

## **Midlands Initial Teacher Training Primary Alliance**

### **Why train with us?**

Welcome to the Midlands Initial Teacher Training Primary Alliance. We are a partnership of twelve primary schools based in the East Midlands. Several of us have worked together as SCITT schools (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) for a number of years and many of our former recruits are now employed with us.

Teaching is an exciting and diverse profession, which means you can go home each day knowing you've made a real difference and a valuable contribution to shaping the future of the next generation. It's a great world to be part of.

School based initial teacher training is now one of the best ways to begin your career in teaching and the School Direct Primary route is proven to be a highly effective and successful one. Our schools will be working closely with the University of Nottingham, a Russell Group institution that is rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. All trainees who successfully complete the School Direct course with us will be recommended for Qualified Teacher Status and will gain a PGCE with masters level credits. The University has a long history of Initial Teacher Education and we have worked together closely to develop a high quality programme based on experience, excellent Quality Assurance and a commitment to a high level of support for trainees.

Please see the University of Nottingham website for more information about the training programme, including:

- Our entry requirements
  
- How we select our trainees
  
- Fees and funding
  
- Application guidance

We also work with the Minster Teaching School Alliance to ensure that you have the very best opportunities to develop your skills in good and outstanding schools. This will be achieved through an integrated programme of theory and school based practice.

In all of our schools, you will gain a full insight into child development, current curriculum expectations, up-to-the-minute thinking and educational research and you'll find out what turns a good teacher into a great teacher.

You'll be well-supported by the Alliance family, a close-knit group of fellow trainees, dedicated mentors and university tutors, with whom you are likely to form very strong links and friendships that often extend beyond your training year.

### What we can offer you

In a School Direct trainee position with us, you will learn to become an enthusiastic, creative and skilful primary teacher.

We pride ourselves on our:

- **Personal mentor support** – offering you tailored guidance and helping you develop your own personal learning style;
- **University tutors** – four visits in schools and assignments marked;
- **Local partnership schools** – a network across the East Midlands that offers excellent opportunities to learn and grow;
- **Diversity** – whether you're straight out of university or training later in life for a new career, we'll support you in meeting your full potential;
- **Outstanding practitioners** – modelling excellent delivery, planning and subject knowledge;
- **School based experience** – the preferred key stage placement in a home school, and a shared six week placement in a different key stage with a partner student;
- **Additional training** – complimenting the university course and relevant to national and local agendas;
- **Professional discussion** – continual professional development and reflection on practice.

All of our schools are very different, but share the common purpose of bringing out the best in every individual. Our passionate and hard-working staff teams will take every opportunity to support and encourage you through your training year.

Your home school and the University of Nottingham work closely together to ensure that your progress on the course is closely supported and quality assured.

Over the duration of the course you will spend four days in school and one day at the University on a Friday. Fridays will be an opportunity to work with other primary trainees, the sessions will form an integral part of the work you do in school. You will be part of a large cohort of beginning teachers exploring the primary curriculum and how to make it accessible and enjoyable to all pupils.

You will have a mentor assigned by the school who will undertake regular training at the University. You will also be allocated a University tutor who will work closely with you and your mentor and coordinator. From the beginning of the course, which starts at the end of August, you will be regarded as a member of staff but also as a beginning teacher. You will attend development days, consultation sessions and extra-curricular activities.

In the second term you will undertake a placement in a second school. This is an opportunity to learn within a different context and share your experiences with other trainees.

The practical experience is underpinned by theoretical approaches that are discussed and explored during University based sessions. There is a focus on both 'Schools and Society' and 'Teaching and Learning' and your assignments will ensure that these aspects are closely considered in relation to your teaching in school.

### **Assessment**

The School Direct PGCE course is assessed at postgraduate certificate level. It incorporates two 30-credit modules which may be counted towards the MA in Education.

For the award of the PGCE and to achieve Teacher Standards, you must have reached the required standard in both the theoretical and practical elements of the course. In keeping with the nature of the course, which is vocational and postgraduate in approach, there are no written examinations.

Practical Teaching is assessed by the University tutors, school based mentors and coordinators, and External Examiners. Account is taken of your work over all school based elements of the course and your own written records of such work.

The University does not allow an automatic right to re-sit practical teaching if you fail this part of the course. If the right to re-sit is granted then the opportunity is dependent upon locating a partner school which agrees to place you.

On the course, you are required to submit various pieces of work related to your course. The assignments may be written pieces or presentations and may include collaborative work.

### **What we are looking for**

We are looking for high quality trainees with a passion for challenging and inspiring the pupils in our schools. Specifically we are looking for people with:

#### **A desire to teach and work with young people**

Obviously you need to like young people and enjoy working with them. We would like to see evidence of observation and participation in schools as this strengthens your application and shows your commitment.

#### **Effective communication skills**

All teachers need to be able to communicate well. But don't worry - we won't expect you to arrive on day one fully confident in addressing large groups of people! During the year you'll be amazed at the progress you can make and you'll get lots of practical support from us.

#### **A commitment to work hard on the course**

Yes, we do expect you to work hard and be committed, but the work will be rewarding. Teaching is a job where you can really make a difference to young people's lives.

