

How to gain school experience (in COVID times) and how we can help

In April 2021 the DfE Updated their guidance on School Experience for prospective trainee teachers.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-initial-teacher-training-itt/coronavirus-covid-19-initial-teacher-training-itt#using-the-get-school-experience-service>

Using the get school experience service

The [get school experience](#) service is live and you can highlight whether you offer an in-school or virtual experience. A virtual offer could include:

- videos of lessons
- digital conferences
- online training materials for candidates to use

There is a wealth of asynchronous online material from different school settings that you can watch in your own time, along with live online sessions to meet with school leaders and Early Career Teachers. Oak National Academy has some great online training materials to help you prepare.

Email organise.school-experience@education.gov.uk if you would like your organisation to be added to the get school experience service.

If there is a school you would like to visit that is not on this service, we would be happy to work with the school to get them enrolled.



Four Options

1. Use the DfE Service
2. Approach a School
3. Engage in an internship /TA
4. Access online events

People approach the teaching profession in different ways, some have a strong idea of where they might belong others discover what is best for them by exploring all their options first. School Experience can help confirm your decisions and give you a more informed outlook on the different routes available.

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/get-school-experience>

Get school experience.

1 Decide who to teach

Get school experience or attend events to see which of the following settings suits you best:

- primary (ages 5 to 11)
- secondary (ages 11 to 16)
- early years (children up to the age of 5)
- further education (for example, teaching at further education colleges or sixth form colleges)

Follow these steps if you want to teach primary or secondary, including [teaching disabled pupils and pupils with special educational needs](#) in these settings.

2 Check your qualifications

Once you have a degree or equivalent qualification you're ready for postgraduate primary or secondary initial teacher training.

You also need the following GCSEs at grade 4 (C) or above, or equivalent qualifications:

- English
- maths
- science if you want to teach primary

You may be able to show you meet the standard in another way if you do not have these GCSEs.

[Chat online for qualifications advice >](#)

Find out what to do if [you're an international candidate with qualifications from overseas](#).

If [you're not already studying for a degree and you do not have one](#) you can do undergraduate teacher training.

3 Learn about funding

You can get funding that you do not have to pay back if you train to teach certain subjects.

You can also apply for a student loan to cover course fees and living costs.

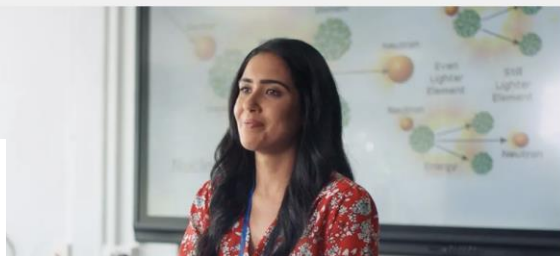
[Find out what funding you can get >](#)

4 Find the right training

Find out [how to train to teach primary or secondary](#).

You can [get support training to teach if you're disabled](#).

[Get a teacher training adviser for help finding training >](#)



School experience can help you decide whether teaching is right for you.

Spending some time in a school allows you to:

- observe a range of lessons and other teacher responsibilities
- talk to teachers
- get an insight into day-to-day school life

To find experience you can:

- [find a school offering experience through GOV.UK](#)
- approach schools yourself

Many schools offer virtual experience. This could include talking to teachers and reviewing videos of lessons, for example.

Approach schools yourself

[Find schools near you](#) and give them a ring to find out who to talk to about getting school experience.

It's normal to have to try a few schools before you find one that can help.

They may be limiting visitors due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and may need to organise a DBS check.

Be flexible with your availability if possible and persevere with your search.

Maths or physics teaching internships

You may be eligible for a [maths or physics teaching internship earning £300 a week if you're doing an undergraduate degree in science, technology, engineering or maths](#).

If you cannot get into the classroom right now

[Observe teachers' lessons and analysis of their lessons on the Oak National Academy website](#)

These videos are not a claim of best practice but can help you get to know teaching better.

[Events](#) can also give you an insight into teaching.



Find and organise school experience

Get school experience >

Next steps

...

