

FAQs for schools about new flexibility for professional experience placements in Term 2, 2020 in response to COVID-19

**[This will be a working document with more FAQs added as needed]**

Question	Answer
Is my school obliged to offer placements?	No, the offer of placements is always voluntary.
What happens with placements my school has already offered for Term 2?	Any placements offered to date will be considered tentative and subject to confirmation. Schools may withdraw offers of placements if it is not feasible to host students. ITE providers will be in contact to confirm your preference.
How much of the teaching during the placement needs to be 'face-to-face'?	The goal is for at least 50% of the time which would usually be spent teaching will be 'face-to-face'. The remainder of teaching time could occur in remote mode. The placement time should still include planning, assessment, professional learning and other support activities.
Is there flexibility in supervision arrangements depending on staffing?	A mentor teacher should be assigned for each placement as usual and this teacher is responsible for preparing the final placement report. But as is already possible, teacher education students may work with more than one teacher during a placement.
Will ITE providers provide guidance for schools?	Yes, ITE providers will provide additional resources for schools. This includes additional resources to guide professional judgements about performance against the standards when teaching in alternative modes, and enhanced communication with providers to monitor and provide additional support where needed.
What extra steps will be taken to ensure the placement is appropriate?	Teacher education students will work with their providers to develop a placement plan that takes into account the specific arrangements at their placement school. This will ensure there is an appropriate mix of teaching activities planned. The plan will be used to measure progress and changes will be made flexibly in response to changes in the school.
What if a placement is disrupted during the term?	ITE providers will work with the teacher education student and school to provide a rapid response. Where possible changes will be made to the current placements (eg. days added as negotiated), or if this is not possible then the placement will be continued at another school.
What will happen in Terms 3 and 4?	ITE providers and NESAs are continually monitoring the situation. Advice will be provided closer to the time about whether these interim measures will need to be extended.

Who has been consulted about these changes?	ITE providers and NESAs have consulted with the NSW Department of Education, representatives from the Catholic and Independent sectors, the Primary Principals Association, the Secondary Principals Association, the IEU and the Teachers' Federation.
Will teacher education students receive extra preparation/support?	Yes, ITE providers will include additional support for teacher education students in remote learning prior to and during their placements.