



Teach First

IRIS Connect

How our Development Leads are using it to support trainees



Alex Harris

Teach First Development Lead, Training Programme

“I did the training programme back in 2014 and I was fortunate that my school had access to IRIS Connect. Although at first my students played up to the camera in the classroom, once they got used to it I was able to capture ‘normal’ sequences from my lessons because the students did not modify their behaviour like they would normally do when I was being observed by my mentor or another senior member of staff. I found it so useful to watch back short sections of my lessons on my own and reflect on what went well, as well as what I could improve.

“Watching the lessons back helped me to become more confident that I was doing a good job and helped me to recognise areas of my practice that I needed to improve: I no longer say ‘umm’, ‘err’ or ‘riiiiiight then class!’”

Lucy Mason

Teach First Development Lead, Time to Teach

“IRIS Connect has been a powerful addition to my teacher training toolkit so far. It has facilitated me observing my trainees’ practice remotely; so useful during lockdown.

“The ability to go back to specific parts of a lesson using IRIS Connect is now a key part of my feedback. I use this to demonstrate both the strengths and areas of improvement I want the trainee to focus on. Seeing their own practice back in this way is clearly helping them understand my feedback more deeply. For example, today with an NQT I wanted to focus on effective transitions and assertive language. By bookmarking specific instances for her to reflect on, she gained an acute understanding of the gap between her practice and the success criteria.

“We then did practice of how to improve, and she will record her next online lesson to share with me. The ability to record the next lesson post-feedback has real impact: it means I can celebrate and support the trainees’ implementation of targets. It also allows them to see the changes, and directly compare their practice at different stages.

“I am seeing trainees using IRIS Connect themselves outside of booked observations – to document lessons they are proud of, to reflect on their own, or to share challenging situations with me for advice. This shows me they are valuing the tool. I love the agency it gives trainees to be part of directing the developmental work we do together.”