

Becoming a mentor on the ART Training Scheme

What is a mentor?

Everyone enters the ART Training Scheme as a teacher.

Some experienced teachers may be asked to take on the additional responsibility and commitment of mentoring a less experienced teacher, to support them after the course.

All delegates are teachers, but those who also volunteer to mentor someone can draw on their existing experience of teaching alongside the techniques and approach covered during the day course.

Ideally, mentors have prior teaching experience and are actively engaged in current teaching, possibly at multiple towers. Increasingly, our mentors have gained their experience by teaching using the ART Approach and are already ART Members. Mentors don't have to be advanced ringers, but they do have to be good teachers.

Those with the appropriate skills are chosen in consultation with the course Tutor.

What does a mentor do?

Mentors provide guidance and support to teachers, complementing their knowledge of ART Training Scheme techniques with their wider experience of teaching and people.

The position of mentor is responsible and involves on-going commitment following the ART day course. A mentor is expected to work with their teacher to develop and expand their skills and techniques after the course by sharing feedback and ideas. Mentors also have an important role to play in ensuring teachers complete their lesson plans in the teacher logbook, then helping to arrange a visit from an ART Assessor when the time is right.

Mentoring takes time, self-knowledge and good communication skills. A teacher will be looking for their mentor to:

- acquire knowledge and information.
- receive feedback to help develop skills.
- offer suggestions, guidance, and ideas.

Immediately after the course the mentor will need to ensure that their teacher starts teaching as soon as they can and completes the online theory test. They should be building a rapport with their teacher; taking the lead role in building a relationship. Teacher and mentor should work together developing practical and leadership skills until the teacher is capable of working independently. Teaching alongside each other is often a very successful approach.

Mentors become an accredited ART teacher when their teacher completes a Module and they have also passed a teaching assessment. However, if their teacher does not complete a Module, those in the mentoring role can still gain accreditation as a teacher in their own right, simply by filling out their log book as they teach their own ringers and arranging an assessed lesson.

Attributes of a good mentor

Mentoring takes time, self-knowledge and good communication skills.

A mentor should be:

Positive at all times
Encouraging
Patient
Committed
Prepared to listen
Prepared to challenge
Trustworthy
Empathetic
Ensuring ART techniques are used

A mentor should not be:

Confrontational
Negative
Dictatorial
Unwilling to change

What are the responsibilities of the mentor?

1. Attend the appropriate day course (Module 1, 2C or 2F)
2. Ensure new ringers are registered onto the SmART Ringer website by the teacher and they are issued with individual Learning the Ropes Personal Progress Logbooks. Additional logbooks can be ordered via the [ART online shop](#).
3. Help their teacher with lesson plans and ensure they are written up in the Teacher Training Logbook
4. Work with the teacher as they teach, add feedback and sign the Teacher Training Logbook
5. Complete the online theory test for the appropriate Module
6. When ready, arrange for an ART Assessor to observe a teaching session
7. Ensure the ART Assessor completes and signs the Teacher Training Logbook
8. Successfully complete a teaching session observed by an ART Assessor (normally carried out at the same time as the teacher's assessment)

Course delegates have two years to complete a Module to accreditation.

How does a mentor become accredited?

A mentor can become accredited for each Module when the teacher they have been mentoring is accredited and they have successfully completed a teaching assessment too.

What if the teacher does not complete a Module?

Mentors become an accredited ART teacher when their teacher completes a Module and they have also passed a teaching assessment. However, if their teacher does not complete a Module, those in the mentoring role can still gain accreditation as a teacher in their own right, simply by filling out their log book as they teach their own ringers and arranging an assessed lesson.

ART Membership

Anyone accredited either through the teaching route or the mentoring route is eligible for membership of ART.

What does ART Membership offer?

The benefits of ART membership include:

- Ongoing access to SmART Ringer and the Learning the Ropes scheme for ringers, including an invitation to the LtR Masterclass if they achieve Level 5
- Inclusion on the ART Directory (unless a member has chosen to opt-out)
- ART Directory members will receive any learn to ring enquiries in their local area
- Public Liability Insurance scheme (UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man only)
- DBS checks can be arranged via Lloyds Education (UK only)
- A discount on the purchase of a ticket to attend the annual ART Conference