

# Wider Ponteland Partnership



## School Direct 2021-2022



[www.pontelandprimary.co.uk](http://www.pontelandprimary.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 by contacting our lead school, Ponteland Primary School.

## 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 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 Primary School and will train on the job either at Ponteland Primary 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 campus based PGCE.
- You will be training alongside outstanding teachers and lead professionals.
- You will receive excellent professional development within our partnership of 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.
- You will still have access to Northumbria University facilities e.g. libraries, lectures, tutorials, etc.
- You will gain a PGCE (QTS) with accreditation towards a Masters 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 have a school based mentor. You will begin the academic year in your Host School and spend the majority of your school-based experience time there.
- You will gain experience in teaching in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
- You will complete a minimum of 15 weeks of assessed placements, the first being in the Autumn Term and the remaining across the Spring / Summer Term. two observations weekly.
- You will carry out 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. (Please note: COVID-19 is having implications on the implementation of our course. There may be changes to the expected delivery)
- In addition to the school-based experience time, all trainees will spend a period of time at Northumbria University for academic enhancement sessions. Support is also provided to address the teaching standards through regular training sessions delivered collaboratively through the Wider Ponteland Partnership, Three Rivers Partnership and Tyne Valley Teaching Alliance. These will involve subject specific enhancement and pedagogical understanding of teaching and the curriculum.
- The course combines practical classroom experience with academic study to give you the knowledge, understanding and skills to teach successfully. You will be assessed throughout the course by observations, assignments and a portfolio of evidence in

## Our Partner Schools for 2021-2022

Belsay Primary School

Cragside Church of England Primary School, Cramlington

Darras Hall Primary School

Heddon on the Wall, St. Andrew's, Church of England Primary School

Ponteland Primary School

Richard Coates School

Stamfordham Primary School

Whalton Primary School

# What are the entry requirements?

## Degree

You should be a graduate, preferably with a minimum of a 2:1 degree. Many university degrees are transferable to a Primary PGCE. 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 will need C-grade or grade 4 GCSEs (or standard equivalents) in English, mathematics and a science subject in order to teach primary education.

If you don't have a GCSEs or similar, you may be able to take equivalency tests to reach the necessary standards.

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 desirable for candidates to spend as much time as possible in schools when applying for teacher training - the insight you gain there will be an invaluable part of the application process.

If you would like to arrange some time in one of our partnerships of schools, please contact us.

## Other Requirements

All offers of places are subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) enhanced disclosure with list check. If you are offered a place, you will be asked to provide a signed declaration relating to any police record.

All trainee teachers must also meet the Secretary of State's requirements for physical and mental health. (In practice, few health problems preclude applicants from teaching, and so we welcome applications from people with disabilities.)

*“ This year has been a great experience which has allowed me to develop as a teacher with the support from a fantastic mentor along with amazing opportunities. As a result I feel very well prepared from my NQT year.”*

*Jennifer Johnson*



## How to apply...

- Go to the Get into Teaching website to find out more about School Direct - <https://www.ucas.com/teaching-option/school-direct-tuition-fee>
- Email Lynn Blain or Alistair McCourt for more information or to book a visit to Ponteland Primary School (CoViD restrictions permitting) – [Lynn.Blain@ppschoool.uk](mailto:Lynn.Blain@ppschoool.uk) or [Alistair.McCourt@ppschoool.uk](mailto:Alistair.McCourt@ppschoool.uk)
- Find further information about our course from: <https://www.find-postgraduate-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/course/16S/2YVQ>
- Look for advice at: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/how-to-apply-for-teacher-training>
- Apply via 'Apply for Teacher Training': <https://www.apply-for-teacher-training.service.gov.uk/candidate>





# Frequently asked questions...

## **Are any of the Wider Ponteland Partnership places for 2021-2022 salaried?**

No. You will be required to pay fees (Currently £9,250) to complete the course but student financial assistance through the Student Finance is 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 e.g. transportation, familiarity with school, etc

## **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. We also promote networking across other training providers so that you have a depth of support.

## **What advantage does a PGCE 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 international schools 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 and depends on previous experience. You will quickly build up to teaching 50% of a full week's timetable during Assessed Placement 1 in the Autumn Term, to over 70% during the final assessed placement in the Spring/Summer Term. A trainee will not 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.

*"Being part of the school has been fantastic. The experience has been absolutely amazing. Support systems are in place to help you every step of the way."*

*Jay Fawcett*

*"I Couldn't have asked for a more supportive environment to spend my training year in!"*

*Sarah Docherty*

*"I have had an amazing year. It is very challenging, but it pays off in the end!"*

*Becky Gallon*

*"I have learned the job through hands on experiences... I now feel well prepared for my NQT year"*

*Kirstie Ions*