

## **RATIONALE FOR PRACTICUM SESSIONS**

Practice teaching is an important part of teacher training. It is a combination of observation and teaching experience which will give students opportunity to put the theory of teaching into classroom practice. The general goal of the practicum sessions includes both a wide-ranging experience of pedagogical encounters, and personal and professional growth:

- Practicum sessions provide the student teacher with an opportunity to watch teachers at work and to learn from their example and practice.
- Practice teaching gives students opportunity to develop their own teaching skills and interactions with pupils and fellow teachers.
- Through exposure to a wide variety of educational situations both within and outside of the classroom, student teachers test their ability to handle successfully the demands of a future teaching career.
- Practice teaching engages student teachers in self-evaluation and sets them on the path toward becoming reflective practitioners.
- The practicum sessions should also provide an avenue through which ideas may flow between participating schools and the College so that the instructional programs at all institutions may be as effective as possible.