IRIS Connect and Teach First: Information for Partner Schools

Teach First and IRIS Connect have partnered to support trainee teachers within your school. This partnership allows trainees to use the IRIS Connect video platform to record lessons, review their practice and collaborate with mentors and tutors.

What you need to do:

- *Appoint an IRIS Connect Lead (a senior staff member) who will sign the IRIS Connect Data Processing Agreement and oversee trainee access.*
- *IRIS Connect Lead to accept the agreement and programme invitation when prompted, ensuring trainees can access the platform and its benefits.*
- *Review your GDPR documentation (Privacy Notice and DPIA) and update it where needed.*

If the programme invitation is not accepted, trainees will be unable to fully use the platform for recording, sharing and reflection.

1. What is IRIS Connect?

IRIS Connect is an online video reflection and collaboration platform used for teacher training and professional development. It allows trainee teachers to:

- *Record lessons securely.*
- *Share their lesson recordings with mentors, tutors and Development Leads.*
- *Receive structured feedback to support their growth.*

It is used across the education sector and trusted globally.

2. Why Teach First Uses IRIS Connect

Teach First uses IRIS Connect as a core component of its teacher training programme. It is a critical tool for:

- *Helping trainee teachers review and evaluate their own practice.*
- *Ensuring collaboration between mentors, Development Leads and tutors.*
- *Providing structured, targeted feedback through lesson recordings.*
- *Enabling deeper reflection and learning from experience.*
- *Improving teaching practice and supporting trainee progression.*

With IRIS Connect, observations can be conducted more frequently and flexibly, making teacher training more impactful and accessible.

3. Why IRIS Connect is Safe for Schools

IRIS Connect is a trusted and well-established platform used by over 100,000 educators across more than 50 countries. Its data protection and safeguarding measures have been vetted and approved for use by organisations such as the NHS and the Ministry of Defence.

The platform is used extensively across the education sector in the UK, having been approved for use in thousands of:

- *Individual primary and secondary schools*
- *Multi-Academy Trusts*
- *Initial Teacher Education programmes*
- *Universities and higher education institutions*

Developed with privacy and data security as core priorities, IRIS Connect is fully GDPR compliant and built to enable safe recording and sharing of lessons for teacher training and professional development. The platform allows:

- *Strict access controls, managed by the school.*
- *Anonymisation modes and data minimisation controls.*
- *Compliance with national and international data protection standards.*

4. What You Need to Do

Appoint an IRIS Connect Lead

- *Choose a senior staff member with an understanding of both data protection and initial teacher training.*
- *This person will accept the IRIS Connect Data Processing Agreement and programme invitation and will oversee trainee and staff access.*

Review Your GDPR Documentation

- *Confirm and document your lawful basis for recording lessons (for example, using the Public Task basis).*
- *Review and, if necessary, update your Privacy Notice to cover lesson recording for staff and pupil data.*
- *Complete or review a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA). An example pre-populated DPIA is available. See here for more information*

Accept the Agreement and Programme Invitation Promptly

- *This is accepted by your nominated IRIS Connect Lead via the IRIS Connect web platform when they first login*

Please note: The agreement and programme invitation need to be accepted for the trainees and Mentors to make full use of the IRIS Connect system. Until this is completed, lesson recordings will be restricted and will include an anonymisation filter.

5. Additional Resources

- *Information for Schools with Teach First Trainees*
- *Resources and FAQ*
- *IRIS Connect Data Processing Agreement*
- *Support Hub*

If you have questions about setting up IRIS Connect, GDPR compliance or data protection, contact the IRIS Connect team at *support@irisconnect.co.uk.*
You may also want to work closely with your school's Data Protection Officer.