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WELCOME

Do you want to make a real difference? Train to Teach with us!

I am delighted that you have taken an interest in our initial teacher training programme. We are an inclusive, outstanding, innovative, well-established and highly respected provider in Northamptonshire.

We have been running our School Direct Primary PGCE with QTS programme since 2012 and pride ourselves on our personalised and bespoke approach to teacher training. This is reflected in the excellent retention and success rates achieved over the last 10 years.



We are passionate about ensuring every child can achieve and are dedicated to producing high quality teachers.. Our network of schools provides opportunities to work in a variety of settings. Our partnership with the University of Derby and their outstanding initial teacher training programmes ensures our trainees achieve good and outstanding results.

Ensuring trainees receive the right support in the most appropriate setting is at the forefront of our ethos. We have a highly skilled group of professionals who provide support and guidance throughout the programme, ensuring each trainee is equipped with the key ingredients enabling them to be successful Early Career Teachers.

Our trainees are sought after, our employment rates fantastic and trainee feedback for our course is outstanding.

We hope you find this guide useful and wish you the best of luck in your first steps towards a career in teaching. If you are considering training with us, we can't wait to meet you!

Lesley Elder | Headteacher



Why choose Fairfields School Direct?

Our broad and inclusive training programme enables us, alongside our partner schools, to ensure the next generation of outstanding teachers are prepared for the challenges and rewards of primary teaching. We are committed to providing a supportive and personalised programme.

ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIPS

We are proud of our excellent partnership with the University of Derby, an experienced provider of school-based initial teacher training, with whom we run our School Direct Primary PGCE course. The programme has been judged as "outstanding" by Ofsted.

Our partner schools across Northamptonshire and beyond are vital to the success of our training. Our key aim is to work collaboratively with our schools to provide effective primary initial teacher training. Our mainstream and special placements cover both the 3-7 and 5-11 years training routes. Professional development sessions will explore the essentials of excellent classroom practice.

SUPPORT

We are with you every step of the way. Our dedicated team help make the training process as smooth as possible. This includes the Headteacher and team at Fairfields School who have over 10 years experience training teachers, experienced Link Tutors, and the University Link who also delivers on the programme. The team work closely together to support each individual trainee with their own bespoke training plan – a characteristic feature of our course.

Each trainee will have an experienced school-based mentor to offer support, advice and guidance. We also encourage a network for our trainees, creating a peer-to-peer support environment.

FUTURE EMPLOYABILITY

Employment prospects at the end of our programme are excellent. This is due to our well-developed connections to a large number of schools across the county, with whom we have built excellent relationships. Historically, 100% of our trainees are employed within 6 months of completing the programme.

Our track record

2018-2019: 25 trainees successfully qualified. 100% retention rate.

2019-2020: 16 trainees successfully qualified. 100% employment rate.

2020-2021: 17 trainees successfully qualified. 100% employment rate.

2021-2022: 19 trainees currently completing their programme.

This track record of success in providing School Direct at PGCE level is, we believe, a significant reason why aspiring teachers should consider training with us.



Teaching in Northamptonshire

There isn't a better place to train to be a primary teacher. Northamptonshire needs incredible teachers. If you are thinking of coming to train with us from outside of the county, it's a great place to be. Please visit www.teachnorthamptonshire.com for more information.

Case Study—Alice Ewers

My experience with Fairfields School Direct was extremely positive. Initially, everything about the course was clearly explained and expectations were set out from the beginning. The course covered a variety of areas, including EYFS and SEND, and sessions were usually practical, which is the best way of learning for teaching - not sitting at a desk listening all day! Course content was taught to a high quality, and I believe I received holistic teacher training through Fairfields. I really enjoyed the opportunity to explore different education settings too, including nursery and SEMH/ PRU schools. The support I received along the way had a huge impact in my success, from University tutors to the team at Fairfields. They are with you every step of your training journey, whatever time it is, and wherever they are, they always aim to do what they can to solve any issues, or just reassure you that you are doing well.



Since qualifying 3 years ago, I have been teaching EYFS in a wonderful SEN primary school, where I know I have taken knowledge from my training with me into my job. People say it all the time but teaching truly is one of the most rewarding careers you could choose. The children can light up your day, and always find a way to bring a smile to your face. I would recommend the 'Fairfields' route to anyone who is looking to get in to teaching, especially if you are looking for a supportive, caring team, who can provide you with a holistic teacher training education.



