



## Strand A: School-based Induction

### Taisce: Portfolio-based Learning

Portfolio-based learning is an important process to support you as an NQT engaging in professional conversations during the Droichead process, in a way that is effective and helpful. The Teaching Council uses the term Taisce (arising from the Gaeilge translation, treasure trove) to refer to this process. Therefore, as a self-directed learner and to support reflective practice, you will maintain a Taisce. Engaging in the process of portfolio-based learning provides a structure which enables you to reflect on your professional learning and identify and plan for areas in which you may need further support or guidance.

Droichead allows for a large measure of flexibility in the creation of Taisce, with the format and contents decided and owned by you. Ideally, it should include key learning moments and insights from the Droichead process, including school-based induction i.e. observation of other teachers teaching, feedback following post-observation professional conversations with PST members, etc. Key learning moments from additional professional learning activities, including insights from cluster meetings and/or other professional learning events/conversations, may also be included.

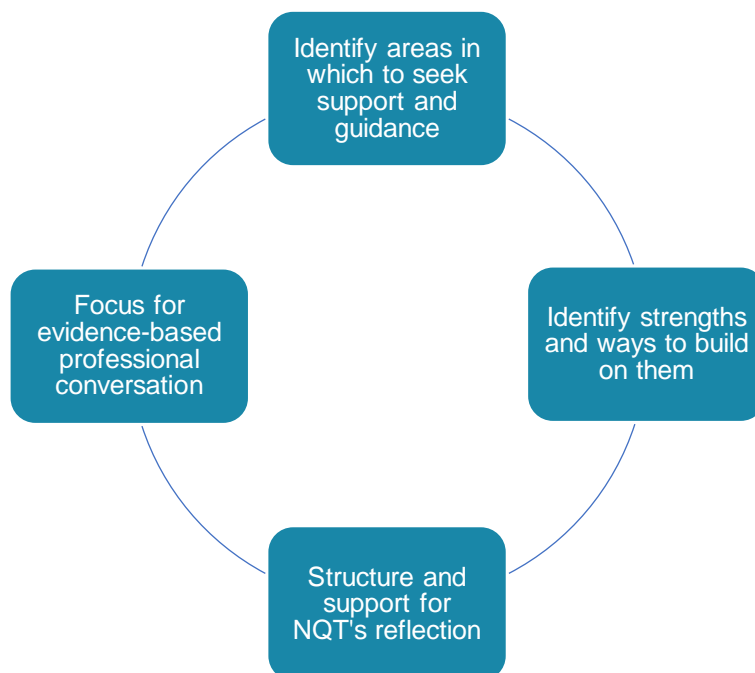


Figure 1: The Purpose of Taisce

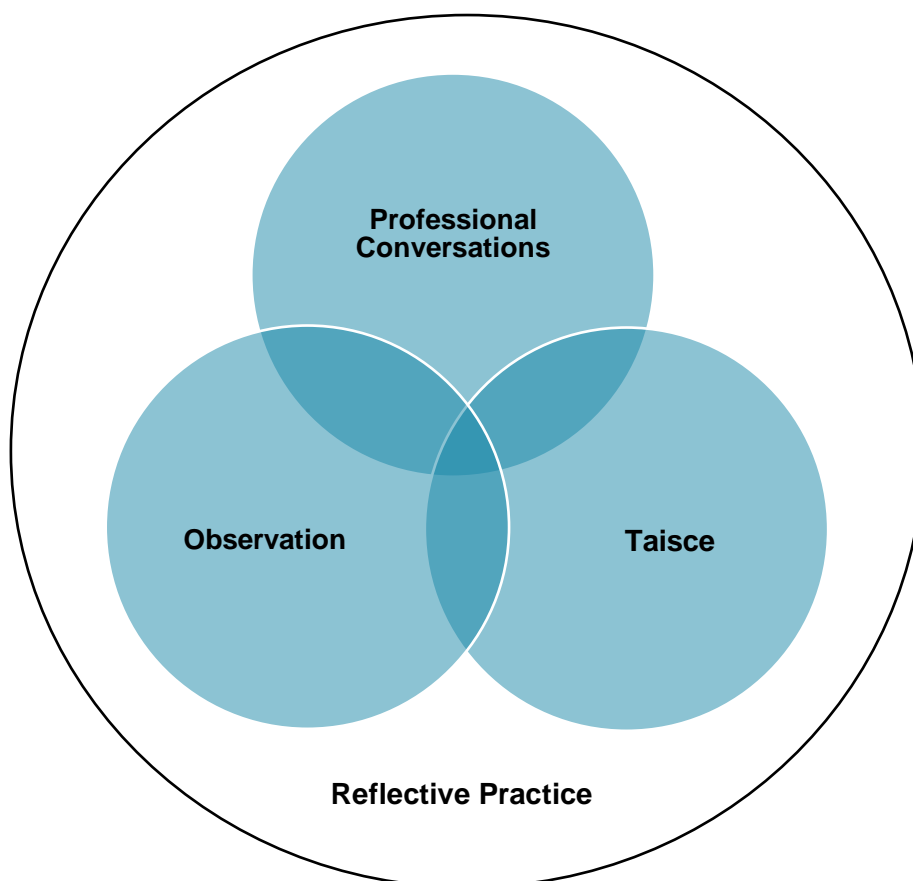
Emphasis is placed on the quality, rather than quantity, on process, rather than product. Taisce can enable you to identify the areas in which you may wish to seek support or guidance, to identify areas in which you have made progress and to celebrate learning experiences and accomplishments. It is also important to remember that you choose which moments and insights to reflect on, and on how you wish to capture that reflection. Your Taisce should evolve over time, as an ongoing learning, developmental space.

If Taisce is going to provide the best support for your learning throughout your career, you should consider choosing items for inclusion which will support learning and reflection and, perhaps, also highlight progress and areas for improvement.

Crucially, the inclusion of items will provide clear audio and/or visual reminders of your learning and how it impacted upon your practice. You will be best placed to identify the most appropriate items, but it is suggested that you *may* wish to consider including *some* of the following:

- professional learning log i.e. reflections on key learning moments with regards to your teaching/lessons, a pupil's learning, the progress of your class, the curriculum, attending workshops etc. Video/audio recordings of professional interest and relevance
- pictures of samples of your own work and/or that of pupils taught by you
- video diaries which would effectively be audio-visual reflections
- a summary/outline of your Droichead process with reference to the standards, your teaching goals, some of the challenges faced and priorities for future professional learning
- a plan for future learning and support, based on the needs and actions arising identified in professional conversations
- notes from professional conversations, meetings and observations of and by the PST
- Articles/resources you may have found particularly helpful/meaningful.

As an NQT, and in collaboration with the PST, you select relevant items from your Taisce as a focus for the evidence-informed professional conversations, which are central to the Droichead process. This is the essence of professional learning in the Droichead process, which enables both a private and public aspect to the process.



*Figure 2: Reflective practice is central to the Droichead process*

In maintaining your Taisce, you should respect the privacy of others and the confidentiality of information garnered during the course of the process. You should also be mindful of ethical and data protection considerations, anonymising data where appropriate and ensuring that your Taisce is stored securely.

Further guidance on the process of portfolio-based learning is available to you at cluster meetings.

Remember:

- Taisce is your space to organise and collect your learning as a newly qualified teacher. The format should suit your preference and learning style, and you hold the keys to that space
- You choose what you select from that space to support professional conversations with others
- Creating a portfolio is a process which can be developed over time by teachers throughout their careers.