1. Using the DfE Service

GOV.UK

Get school experience

BETA

This is a new service. [Give feedback](#)

Search for school experience

Enter location or postcode

SS0 OBS

Select search area

25 miles

Search

< Back

School experience near SS0 OBS

Education phases

Displaying all 4 results

Sorted by ☒ Distance ☐ Name

Select all that apply

☐ Early years

☐ Primary (4 to 11)

☐ Secondary (11 to 16)

☐ 16 to 18

Subjects

Select all that apply

☐ Art and design

☐ Biology

☐ Business studies

☐ Chemistry

☐ Citizenship

☐ Classics

☐ Computing

The King John School

3.1 miles away

Address

Shipwrights Drive, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 1RQ

Education phases

Secondary (11 to 16)
16 to 18

Subjects

Art and design, Biology, Chemistry, English, History, Languages (other), Maths, Physical education, Physics, and Physics with maths

Experience type

IN SCHOOL

View school details

St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School

Schools that offer experience visits will typically be partnered with an ITT Lead Provider to provide placements and recruitment opportunities.

https://schoolsexperience.education.gov.uk/candidates/school_searches/new

GOV.UK

Get school experience

BETA

This is a new service. [Give feedback](#)

< Back

The King John School

King John is a comprehensive school in an affluent area. There is a selective test for students who live outside of the area. King John is a large school with over 2000 students.

About our school experience

Individual requirements:

- Must not have been accepted onto another teacher training course
- Must have a degree
- They must live within 7 miles of the school
- Photo identification: Driving licence or passport.

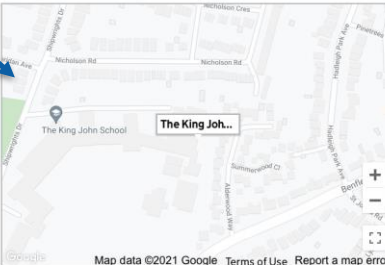
Details:

Candidates will be able to observe a range of lessons. Candidates will have the opportunity to speak to students and teachers.

Subjects:

Art and design, Biology, Chemistry, English, History, Languages (other), Maths, Physical education, Physics, and Physics with maths

Location



Map data ©2021 Google. Terms of Use. Report a map error

Get directions

For more information about our school:

- [The King John School website](#)
- [The King John School Get Information About Schools](#)
- [Ofsted report: The King John School](#)
- [Performance information: The King John School](#)

Start request

Back to search results

School phases

Secondary (11 to 16)
16 to 18

Address

Shipwrights Drive
Thundersley
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1RQ

Placement availability

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. From May onwards requests will be considered individually due to the exam period.

School experience type

VIRTUAL

DBS check required

No - Candidates will be accompanied at all times when in school

Dress code

Business dress

Start and finish times

8.30 to 1.30 - Flexible

We can adapt the school experience depending on the candidates need. A discussion can be held around this.

Parking

Not available on site

There may be space in the sixth form car park or the Benfleet Road car park. If there aren't any spaces there are several side roads where you can park.

Teacher training offered

We are a partner school for the BTSA

[More information](#)

2. Approach a School

Contacting schools directly can be tricky.

Where: If you visit your local Teaching School Hub or Local Authority website you will be able to get a list/map of all the schools in the area.

- **North Essex and Suffolk** – Alpha Teaching School Hub
- <https://www.cchsg.com/2021/02/11/alpha-trust-and-colchester-county-high-school-for-girls-designated-teaching-school-hub/>
- **Mid Essex** – Saffron Teaching School Hub
- <https://www.saffronteachingschoolhub.net>
- **South Essex, Southend and Thurrock** – Chafford Hundred Teaching School Hub
- <https://www.harrischaffordhundred.org.uk/1147/welcome-to-the-teaching-school-hub>

Who: When you call/email school reception you would typically want to speak to the ITT Professional Mentor or Induction Tutor or the subject/phase leader.

When: These members of staff often have responsibilities until 3:30pm or later but may be able to get back to you quicker via email first. Schools will be unlikely to take visitors during busy assessment periods, so try and give them plenty of notice.

What: Try to be clear about what you want to see/learn from your visit. Remember this will be the school's first impression of you so treat it like part of your job interview.

3. Internships for Maths + Physics

Maths and physics teaching internships

You may be eligible for a paid teaching internship if you're:

- in any year of a science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM) undergraduate degree
- interested in teaching secondary maths or physics

You'll experience the teaching profession, get new skills and be paid £300 per week.

