



Professional Support Team (PST) Training of New Members for Existing PSTs in Primary Schools

How many days training will be provided?

The Oide Droichead Induction Division provides three days training for Professional Support Team (PST) members. This training is facilitated a number of times during the school year. The training takes place in a block of two days, followed by the third day a number of weeks later. The training is usually completed within a two-month period.

How many new members may attend training from a school with an existing PST?

The Department of Education (DE) will provide substitution cover (as per DE guidelines) to train three PST members per school over a three-year period. Trained PST members are asked to commit to working as part of the school's PST for a minimum of three years.

Is substitution provided?

Yes. Substitute cover is provided for teachers and teaching principals as per DE guidelines.

How do I register for training?

Teachers must be nominated by their principal to attend PST training. PST members should be fully registered with the Teaching Council and ideally, have at least 5 years teaching experience.

A school should contact Oide Droichead Induction if it wishes to train any additional PST members. Oide Droichead Induction will forward details of training to the school.

How will training support me in my role as PST member?

The role of the PST is to guide and advise the NQT during school-based induction in the first stages of their professional journey and to form a joint declaration with the NQT that they have participated in a quality teaching and learning process.

Training will support new PST members in their role by enabling participants to

- foster professional relationships
- mentor, support and engage NQTs and fellow experienced teachers in professional, reflective dialogue
- conduct and organise classroom observations to enhance teaching and learning
- monitor and review professional practice
- set goals and action plans
- advise NQTs in relation to preparation for teaching and learning and effective classroom management practices
- reflect on their own professionalism and professional vision
- deepen their commitment to ongoing professional development
- become leaders of learning and improvement at school level

When can I begin to function as a member of my school's existing PST?

You can begin to work as a PST member once you have completed Day 2 of PST training. Please note that in order to sign Form D, a PST member must have completed all 3 days of PST training.

What preparation should a school undertake before PST training begins?

As you await PST training, you should speak with your principal and other colleagues who already work as part of the school's PST. Their experience of offering the Droichead process to an NQT will give you useful insights into the role of a PST member.