Case Study - Ann Marie Morton

i had been working for several years as an LSA and an Unqualified Teacher before embarking on my PGCE with Fairfields School and Derby University. It was a busy, intensive year during which I felt thoroughly supported by my mentors, school staff and those involved at the University. It allowed me to improve my knowledge of research led pedagogical approaches and practice them in school-based settings. The course provided me with an understanding of the challenges and rewards of teaching. Since qualifying, I have been teaching at Fairfields School working with children in Years 1, 2 and 3. This year I have taken on the role of Math Lead, giving further opportunities to research pedagogies and to work on my leadership skills for the future.

Case Study - Matt Thomson

My name is Matt Thomson and I was fortunate to be involved in the school direct programme with Fairfields school and Derby university. Although the year was very intensive it was an excellent grounding to begin my teaching career. The programme allowed me to improve my pedagogy and understand the demands of teaching through a school-based model. The support offered by my school and other partners on the programme was exemplary. Since completing the programme I have been able to successfully progress within my career from a primary school class teacher, secondary key stage leader 4 leader to my current role of assistant headteacher at a special needs secondary school.



What is Primay School Direct?

School Direct is a school-based initial teacher training programme. The programme, as you would expect, is heavily focussed on gaining practical day to day hands on experience of being a teacher in the classroom. You will be working in a school from day one.

Trainees will complete two diverse school placements across two consecutive age ranges, spending a minimum of 30 weeks in school., with this 80% of your training being hands on in the classroom. The remaining 20% is spent at University embarking on a rigorous study of education and pedagogy, assessed through written assignments.

Trainees do not need to travel to Derby for the taught element of the course – the hub training days take place in Northampton and we structure the course so that it is only necessary to travel to Derby on a few occasions through the year. These weekly hub training days are led by experienced lecturers from the University of Derby, specialists from our provision team, and a range of curriculum leaders from our partner schools, who are there to lend a school-based perspective.



Assessment

Trainees will be assessed on their classroom practice, ability to meet Teachers Standards and ability to plan and deliver high quality lessons.

The taught and assessed element of the School Direct programme from the University of Derby is highly structured and sets out, week by week, the expectations upon the student, upon the school-based mentor and upon the school as a whole, so that the trainee gradually assumes more and more whole class teaching responsibility as the programme progresses. Course and training materials are clear and well structured so that our trainees know what is expected of them at all times.

All trainees will complete core and subject specific training sessions tailored to meet your needs.

We start off slowly, building your confidence as you go. We mix practical classroom work with theory and professional training so you get the best of both worlds.



Key Points:

- Train in your host school
- Gradual increase in teaching
- Continuous assessment throughout
- Spring term placement in a contrasting school and alternative age range
- Weekly diverse and engaging professional training





Our Programme - Features & Benefits

Our primary programme focuses on all areas of the curriculum, incorporating a variety of theoretical and practical sessions as well as in-school sessions, enabling trainees to observe outstanding practice. Core subjects will be given a greater focus, looking at key skills and concepts taught across the primary age range, and all trainees will develop their understanding of early mathematics and early reading, including phonics. Creativity and cross curricular links will be explored throughout; planning lessons and schemes of work which inspire children and meet the needs of all learners. Sessions will focus on establishing a positive learning environment within the classroom, building strong relationships with children, parents, staff and the wider school community.



As well as academic progress, sessions will highlight effective ways of developing children's personal and social skills and cultural awareness. Assessment for learning strategies will be introduced, encouraging the children to become independent learners in order to fulfil their potential. The programme encourages trainees to reflect on their own practice as well as the teaching they have observed during school placements. Trainees will explore current educational classroom research through teacher enquiry.

Placements / Timetable

Due to us being a large and experienced provider, we can match trainee to school intelligently in a range of settings including large primaries, small primaries, special schools and units. Wherever possible, placements are made through consultation and try to avoid long daily journeys (particularly on second placements in Spring).

You will be based at your main placement school from the start of the programme where you will develop your teaching practice and will also complete a 6–8 week placement at a contrasting school.

You will learn "on the job", receiving intensive support from experienced school-based mentors and expert Link Tutors. Your teaching responsibility will increase over time as you develop your skills and practice in the classroom as you become a fully embedded member of the team in your placement school.

Specific details of your class and responsibilities will be discussed on a personal basis with your placement school.





