

Continuing to Develop Great Teaching: WELL & the Great Teaching Toolkit



Programme Outline 2026/27

Lead by: Evidence Based Education (EBE)

Overview: A strong focus on **pedagogy** and **teacher development**, supporting greater consistency across **classroom practice**.

- **Use of a Model for Great Teaching:** The programme is underpinned by ‘A Model for Great Teaching’, ensuring a clear focus on the key dimensions that drive high-quality classroom practice.
- As in previous years, in 2026–2027 participating schools will be expected to identify at least two teachers to focus on either **Dimension 3: Maximising Opportunity to Learn** or **Dimension 4: Activating Hard Thinking**.
- Alignment with the Implementing WELL project and Disadvantaged Provision Project (DPP).
- Provision of **licenses for all nominated Teaching staff** to the Great Teaching Toolkit for **full academic year**.
- Access to the support of the GTT team through **learning communities**, webinars and face to face sessions.
- **Dedicated support from an EBE advisor** to maximise use of the Great Teaching Toolkit resources.
- Opportunities to **collaborate through the WELL school community**, both within and across settings.
- **Structured support for monitoring and evaluation**, including tools to strengthen evidence gathering, with a focus on applying the GUSH model of professional development (Goals, Understanding, Skills, and Habits).
- Contributing to a growing evidence base and **evaluative case studies** of what works in our **local context and across the region**.

Commitment of WELL Schools:

1. **GTT School Lead and at least 2 Teachers (1 Teacher in small schools)** focusing on **Dimension 3 or 4** to attend all GTT collaborative Learning Community meetings and share learning to support other WELL Schools:
 - **Autumn Term Learning Community:** Tuesday 10th November 2026 15:30 – 17:00, Online
 - **Spring Term Learning Community:** Wednesday 27th January 2027 15:30 – 17:00, Online
 - **Summer Term Learning Community:** Thursday 6th May 2027 15:30 – 17:00, Online
 - **End of Year Celebration Event:** Wednesday 7th July 2027 12:30 – 15:30, Whitehaven Golf Club



2. Every participating teacher will work through at least one GTT development cycle within a year.

The ultimate aim of teacher's professional learning is that it improves outcomes for learners. To achieve that aim there needs to be a change in the behaviour and practice of the teacher. The evidence indicates that setting specific and challenging goals substantially increases the likelihood of behaviour change and this is what we are seeking to promote with the use of the Toolkit. The structure used in the Toolkit for guiding teachers' professional learning is the Development Cycle. Development cycles are a private workspace for teachers to record their goals, decisions and actions as they work on an element of Great Teaching.

3. Every participating school will identify a minimum of 2 teachers (1 teacher in small schools) who will focus on GTT Dimension 3: 'Maximising Opportunity to Learn' during 2026-2027 OR Dimension 4: 'Activating Hard Thinking'.

This will include a commitment to use surveys and evaluation tools and to attend facilitated learning community meetings specifically focused on this domain.

4. Every participating school will produce an annual evaluative case study on their use of the Toolkit and share with WELL.

A case study should illustrate the journey and progress of a school in working towards a particular goal focused on improving the quality of teaching and learning. What goal was set and why, what action was taken, what is different as a result and how do you know? The case studies will be submitted by each school and collated to create a bank which can be accessed by all so learning can be disseminated. Some schools will be selected to present their case study at a community forum. In return for funding the use of the Toolkit, our expectation is that schools meet these goals as a means to drive the actions required to maximise impact and bring about the change we all desire – improved outcomes for learners.

Resources provided:

- Fully funded access to licenses for all nominated teaching staff in school for the full academic year.
- Three facilitated learning community meetings, one celebratory end of year reflective event.
- Printed case study evaluation poster shared with school at the end of the academic year.
- Every school will be given support to achieve the programme goals. One-to-one calls will be available on request to every school, and support materials will be given on the use of development cycles and the development of case studies.