Check you meet the eligibility criteria with participating schools before you apply.

[Get an adviser](#) to have the best chance of succeeding in your application.

Apply directly to participating schools in the following regions:

- [East Midlands](#)
- [East of England](#)
- [London](#)
- [North East](#)
- [North West](#)
- [South East](#)
- [South West](#)
- [West Midlands](#)
- [Yorkshire and the Humber](#)

East of England

[Farlingaye High School](#) [↗](#)

Name: Peter Smith
Email: Psmith@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk

[Lyons Hall School](#) [↗](#)

Name: Verity Boreham
Email: vboreham@lyonshall.org.uk

[Redborne Upper School and Community College](#) [↗](#)

Name: Vicki Walsh
Email: vicki.walsh@redborne.com

[Samuel Whitbread Academy](#) [↗](#)

Name: Susanne Combe
Email: scombe@bestacademies.org.uk

[South Essex Teaching School Alliance](#) [↗](#)

Name: Emma Lowne
Email: e.lowne@setsa.info

[The Benfleet Teaching School Alliance](#) [↗](#)

Name: Maxine Howard
Email: mhoward@theappletonschool.com

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/teaching-internship-providers>

4. Online Events



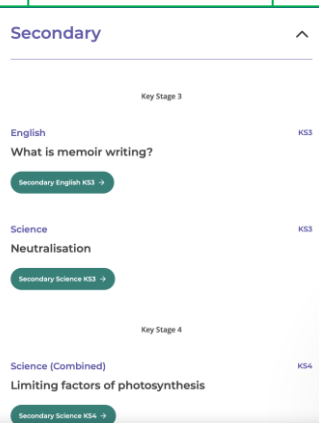
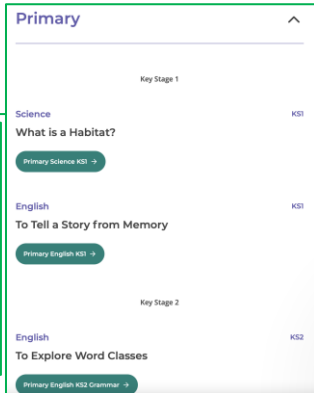
Many ITT providers expect prospective trainee teachers to have completed their school experience before attending an interview.

Candidates should be able to discuss school visits and/or work experience and will need:

- The ability to develop effective relationships with relevant stakeholders: children, their parents and carers, colleagues and peers;
- Strong organisational and communication skills;
- To be positive and proactive;
- A commitment to securing the best education for all children;
- Determination and energy;
- High standards of literacy, numeracy and personal presentation.



<https://teachers.thenationalacademy/lessons-for-itt>



For some aspiring teachers undertaking initial teacher training (ITT), access to schools throughout 2020/21 has been impacted by the pandemic. In some cases this has reduced opportunities to observe and learn from teachers in the classroom.

We've produced a set of videos that ITT providers may wish to use to support their trainees in observing, deconstructing, analysing and adapting lessons.

The lessons for ITT have been created by practising teachers and are intended to provide a perspective on how each teacher thinks about the planning and delivery of an asynchronous lesson, and are not a claim of best practice in a broader sense. We hope providers and trainees find them useful, and really welcome feedback.

Available for English, maths and science (with further subjects in development), at both primary and secondary phases, the videos are formed in pairs of:



An Oak National Academy lesson



An ITT lesson video that deconstructs the Oak National Academy lesson

Now Teach

SCHOOL EXPERIENCE LIBRARY

What are schools like?

You may not have spent much time in a school since you were a teenager, so getting an idea of what state secondary schools are like is really important.

► Everything you need to know about teaching

This is a really helpful and concise introduction to the English school system from academies to qualifications by the education world's weekly newspaper, *TES*.

► A Working Life: The Secondary School Teacher

Insightful view into the ups and downs of a day in a science classroom full of teenagers.

► The School Day

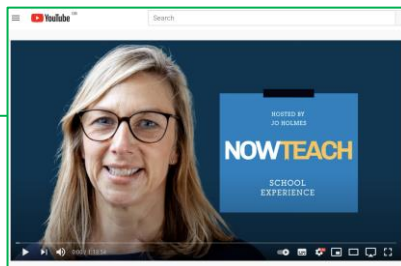
Now Teachers describe their busy day around the school as career-change trainees

► Clips from BBC documentary 'School'

Now Teachers were full of praise for this. The full series is not available right now but clips from each episode give a good introduction.