### **Determination to succeed**

Success rates on the Nottingham ITE courses are high. It isn't because the course is easy! It is because of the high calibre of the students on the course, the course itself and the teachers in the partnership schools. If we offer you a place on the course we'll be committed to helping you make a success of it.

### **A readiness to listen and share**

Teaching is about working with others - pupils, colleagues, parents and carers. By working in our schools we encourage you to work collaboratively, both with other students and with our teachers. We think this is the best way of learning to teach effectively.

### **A flexible approach to learning and teaching**

You need to be open to new ideas, not too set in your ways, willing to review your own progress and reflect on the new situations in which you will find yourself. You also need to be organised and independent. By the end of the year you will be taking responsibility for other people's learning as well as your own.

## **Entry Requirements**

All applicants are required on entry to their teacher training course to hold a UK degree or equivalent qualification. On your application form, give us the details of what you've studied at degree level and make a case for why it's relevant to being a primary teacher.

### **GCSEs**

We do require you to hold passes in English Language, mathematics and science at GCSE grade C or above, or an approved equivalent qualification. We can consider you if you do not have these GCSE qualifications at the time you apply, but you must obtain them before the course starts. For applicants holding a conditional offer, who have not got a grade c or above (or equivalent) in mathematics, we offer a mathematics test which can be taken under supervised conditions in the School of Education.

### **School Experience**

You will need to have a minimum of ten days experience in a state sector UK primary school before you can apply for a place on this programme.

### **Fitness to Teach**

Admission to the course is subject to a satisfactory medical report, as you are required to meet the standards for 'Fitness to Teach'.

We have a wide range of facilities to meet the needs of students with special needs and disabilities. You are welcome to discuss any special needs or disabilities with us at any time during, or after, the application process.

## **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**

For all initial teacher training courses, applicants must complete forms requesting an Enhanced Disclosure from the DBS. In addition you will be required to disclose previous offences to the School of Education.

## **Literacy and Numeracy Skills Tests**

Whilst you are not required to have applied and passed these before interview you are strongly recommended to take these as soon as possible. All applicants with a conditional offer must have passed these prior to coming on course.

### **How we select our trainees**

There is a two stage process for the School Direct course.

The University of Nottingham screens your application and decides whether to offer you an interview. If you are offered an interview this will be at the University's School of Education on the Jubilee Campus. If you are successful at this interview you are then interviewed by us. If successful at this stage you will then be allocated a home school. This is not necessarily the lead school.

[University of Nottingham School Direct Information](#)

## **Your application**

Your UCAS-TT application form is looked at very carefully. In particular, at the first screening stage the University is interested in your personal statement, your qualifications and your experience.

Use the personal statement to convince us that you genuinely want to teach and will make a good teacher. Make sure that you have given us a clear indication of the subject content of your degree. We will also look at whether you have taken care to present your application form professionally.

On the basis of our consideration of your application form, and the academic references that accompany it, the University decides whether to invite you for an interview.

## **Your interview**

When you come for a School Direct interview at the University, there are likely to be other applicants being interviewed alongside you. You will not be in competition with the other applicants - in fact, we are keen to see that you can work collaboratively with others. The criteria we will use at interview to decide whether or not we offer you a place on the course are:

- an awareness of current educational issues;
- a realistic and positive view of schools and schooling;
- an open and enquiring mind;

- clear reasons for wanting to teach at the level for which you have applied;
- motivation and commitment to teaching pupils of all levels of ability;
- maturity and self-confidence.

You will be interviewed by staff from The School of Education. You may be asked to carry out certain tasks that allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and skills, individually or in groups. The letter of invitation will give you details about specific requirements or expectations.

### **What happens next?**

We then interview you in school. This will include:

- A tour of the school;
- A written task based on your classroom observations whilst in the school;
- An observed activity with children;
- A formal interview.

We will inform you of our decision as soon as possible after your interview. If you are given a conditional offer of a place on the School Direct course, you will receive a pack of information describing you the steps you should take next. The conditional offer will become unconditional when we have received your acceptance and all the necessary clearances and documentation.

We know this is a rigorous and thorough process but we and you need to be sure that teaching is for you!

### **Fees and Funding**

For more information please go to [Fees and Funding](#)

### **After the Course**

Most of the trainees who train on University of Nottingham courses go on to teach in the East Midlands region and many gain posts in the schools in which they have completed their training.

All trainees and students on the University of Nottingham ITE courses automatically receive a conditional offer on the MA in Education and many go on to become mentors in the partnership.

Whilst there is no guarantee of employment after the School Direct course we do hope to train teachers for our alliance.

### **Schools in our Alliance**

Our schools are based in four different local authorities, and all are within reasonable travelling distance of Nottingham University:

- [All Saints CE Infant School and Pre-School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Selston CE Infant and Nursery School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Larkfields Infant and Junior Schools, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Banks Road Infant and Nursery School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Mornington Primary School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Edgewood Primary School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Gilthill Primary School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Hempshill Hall Primary School, Nottingham City](#)
- [Jacksdale Primary School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Awsworth Primary School, Nottinghamshire](#)
- [Hollywell Primary School, Nottinghamshire](#)