

Reach Teacher Training

Schools Direct training route information pack *for prospective trainees*

Introduction

The Reach Teacher Training (RTT) programme is a Schools Direct (fee-paying) initial teacher training route. Our programme is founded on the following principles:

- 1) Teaching is a skill which can be learned. There are a range of essential, highly effective techniques which should be practised to enable automation of these techniques.
- 2) Practice makes perfect - taking part in practice of each teaching technique before you return to the classroom is essential to embedding these skills.
- 3) Understanding the context of your school is essential - each school is composed of its own community of staff and students as well as the wider community it serves. Engaging with and understanding this context is key.
- 4) Teaching should be approached as a life-long career - we train teachers in order to enable them to flourish throughout a long career in the future.

How does the programme work?

The programme is comprised of two parts:

In-house training days (currently on Wednesdays) - this will include seminar and lecture style sessions alongside live practice that will cover teaching theory, teaching techniques, pedagogy and academic literature.

In-school teaching - for the remaining four days of the week, you will be in your main placement school planning for, preparing and delivering lessons

as well observing and supporting the lessons of other teachers (usually those of your mentor). You will also take part in the day to day running of the school which includes form times, duties and meetings. You will undertake observations during the time in which you are not teaching.

How much do I teach during the course?

In order to develop your teaching practice quickly but at a manageable pace, it is important to gradually add to your teaching load throughout the year. This will largely be managed by your mentor in conversation with senior leaders in your main placement school and the RTT programme lead. The *minimum* expectation in terms of teaching load is outlined below:

Time in school year	Minimum teaching load expected
By Autumn half term	6 hours of teaching
By Christmas holidays	9 hours of teaching
By Easter holidays	12 hours of teaching
By Summer half term	12 hours of teaching

This being said, teaching load and teaching load progression can be subject to timetabling and lesson availability so may require negotiation between schools and the RTT lead.

What qualifications do I gain?

All trainees that complete the programme will gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). This is the core qualification required to teach in state schools in the UK. This is gained through the collection of evidence towards the Teachers' Standards and is aided by both weekly training and the experience gained in your main placement school. This will be awarded through our partners in school centred initial teacher training (SCITT) South West Teacher Training.

For those that wish to do so, you can complete a Postgraduate Certificate of Education with Bath Spa University alongside the core training programme. This additional course covers teaching from the perspective of academic study via taught sessions and essays that you must write and submit. It also gives you credits towards a Masters level degree in

education. State schools outside of England require a PGCE qualification in order to teach there.

What qualifications do I need in order to apply?

You must have:

- GCSE Maths and English: Grade 4/C or above. Ensure you have your certificate(s).
- Degree: Honours 2:2 or above: Ensure you have your certificate and transcript. For undergraduates your referees need to stipulate the class of degree you are working at/will gain
- *Primary candidates*: you must also have a C or above in GCSE science
- *Secondary candidates*: your degree must relate to the secondary subject that you wish to specialise in. If this is not the case but you have an A-Level in a relevant subject at a grade C or higher then could still be considered.

Note:

- *If you do not hold a Grade 4 or higher in GCSE Maths or English then you will need to enrol on a course to gain these qualifications, or take an equivalency test at equivalencytesting.com.*
- *Where qualifications have been achieved abroad please contact UK NARIC and obtain a comparison statement to prove that your qualification is the equivalent of UK qualifications at naric.org.uk.*

What does it cost?

The current course cost is £8,250 for QTS only, and £9,250 for QTS with PGCE. This cost can be covered by taking out a student finance tuition fee loan. Students on this course will also be eligible to apply for maintenance loans from the student finance company. The final amount available as part of a maintenance loan is determined by your household income (you can find an estimate of the amount available to you here:

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator>).

Students of the following subjects are also eligible for a government grant if they achieved a 2:2 or higher in their undergraduate degree:

Postgraduate bursaries and scholarships

Postgraduate teaching bursaries and scholarships are only available for the subjects listed below. You cannot receive both a teaching bursary and a scholarship.