► Educating Essex

Very different from 'School' in tone, while still giving a full picture of school life and working with teenagers.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OqEjgJrTZ4>

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS LIKE?



How are lessons delivered?

These videos show what your lessons could look like. There are a variety of teaching styles and these lessons are more 'teacher-led from the front' instead of students working together, but you will find out more about your school's teaching culture at interview.

Students at Key Stage 3 are aged between 11 and 14; Key Stage 4 students are aged between 14 and 16.

► Science lesson Key Stage 4

► Maths lesson Key Stage 3

English lesson:

► Key Stage 3

► Key Stage 4

History lesson:

► Key Stage 3

► Key Stage 4

► Geography lesson Key Stage 3

► Spanish lesson Key Stage 3

► French lesson Key Stage 3

► Computer Science - teacher case study

Online Lessons

Teachers across the UK have been working hard to produce online lessons for young people at home during the lockdown. These are obviously very different from classrooms but will give you an idea of lesson structure and content.

► Oak National Academy

An online school created in response to the lockdown, the lessons are based on videos and quizzes for most subjects and age groups. They have also produced videos for trainee teachers where [experienced teachers explain how they planned and delivered online lessons](#).

► BBC Bitesize

The BBC is providing daily lessons for children aged 5 to 15 in a range of subjects and will include some famous faces in coming weeks.

► Curriculum

If you want to get an in-depth view of your subject's curriculum and what you will teach, Seneca Learning includes resources for curriculum and student revision.

What is teacher training like?

There are different types of teacher training but Now Teach trainees have many shared experiences as career-changers. These are some of their stories.

► Could Do Better

Radio 4 series about Now Teach co-founder Lucy Kellaway's first year. It's honest and a great listen.

► How to retrain as a teacher

Short film by the *Financial Times* about a Now Teach trainee's first year and her decision to leave her job.

► What surprised you about teaching?

Near the end of their first year, Now Teachers share their thoughts.

How does behaviour management work?

Once they are in school, Now Teachers say student misbehaviour is not the huge challenge they feared it would be. Schools treat behaviour as a priority and your training equips to calm and manage classes. These links explain some of the tools you will be given as you train.

► School Culture - How School Leaders Can Optimise Behaviour

From the Government's school behaviour expert, this gives a great introduction and then delves into detail. We recommend pages 12-17 and 22-29.

► 10 Easy Behaviour Management Tips For Lesson Success

Short article explaining some of the simple things teachers do to make sure students have the right environment for learning.

► Classroom Management Strategies To Take Control Of Noisy Students

A teacher gives his personal reflections on how he learned to calm students down before the lesson even starts.

Education: the bigger picture

► The UK Education System

We put this document together to help convey some of the key things you should know before you join.

► Talks from inspirational teachers

A selection of Ted Talks from teachers around the world

► 'Experiences of poverty and educational disadvantage' by Donald Hirsch for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

A key report in explaining the link between poverty and educational achievement

► Closing the Gap by the EEF

Report explaining the gap in achievement between disadvantaged children and their wealthier peers

► What if... we really wanted to further social mobility through education?

The 2019 Education Lecture from UCL Institute of Education.



We support career-changers into teaching

Jo Holmes, Partnerships Lead

nowteach.org.uk

NOWTEACH



How we support career-changers

- ITT application advice and guidance
- Work alongside your school and training provider to provide additional support as necessary
- Programme of talks from speakers from world of education and subject-specific hubs
- Network support from peers training across the country. This continues beyond your training year.

Come and meet us

Hear from other career-changers who joined Now Teach at our last information event of the season.

- Thursday 27 May 2021
- Sign up at www.nowteach.org.uk/now-teach-events/

We can help with school experience

Library of useful resources and videos:

<https://nowteach.org.uk/school-experience>

Sign up for Now Teach's next School Insight webinar on Tuesday 1 June [here](#)

Gain experience as a volunteer tutor:

<https://nowteach.org.uk/tutoring>

The logo for Now Teach, featuring a white chevron pointing right, followed by the text "NOWTEACH" in a bold, sans-serif font. "NOW" is in dark blue and "TEACH" is in orange.

NOWTEACH