**Ashton on Mersey SCITT**

**Risk of Failure Policy**

**Author: S Buckley Date written/amended: 15th October 2020**

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**Aims and Values**

It is the aim of Ashton on Mersey SCITT to ensure that all trainees are given the full opportunity to complete their Initial Teacher Training programme and gain their Qualified Teacher Status.

We are aware that on rare occasions trainee teachers do not make the necessary progress to be able to meet the Teacher Standards by the end of the programme. If this is in the case, the trainee becomes a cause for concern potentially then being at risk of failure.

This does not mean that the trainee will not successfully complete the SCITT programme, it is a process that allows the SCITT to put in place a formal system of support as early as possible. This process should not come as a surprise to the trainee. Any trainee who finds themselves at risk will have been in contact with the Course Leader who will explain next steps.

This document sets out stages to be followed by the SCITT in response to any concerns raised by placement schools or SCITT staff in relation to the trainee’s progress. This document should be read in conjunction with the SCITT code of conduct which sets out procedures to be followed if a trainee’s personal or professional conduct comes into question.

Whilst there are formal opportunities for mentors to raise concerns with SCITT staff regarding a trainee such as the mid and end of placement reviews within each placement, we also ask them to raise concerns with the SCITT informally when necessary at any point during the programme.

**Risk of Failure procedures**

If a trainee is identified as having difficulty meeting the Teacher Standards during their placement. A cause for concern will be raised to flag any issues regarding the trainee’s progress.

**Cause for Concern:**

The SCITT will hold a central record for all cause for concerns raised by either a mentor, Headteacher, facilitator or a member of the SCITT team (including QI leads).

If a concern is raised around a trainee’s progress or attainment the first step would be to inform the Course Leader of the concerns and for a cause for concern action plan to be put into place. The action plan is completed with the trainee teacher, course leader and mentor. The purpose of the form is to identify the causes for concern and set clear action points (maximum of 3 per trainee) with strategies in place to support the trainee. The action points will be linked to the Teacher Standards. The actions will then be reviewed by the course leader/mentor/trainee at the agreed review point.

Examples of cause for concerns include:

* Trainee has not responded to mentor’s request for planning to be submitted prior to a lesson
* Increased incidents of punctuality/attendance
* Trainee is not making expected progress in the classroom

During the review meeting the Course Leader will assess and gather evidence based on the targets set for the trainee. If all targets have been met then the trainee will be taken off Cause for Concern and be ‘Back on Track’. If the trainees has partly met the targets then they will be allowed one extension and a new review date will be set by the Course Leader. If the trainee has not met the targets then the Course Leader will move them onto a risk of failure action plan.

**Risk of Failure:**

The risk of failure action plan will be completed with the trainee teacher, course leader and mentor. The purpose of the form is set the targets against the initial cause for concern and set clear action points (maximum of 3 per trainee) with strategies in place to support the trainee. The action points will be linked to the Teacher Standards. The actions will then be reviewed by the course leader/mentor at the agreed review point.

During the review meeting the Course Leader will assess and gather evidence based on the targets set for the trainee. If all targets have been met then the trainee will be taken off the Risk of Failure Action Plan and be ‘Back on Track’. If the trainee has not met the targets then the Course Leader and SCITT Manager will pass this onto the Head of Teaching School. They will then review all the evidence, including the cause for concern and risk of failure action plans and review comments. The Head of Teaching School will then make a decision as to whether the trainee continues on the risk of failure action plan or if they need to be withdrawn from the programme. The Head of Teaching School will present all evidence to a member of the Strategic Board and they will make a decision based on their findings.

If the trainee would like to appeal this decision then they need to formally write to the Strategic Board asking them to review the decision of withdrawal by the Head of Teaching.

Further information regarding appeals can be found in the SCITTs appeals policy