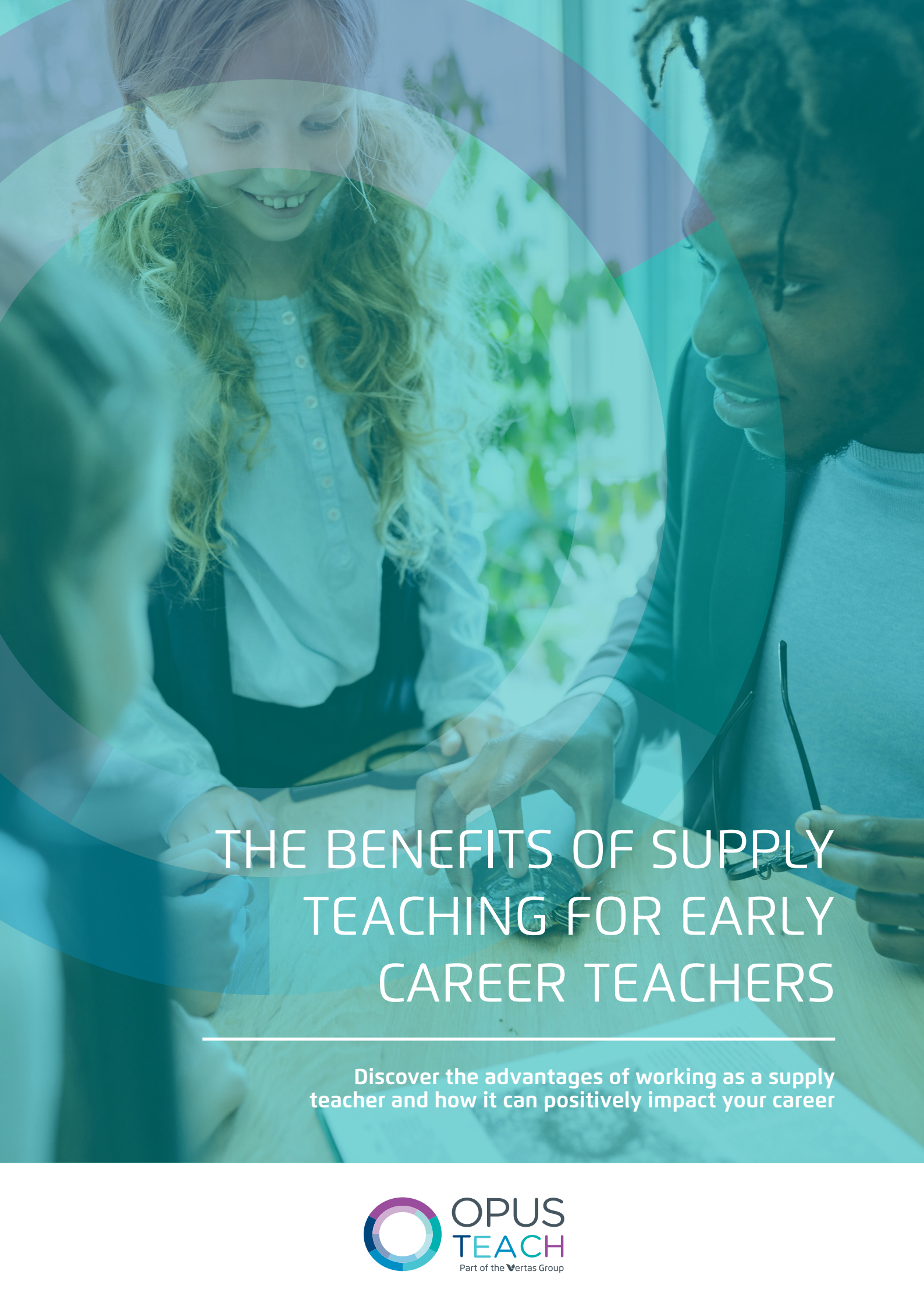




THE BENEFITS OF SUPPLY TEACHING FOR EARLY CAREER TEACHERS

Discover the advantages of working as a supply teacher and how it can positively impact your career



**OPUS
TEACH**
Part of the Vertas Group



WHO WE ARE

Opus Teach are a publicly owned education recruitment agency specialising in temporary staffing solutions, connecting schools with vetted educational professionals.