Trainee Responsibilities

Induction (prior to September):

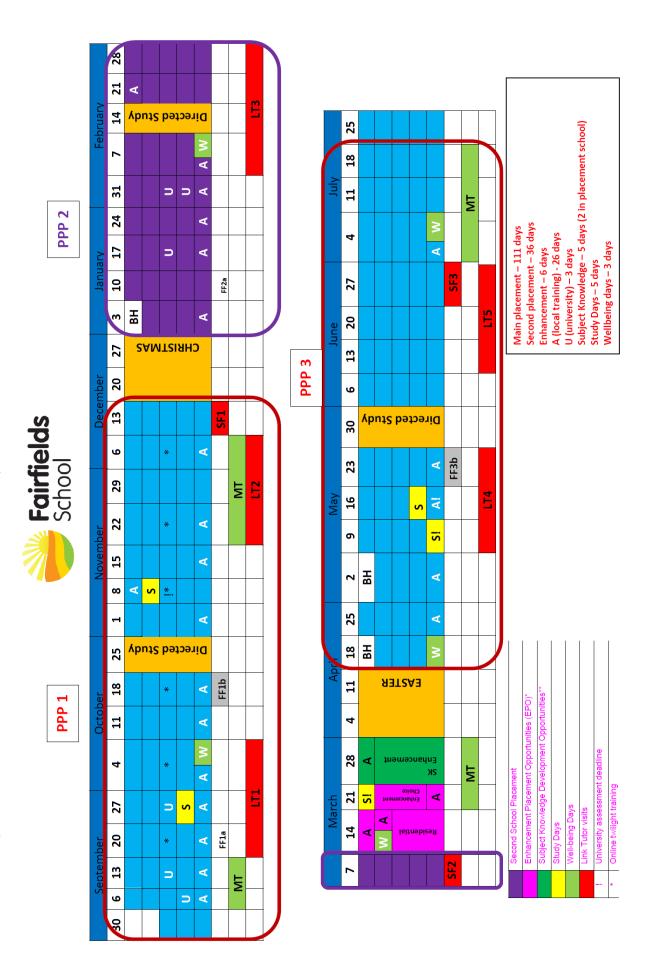
- Meet with the Head Teacher of your placement school, School Direct Lead, Mentor
- Acquire copies of key documentation, as appropriate
- Spend time observing your class with your mentor

Teaching Allocations (for guidelines only)

	Orientation Phase	Practice and Review	Second Place- ment—No teach- ing week 1	Re-Orientation and Qualifying Phase Reduced for first week
	September— October half term	October half- term— Christmas	January—Easter	Easter—July
Observation / reflection	20-40%	20-40%	20—40%	10-20%
Whole class teaching	20-40%	40-60%	20% - 50% (building up to max. after week 4)	60-80%
Other teaching	20%		20% (first 2 weeks)	
Planning, preparation and assessment	20%	20%	20%	10-20%



Programme Overview—example from previous years



Key Information

Entry Requirements

All applicants must have the following qualifications:

- English, maths and science GCSE at grade 4/C or above some equivalencies are accepted
- A university Hons degree at 2:2 or above

All trainees must undergo a full DBS check and medical questionnaire before starting the course.

Qualification

Upon successful completion of our programme you will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).

Fees

Current tuition fees payable to the University of Derby are £9250. Student loans are available.

Applications

Applications for our School Direct offer are made through DfE Apply.

Please visit: https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training

The Application Process

Your application will be sent for shortlisting and if successful you will be offered an interview.

The interviews are in two stages. Stage 1 involves a story reading activity in the classroom. Stage 2 is a formal interview with a written and organisational task included.







Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Can I make an application whilst completing my degree?

Yes, you can still make an application. If successful at interview, a conditional offer will be made subject to gaining the necessary degree by August 31st.

Can I still make an application if I don't have one of my GCSEs?

Yes, but you will need to gain the qualification before August 31st.

What do I do if I have an international qualification?

You need to contact **UK ENIC**: https://www.ecctis.com/ and provide a statement of equivalency.

Will you find me a placement school?

If you do not have a supporting school in place, we will aim to place you in a school within reasonable travelling distance to your home.

Will I be expected to teach on day one?

No, our programme builds up to full time teaching gradually across the year.

Do you offer a salaried route?

Currently, we do not offer a salaried training route. Our programme is training only and will incur a tuition fee payable to the University of Derby

Testimonials

I feel the diverse range of sessions provided me with a solid platform of knowledge to take into my in -school experience. We were always encouraged to ask questions and provided with additional sessions and content when we asked for it. I never felt overwhelmed with what we were being delivered and the ITT Lead was really good at helping us reflect at the end of each session about how it may fit within our different school experiences. The non-core, cross curricular week also came at the perfect time and was not only informative but great for our collective wellbeing too.

Support was absolutely and undeniably perfect. The emails both from FF and link tutors were replied to pretty much instantly with clear responses. The understanding from tutors was amazing and very reassuring.

Thank you for all your support this year. The course has been amazing and I feel incredibly prepared to go on to teach independently next year because of the nature of the course and the incredible support from all involved.







Contact Details

For further information, please contact us:

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