You must be eligible for student finance to receive a bursary or scholarship (unless you're training to teach physics or languages).

You cannot receive a scholarship or bursary if your teacher training course is salaried.

Subject	Bursary	Scholarship
Biology	£20,000	
Chemistry	£27,000	£29,000
Computing	£27,000	£29,000
Design and technology	£20,000	
English	£15,000	
Geography	£25,000	
Languages (French, German and Spanish only)	£25,000	£27,000
Languages (all other languages, including ancient languages)	£25,000	
Maths	£27,000	£29,000
Physics	£27,000	£29,000

Bursaries

You do not need to apply for a bursary. If you're eligible, you'll automatically receive it.

To be eligible for a bursary, you'll need at least one of the following:

- a bachelor's degree class 2:2 (honours) or higher
- a master's degree
- a PhD

If your course combines 2 subjects (for example, English and history), at least 50% of your course content must be made up of the bursary subject to be eligible.

You'll also need to meet the bursary scheme's individual terms and conditions.

Taken from:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/funding-and-support/scholarships-and-bursaries>

Reach Foundation Bursaries

If you are a trainee that is not eligible for government bursaries above, you may be eligible for a bursary from the Reach Foundation of up to £10,000. These bursaries are available for prospective trainees that would not be able to afford to train as a teacher without further financial assistance.

What support am I provided with?

You will formally receive support from the following people for the duration of the course:

- **Subject mentor** - your main day to day contact. You meet formally with them at least once a week to discuss your planning, receive feedback on your teaching, practise a key teaching technique and work to develop your subject knowledge and skills.
- **Professional mentor in placement school** - key contact between RTT and your placement school. They will oversee your placement and arrange Senior Leadership Observations that will need to take place as part of assessing your progress.
- **Reach Teacher Training course leader** - the course director responsible for overseeing the programme. This person facilitates weekly training sessions and quality assures the support that trainees receive in their main placement school. They arrange the second school placement and coordinate with all parties to ensure that trainees are on course to achieve their QTS/PGCE qualifications.

How am I assessed towards my qualification(s)?

The assessment process involves 3 stages:

1. Beginning Phase (Sept- Nov)
2. Developmental Phase (Dec - March)
3. Consolidation phase (April - June)

In each phase you will be assessed through the following activities:

- *Informal weekly drop-ins (with the subject mentor)* - you will receive feedback on lessons you have taught that week
- *Halfway progress check (with the Director of RTT)* - a short check in halfway through each phase to reflect on your progress
- *Formal observations (by your mentor)* - your mentor will formally observe a lesson provide you with feedback
- *Formal observations (by member of SLT)* - a member of the Senior Leadership team will observe a lesson provide you with formal feedback
- *End of phase review meeting (with your mentor and the Director of RTT)*
- *Evidence folder review* - Review of the evidence in your evidence folder

In the event that trainees are not on course to meet the requirements for QTS, additional support will be put in place to assist them in meeting the requirements.

Where will I be placed?

If you are already employed by a school (for example as a Teaching Assistant) and if the school is willing to support you in your training year, then you will be able to remain at your school.

If you are not already employed by a school then your main placement school will either be Reach Academy or a partner school. The school you will be placed in will be determined by where there is capacity for your subject/primary training to be supported. All schools are required to meet certain criteria to ensure they will be able to support you fully to meet the requirements for QTS by the end of the year.

Will I have some experience within another school setting?

As part of your training year, it is required that you will spend some time in another school as part of collecting evidence to show that you meet the Teachers' Standards. If your main placement school is not Reach Academy Feltham then Reach Academy will almost certainly be your second placement school.

How do I apply?

To apply, simply go to <https://www.gov.uk/find-postgraduate-teacher-training-courses> and search for 'Reach Academy Feltham' as the name of the teacher training provider. Click on your chosen course, and then click on 'Apply for this course'. You will then be taken to UCAS to submit your application where you will need to select Reach Academy Feltham as one of your choices.

NB - you will need to have two references ready as part of the application process. If you are intending to train at the school at which you are already employed, one of your references must be the head teacher at your current school.