

Thinking Ahead?

Teaching in Primary and Secondary Schools

Produced by
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Information and Guidance Team
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Some information extracted from National Careers Service website

Learner Services

Primary and Secondary School Teachers

What do they do?

Most teaching jobs are in state schools and academies, but you could also work in independent schools, pupil referral units and hospitals. You could also register with an agency to provide supply cover for other teachers.

Primary Schools - you'll teach subjects in the primary national curriculum at key stage 1 (ages 5 to 7) and key stage 2 (ages 7 to 11). Subjects include English, Maths, Science, Music and Art. With experience you could develop a specialism in a particular subject, like computing or art and design. You may also work with under 5s in a children's centre or a reception class in a primary school.

Secondary Schools - You'll teach at key stage 3 (ages 11 to 14) and key stage 4 (ages 15 to 16). You may also teach in a sixth form (ages 16 to 19).

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- planning lessons and preparing teaching materials
- marking and assessing children's work
- providing a safe and healthy environment
- keeping records
- discussing children's progress with parents and carers
- working with other professionals like education psychologists and social workers
- attending meetings and training
- organising outings, social activities and sports events

Skills required: Some of the skills required for this role include:

- knowledge of teaching and the ability to design courses
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- leadership skills
- sensitivity and understanding
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to work well with others
- basic digital skills for communicating and recording information

How to become a Primary/Secondary School Teacher

To teach in a state school in England, you must have a degree, and gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) by completing a programme of Initial Teacher Training (ITT).

You can teach in independent schools, academies, and free schools in England without QTS, but it's a definite advantage to have it. You will also be required to have:

- GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) in English and Maths. For Primary level you will also need Science GCSE at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C)
- passes in numeracy and literacy skills tests
- enhanced background checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)
- Although not essential, you'll find it useful to have some school experience to support your application.

If you already have a degree, but it doesn't already include QTS, you can gain QTS by

- training through a **postgraduate teacher training** course. There are 2 main routes: **school-led and university-led**. Both provide you with the practical skills and knowledge needed for teaching, but are delivered differently. More information about different post graduate teacher training routes can be found at: <https://www.ucas.com/postgraduate/teacher-training/train-teach-england/postgraduate-teacher-training-england>

If you don't have a degree already, you can

- follow an **undergraduate route** that awards QTS, such as the Bachelor of Education (BEd) teacher training programme. - Some providers do offer secondary-level BEd programmes for specific specialisms, although they aren't as common as Primary level, or, you can;
- complete a degree in a subject that relates to the National Curriculum. If the degree doesn't include QTS, you'll need to then follow it with a postgraduate teaching training course. Please note that most providers only offer BA and BSc degree programmes with QTS for secondary teaching, although some providers do offer primary options.
Please note – you will generally need a relevant level 3 qualification plus GCSE's to get onto a degree programme. Many adults gain this by completing a level 3 'Access to Higher Education (HE)' course.

Local training providers

Further Education courses - A = Access to Higher Education Courses; M = Maths GCSE, E = English GCSE, S = Science GCSE

- The Manchester College – Tel: 0333 222 444 – **A, M, E**
<https://www.tmc.ac.uk/courses/careers-social-and-community-work>
- Trafford College – Tel: 0161 886 7000 – **A, M, E and S**
<http://www.trafford.ac.uk/courses/access-higher-education-courses>
- Stockport College – Tel: 0161 296 5000 - **A, M, E and S**
<http://www.stockport.ac.uk/courses-page/access-to-higher-education-social-science/>
- Tameside College – Tel: 0161 908 6600 – **A, M, E and S**
www.tameside.ac.uk
- The Cheadle and Marple Adult College – Tel: 0161 486 4600 - **A**
<http://adult.cmcnet.ac.uk/course/access-to-humanities-and-social-sciences/>
- Hopwood Hall College (Middleton campus) – Tel: 0161 643 7560 – **A, M, E and S**
<https://www.hopwood.ac.uk/discover-adult-he/access-higher-education>
- The Oldham College – Tel: 0161 785 4000 – **A, M, E and S**
<http://www.oldham.ac.uk/courses/access-to-he-caring-professions>

- Salford City College – Tel: 0161 631 5000 – **A, M, E and S**
<http://www.salfordcc.ac.uk/universitycentre/access-courses/>
- Bolton College – Tel: 01204 482000 – **A, M, E and S**
www.bolton.ac.uk
- Aquinas College (Stockport) – Tel: 0161 419 9163 - **A, M, E and S**
<http://www.aquinas.ac.uk>
- Bolton Community College – 01204 482000 – **A, M, E and S**
www.boltoncollege.ac.uk
- Bury College – 0161 280 8280 – **A, M, E and S**
www.burycollege.ac.uk

Post graduate teacher training programmes (including training in schools) can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses-in-england>

Local ‘University led’ course programmes that will give you QTS can be found at:

- **Manchester Metropolitan University MMU** – <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/study/>
This university offers a variety of undergraduate and Postgraduate degree courses including QTS for Primary and Secondary teaching. See website for more details.
- **Manchester University** offer Postgraduate courses for teaching in Primary and Secondary school subjects. (PGCE’s) They also offer some School Direct programmes.
<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-certificate-diploma/>
- **University of Bolton** - offer a range of Postgraduate teacher training courses, however these are more tailored to teaching young people and adults age 14+.
<https://www.bolton.ac.uk/Subjects/Teacher-Training-Education/Teacher-Training/Home.aspx>

Labour Market Information: Education is a large employment sector both in primary and secondary schools but it is expected to decline between 2013-2023. However, there will still be a large number of opportunities because of its size. (www.economicmodelling.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Manchester-LEP)

Further information

- Get Into Teaching: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>
Tel: 0800 389 2500 – Teaching Advice line for Primary and Secondary teaching
- UCAS teacher Training section: <https://www.ucas.com/teaching-in-the-uk>
- Funding for Study: See www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/funding

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