

## *Being a Protégé: Thoughts from Mentors*



*Below are the “voices” of over 100 Mentors. They were asked to reflect on their own experiences as mentors and share their thoughts with Beginning Teachers around how to develop a successful relationship with a Mentor.*

### *Tips from Mentors*

- Feel free to ask questions because no question is insignificant
- Develop a relationship with your staff and find someone you are comfortable with
- Choose your mentor
- Please do not feel that you have to imitate the mentors teaching style or way of doing things
- Mentors advice or resources should be thought of as “helpful” tips
- Our relationship is a 2 way street – we can both learn from each other
- Mentors are also learning too
- There's no right way--keep trying until you feel comfortable--accept that each person has their own way of doing things
- Schedule meetings so you can share and just talk or have an understanding of what sort of communication works for you
- Check in regularly with mentor to reflect and discuss any issues that may arise (ask for a convenient time for the both of you)
- We learn just as much from you as you do from us
- Our meetings don't have to be formal
- Don't be afraid to share your ideas, we might like them!
- Remember that there is life outside of teaching especially in the first year. It's okay to say when you are overwhelmed/overloaded
- Don't expect your mentor to have all the answers. Keep an ongoing dialogue with other colleagues.
- Feel free to speak to other teachers on topics/seek advice and even have the choice at the end of the year to try someone else next year as mentor without feeling the pressure that you must stay with the same person
- Remember mentors want you to become great at teaching -the way you feel comfortable in doing
- Let your mentor know how much they are helping you
- Your mentor can and will learn from you too (so ask questions, share ideas)