

Wider Ponteland Partnership



School Direct 2018-19



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 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 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 '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 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 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 academic enhancement sessions. Support is also provided to address the Teaching Standards through regular training sessions delivered collaboratively with the Wider Ponteland Partnership, Three Rivers Partnership and Sele Teaching Alliance. These will involve subject specific enhancement and understanding of teaching and the curriculum.
- 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, assignments and a portfolio of evidence in teaching to meet the standards expected.

Our Partner Schools for 2018-19

Cramlington Cragside Primary School

Darras Hall Primary School

Heddon on the Wall 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 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 will need C-grade GCSEs (or standard equivalents) in English, Mathematics and a science subject if you want to teach primary.

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 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 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.

When you take the tests, you will need to provide proof that you have applied for a teacher training course.

'My experience as part of the Wider Ponteland Partnership has been excellent; the staff are so supportive of each individual and give plenty of opportunities to develop training to be fully prepared for my NQT year.'

Demi Morris 2017



How to apply...

- Go to the Department for Education/Teaching Agency website to find out more about School Direct -<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/explore-my-options/teacher-training-routes/school-led-training/school-direct>
- Email Lynn Blain or Alistair McCourt for more information or to book a visit to Ponteland Primary School – lynn.blain@ppschoool.uk or alistair.mccourt@ppschoool.uk
- Complete the online application form via UCAS - <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training/ucas-teacher-training-apply-and-track>
Applications to start the course in September 2018 will be open from 26th October 2017.
- Book your Literacy and Numeracy tests. You cannot train to teach without passing these. To find out more information, to register and to book a test go to: sta.education.gov.uk



Frequently asked questions...

Are any of the Wider Ponteland Partnership places for 2018-19 salaried?

No. You will be required to pay fees (Currently £9250) to complete the course but student financial assistance 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. 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 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 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.

'I couldn't feel more prepared for my NQT year due to the training and experience I have had with the Wider Ponteland Partnership. The individual training plan ensured that I was able to gain knowledge and skills in all my key areas of development.'

Kirsty Allan 2017

'This year has been challenging but completely rewarding, I have learnt so much and feel very grateful for my training.'

Lindsey Pemberton 2017

'Being immersed in daily school life means you learn valuable skills so quickly.'

Pauline Hall 2017

