical reflection upon your practice as a mentor?

I was able to look at the different theories and approaches and reflect on what worked for myself and my trainees. The portfolio also helped me to see what I had 'evidence' for in terms of mentoring standards and what I, as well as my school, could improve on.

Overall Intellectual progress:

[My tutor] was very helpful and informative. She challenged me through using breakout rooms to discuss different aspects/theories which meant you had to reflect on what you'd just heard and discuss it. We were also given reading which challenged my presumptions about the role of the mentor/mentee. The course has really heightened my interest in supporting trainees and I know that professionally this is something I want to continue with and have a focus on.

Presentation and teaching:

The sessions were interactive and we were always able to ask questions. We could also easily share ideas. It would have been nice to have had maybe 1 or 2 sessions face-to-face so that we could get to know others in the group a bit more but Covid-19 prevented this and it works well for work/home balance. It worked really well having the pre-recorded seminars so that we could listen as well, as I find this much more beneficial than just reading.



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