

# Wider Ponteland Partnership



## School Direct 2016-17



[www.pontelandfirst.co.uk](http://www.pontelandfirst.co.uk)

# Welcome...

Welcome to the Wider Ponteland Partnership School Direct programme. This booklet provides an overview of our programme—further details can be found on our website: [www.pontelandfirst.co.uk](http://www.pontelandfirst.co.uk)

## What is School Direct?

If you want your training to be based at a school where you can be fully immersed in the life of a teacher from day one, a school-led training course is for you. Training with us on a School Direct programme means you get to experience the whole cycle of a school year, from the first day of term in September through to the end of year celebrations in July. You will build up close working relationships with students and colleagues and develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours that will ensure you become a successful practitioner.

Within our partnership we have training options for both high quality graduates and career changers who want hands-on training in a school, working in partnership with Northumbria University. This full time route into teaching, leads to Qualified Teacher Status with a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) and master's-level credits.

As lead school you will be selected by Ponteland First School and will train on the job either at Ponteland First or one of our partner schools. You will train in the classroom supported by qualified outstanding teachers and mentors and will also spend time studying at university. You will work as part of the teaching team from day one and immediately put your new skills into practice.





# Why choose School Direct?

- You will spend more time in school than trainees on a 'traditional' PGCE
- You will be training alongside outstanding teachers and lead professionals
- You will receive excellent professional development within our partnership schools and with Northumbria University
- You will experience the diversity of excellent education providers in different types of schools with different specialisms within our partnership of schools
- You will still have access to University facilities e.g. libraries, lectures etc
- You will gain a PGCE with Masters Accreditation through Northumbria University
- You will be supported in seeking employment on successful completion of training

# What will the programme involve?

- You will be allocated to a host school and a school based mentor. You will start the academic year in your Host School and spend the majority of their school-based experience time there.
- You will gain experience in teaching in both Key Stage 1 and key Stage 2.
- You will complete 15 weeks of assessed placements, the first being in the Autumn Term, the second in the Spring/ Summer Term. Placements are assessed through two observations a week.
- You will spend a placement in a second school during the second half of the Autumn Term of the academic year. This will be in a contrasting environment ,in an alternative Key Stage.
- In addition to the directed school-based experience time, all trainees will spend a period of time at Northumbria University for subject specific enhancement sessions.
- The course combines practical classroom experience with academic study to give you the knowledge and understanding to teach successfully. You will be assessed through the whole course by observations and assignments.

## Our Partner Schools for 2016-17

Belsay First School

Cramlington Cragside Primary School

Darras Hall First School

Heddon on the Wall First School

Ponteland First School

Richard Coates Middle School

Stamfordham First School

# What are the entry requirements?

## Degree

You should be a graduate, preferably with a minimum of a 2:1 degree in the subject you wish to teach or a related subject. We are sometimes willing to consider applicants who have a 2:2 but they must be able to demonstrate a real aptitude for teaching. Applicants with relevant industrial or commercial experience are very welcome to apply. If you have a degree but don't think it's relevant to any subject on the curriculum, you can contact us for further advice.

## GCSEs

To start teacher training you'll need C-grade GCSEs (or standard equivalents) in English, Maths and a science subject if you want to teach primary or key stages 2/3.

If you don't have the necessary GCSEs, you may be able to take a pre-entry test set by your teacher training provider. If in doubt, contact the school to find out more.

If you have qualifications from outside the European Economic Area (EEA), the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) will be able to advise you on whether these are equivalent to the minimum requirements set out above. They may also provide certification where appropriate. The EEA consists of all members of the European Community (EC), including Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

## School Experience

It's important to spend as much time as possible in schools before you apply for teacher training - the insight you gain will be an invaluable part of your application.

You'll be expected to have at least 10 days experience before you start your training. If you would like to arrange some time in a school, please contact us.

## Skills Tests

If you are thinking of applying for a teacher training course, you will need to take the numeracy and literacy skills tests as part of the application process, and ensure you have passed them both before the start of the course.

The first attempt at taking your skills tests in each subject is provided free of charge. You can book up to two resits if required, but you will be expected to pay for these yourself.

When you take the tests, you will need to provide proof that you have applied for a teacher training course. The tests are held at a Pearson Professional Test Centre.

*'I have felt that this year has been the most challenging yet rewarding so far. I feel extremely lucky that I got to train in the Ponteland Partnership.'*

*Jo Hunt 2015*



## How to apply...

- Go to the Department for Education/Teaching Agency website to find out more about School Direct -<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/teacher-training-options/school-based-training/>
- Email Lynn Blain or Lizzie Dinning-Fowler for more information or to book a visit to Ponteland First School – [lynn.blain@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.blain@northumberland.gov.uk) or [lizzie.dinning@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lizzie.dinning@northumberland.gov.uk)
- Complete the online application form via UCAS - <http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training> .Applications to start the course in September 2016 will be open from mid October 2015.
- Book your Literacy and Numeracy tests. These must be passed as part of the application procedure and preferably before your interview. You cannot train to teach without passing these. To find out more information, to register and to book a test go to: [www.education.gov.uk/teachskillstests](http://www.education.gov.uk/teachskillstests)



# Frequently asked questions...

## **Are any of the Wider Ponteland Partnership places for 2016-17 salaried?**

No. You will be required to pay fees to complete the course but bursaries and financial assistance are available to support you with this.

## **Do I choose my placement schools?**

No. You will be matched to a school by Headteachers within the partnership. Your skills and previous experiences will form part of the decision making process, along with any specific needs you may have eg transport.

## **Will there be more than one trainee in each school?**

In some cases but not always. Through training events you will meet with other trainees in the partnership on a weekly basis. You will soon build a trainee network and be able to share and draw on each other's experiences.

## **What advantage does a PCGE give?**

The PGCE is an academic qualification and demonstrates that you have critically engaged with the research and knowledge base which underpins professional practice. Some schools in the UK and many countries insist that teachers from the UK have the PGCE rather than just QTS.

## **What will my timetable look like?**

Your initial timetable will vary from trainee to trainee depending on previous experience. You will quickly build up to teaching 60% of a full week's timetable during Assessed Placement 1 in the Autumn Term, to 70% during the final assessed placement during the Spring/Summer Term. In no circumstances is a trainee allowed to teach more than 80% of a full timetable.

## **What support will I receive in finding employment?**

As a partnership we aim to support all trainees to find employment, ideally within their placement school. Alongside this commitment we will offer you focussed advice on how to find employment and how to secure and prepare for interviews. Last year 90% of our School Direct trainees from the 2014-15 cohort were employed in Partnership schools.

*'I have had a brilliant time! Staff have been very supportive of my needs and always had time to discuss and issues or questions. It has been great becoming part of the school community.'*

*Caitlin Naylor 2015*

*'I couldn't have asked for a better experience. The school always made me feel welcome, supportive and successful. I know I am now well prepared for my NQT year.'*

*Ryan Davison 2015*