Opus Teach has been operational since 2018 and is now a preferred agency for educational institutions in Suffolk and nearby regions. Partnering with upwards of 300 schools, the agency successfully facilitated over 5,000 days of substitute teaching in the previous academic year alone.

Thanks to our cutting-edge, customised instant booking system, educational institutions can secure substitute teaching staff in under a minute, with our fastest booking recorded at just 39 seconds!

Being REC accredited, Opus Teach is committed to the highest standards of recruitment practices, strictly following the guidelines set by the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC).





"MY BIGGEST SUCCESS WAS SECURING A JOB WHILST WORKING FOR OPUS TEACH. I WORKED HARD TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION IN MY FIRST LONG-TERM PLACEMENT, AND I WAS DELIGHTED TO FEEL VALUED AND WANTED BY BOTH THE SCHOOL AND THE SUPPLY AGENCY."
OPUS TEACH SUPPLY TEACHER



Embarking on a career in education immerses Early Career Teachers (ECTs) in a landscape filled with distinctive challenges and boundless opportunities. Our document seeks to illuminate the multifaceted advantages and practical nuances of supply teaching as a strategic pathway for ECTs. Through comprehensive analysis, it is revealed that supply teaching extends beyond temporary employment; it is a profound instrument for holistic personal and professional development.

The versatility inherent in supply teaching assignments across diverse educational contexts broadens experience and acts as a crucial mechanism for skill enhancement, networking, and pathway creation towards securing permanent teaching roles.

The transition into the educational profession marks a significant phase in the lives of newly qualified teachers, brimming with opportunities to influence future generations. Amidst this crucial phase, supply teaching emerges as an invaluable bridge, introducing ECTs to a broader horizon of teaching experiences and educational settings. Supply teaching plays a pivotal role in sculpting a versatile and resilient educator ready to embrace the dynamic nature of today's academic landscape.

If you are employed as a short-term supply teacher, those periods do not count towards your ECT induction. If you are continuously employed by a school on supply for at least one term, it can be counted towards your induction period. Keep in mind that a qualified teacher who has not completed induction can only undertake short-term supply work for up to five years.



USING THE VERSATILITY OF SUPPLY TEACHING EXPERIENCES

The journey of supply teaching offers educators a unique opportunity to work in various educational settings, each with its challenges and learning curves. This diversity in experience not only enhances an educator's adaptability but will also enrich your teaching portfolio, making you more attractive to future employers.



THE ROLE SUPPLY TEACHING PLAYS IN PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

At the heart of supply teaching lies the opportunity for ongoing professional evolution. As an ECT, you can gain diverse experience by working in different schools with various age groups. Adapting and implementing lesson plans quickly hones pedagogical skills such as planning, organisation, and improvisation. These skills are crucial for educators to be effective and efficient. The diverse experiences from supply teaching allow educators to evaluate their teaching techniques, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and discern your preferred educational environments. This self-reflection is essential for career development and professional advancement and growth.

"I HAVE LEARNT SO MANY NEW THINGS WHILST WORKING WITH OPUS TEACH; INCLUDING NEW BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES, WORKING WITH NEW SCHEMES, HOW TO DEAL WITH TRICKY PARENTS, AND HOW BEST TO DEPLOY TEACHING ASSISTANTS."
OPUS TEACH SUPPLY TEACHER



BUILDING A PROFESSIONAL NETWORK THROUGH SUPPLY TEACHING

Networking is fundamental to building a successful educational career. Supply teaching positions place ECTs at the centre of extensive networking opportunities. By working in different schools and interacting with a wide range of educational professionals and students across various ages, ECTs can establish a strong network of connections. These connections can lead to mentorships, collaborations, and even recommendations, opening the door to meaningful career advancement and a full-time position when the timing is right.

SUPPLY TEACHING IS A PATHWAY TO PERMANENT POSITIONS

Beyond its perceived temporary status, supply teaching offers a valuable pathway for educators looking to secure permanent positions within the educational sector. Excelling in supply teaching roles allows individuals to increase visibility and establish a strong reputation among potential employers, which can be incredibly beneficial in a competitive job market. These roles provide teachers with the opportunity to showcase their skills, adaptability, and dedication in a variety of educational settings, demonstrating an ECTs versatility and commitment to the profession. Building relationships with new schools is the best interview ECTs will ever do.

