Example tutor comments on student teacher 1 reflection

*Eric.Addae-Kyeremeh*
I was very relaxed going into this lesson because it was a topic I really loved teaching. The lesson got to a really good start with all pupils being on time and settling well. As part of my preparation, I ensured they all had packs for the two activities for the lesson. I spent the first ten minutes discussing key challenges in population growth around the world and citing particular examples from Asia and Africa. I then introduced the lesson on the ‘Impact of population growth on housing in the UK’.

The starter activity: Students found the starter activity very interesting because it required individual responses by placing their answer in a box. I was surprised at the engagement; perhaps because nobody could see what others had written.

Main task: This was slightly challenging because I expected students to be able to form groups by themselves with limited direction from me. My intervention meant that John and Alice had to be in a group that was not their initial preference. Although group 2 formed much more easily (without my intervention) they were the slowest in producing the outputs required. For me this was a time to reflect on the diversity of groups as I needed to ensure that pupils who had not grasped the basics didn’t end up working in a group that didn’t engage them.

The plenary: Groups 3 and 4 worked really hard to deliver the required outputs. James (group 3) and Donna (group 4) were particularly good at moving the team forward by concentrating on the required outputs. They demonstrated leadership qualities but also their ability in mathematics helped in calculating the population density on the worksheet and also interpreting the infographic.

Pupil learning: All pupils, except for Kevin, met the learning outcomes and were able to describe the main factors that affect population change and the need to build more homes. Kevin had some difficulty in interpreting the graph in the learning pack.

Things to change for the next lesson:

- Develop a strategy for getting the groups working quicker.
- Consider group size and make-up to ensure all can get on.
- Make sure Kevin has an opportunity to catch up before we continue next week. Perhaps the classroom assistant should spend 30 minutes with Kevin to go through the graph.