"IT TAKES A LOT OF CONFIDENCE TO GO INTO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND TEACH DIFFERENT CHILDREN; HONESTLY SOMETHING I DID NOT THINK I COULD DO AT FIRST. IT HAS ALSO HELPED ME TO GAIN SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE. I HAVE COME ACROSS SO MANY DIFFERENT SCHEMES AND WAYS OF WORKING. I HAVE BEEN GIVEN LOTS OF TIPS AND ADVICE FROM PEOPLE I HAVE MET ALONG THE WAY THAT I PLAN TO USE IN MY OWN CLASSROOM ONE DAY."

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WORK-LIFE BALANCE

As an ECT, you can explore a wide range of teaching methods and strategies, which facilitates professional growth and adaptability in education. You also have the flexibility to choose a placement that works best for you. Being a supply teacher not only provides work flexibility but also the opportunity to manage your work-life balance effectively. If you are still studying, you can arrange your placements to fit around your studies and if you want to book a holiday outside of term time you can, this freedom puts you in control.

UNDERSTANDING OF SCHOOL CULTURE AND POLICIES

When ECTs can engage in various placements, you can gain crucial firsthand experience that enriches your understanding of the educational landscape. This variety exposes you to unique school cultures that define each institution, allowing you to appreciate the diversity in academic environments. Placements provide a deeper insight into the operational matters that differentiate each setting. This includes the strategies implemented for managing student behaviour, which can vary significantly from one school to another. Understanding these differences equips you with a flexible toolkit of strategies you can adapt and apply in diverse situations.

"BEING AN ECT WILL ALLOW YOU TO LEARN SO MUCH AND GIVE YOU SO MUCH EXPERIENCE TEACHING IN A RANGE OF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND A RANGE OF DIFFERENT AGES. IT IS ALSO SO FLEXIBLE, ALLOWING YOU TO DECIDE WHEN YOU WANT TO WORK, WHICH IS HUGE BENEFICIAL FOR INTRODUCING YOURSELF INTO A NEW ROLE THAT CAN BE VERY DEMANDING."
OPUS TEACH SUPPLY TEACHER

ECTs learn about the safeguarding policies crucial for ensuring student welfare and safety. Each school has its approach to safeguarding, which is informed by its unique context and the needs of its student population. By experiencing these variations, ECTs can develop a well-rounded understanding of the importance of safeguarding and how it is integrated into the daily operations of schools.





WHAT SCHOOL WORKS FOR ME?

ECTs can optimise their career development by transitioning between different schools. This not only builds confidence but also enriches your teaching experience. It enables you to discover the school environments where you think you will thrive best, such as Catholic Schools, Church of England Schools, and rural settings, or determine the ideal school size you want to work in permanently (like schools with 1 or 2 form entries) and adapt to diverse classroom settings.

"BEING AN ECT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE TEACHING IN DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, SEEING HOW THEY DELIVER LESSONS, GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE MY TEACHING SKILL SET WHILST ALSO BEING PAID."

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YOUR IDEAL AGE GROUPS

As an ECT, embarking on your teaching journey offers an exciting array of opportunities to mould students' educational experiences across various age groups. You'll be able to interact with and teach different year groups, introducing you to a wide spectrum of developing minds. This role not only allows you to witness the unique developmental stages of children but also enables you to adapt and deliver your teaching strategies across different key stages. This broad exposure is invaluable, laying a strong foundation for your teaching career and offering insights into where your passion and strengths as an educator truly lie.



WHY CHOOSE OPUS TEACH?

Our easy to use, real time system, paired with additional support from our dedicated account managers, aims to create a perfect match between schools and supply staff, providing the best service for both.

As a local authority owned business, we can ensure that all profits made after service costs are retained within the public sector.

We offer fair and transparent rates of pay and full control of your availability calendar and preferences on your online account.

Start your registration today!

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REFER A TEACHER AND GET £100 IN VOUCHERS!*

Do you know a great teacher? Refer a teacher and get £100 in vouchers! What's more, there's no limit on how many teachers you can refer!

This offer applies to referrals for the following types of candidates:

- Qualified Teachers
- Newly Qualified Teachers (ECTs)
- Headteachers
- Deputy Headteachers
- High-Level Teaching Assistants
- Cover Supervisors
- SENCo's

*Terms and Conditions apply visit our website to find out more:
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ADDRESS:

2 Friars Bridge Road,
Ipswich,
Suffolk
IP1 1RR

Telephone: 0330 124 2801
opusteach.co.uk

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