



Fairfields
School

School Direct
Primary PGCE
Applicant
Information Pack



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Fairfields School

School Direct—Primary

We are very 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 (24ZM). The University of Derby's School Direct programmes, including ours, were judged as "outstanding" by Ofsted in November 2015.

Our alliance partnership consists of a number of primary, secondary and special schools across Northamptonshire and surrounding counties.

Our key aim is to work with other schools in a collaborative way to provide effective initial teacher training across the primary age range. We are able to provide training routes in a range of mainstream and special schools alongside professional development sessions which explore the essentials of excellent classroom practice. Trainees will be provided with a personalised in-school mentor to support and guide them through successful completion of the course, as well as a Link Tutor with whole school leadership and subject specific training experience.

About this training programme

Training Programme Features and 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. Trainees will complete at least two school placements across two consecutive age ranges, spending a minimum of 30 weeks in schools.



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Training

The School Direct 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. This is supplemented by weekly hub training days which are led by experienced lecturers from the University of Derby, Specialist Leaders of Education (SLEs) from our provision team, and a range of curriculum leaders from our alliance schools, who are there to lend a school-based perspective.

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.

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.

Timetable

You will be based at your placement school from the start of the programme where you will develop your teaching practice. All trainees will complete core and subject specific training sessions tailored to meet your needs. All trainees will be based at their main placement school for the duration of the programme and will also complete a 6– 8 week placement at a contrasting school.

You will learn “on the job”, receiving intensive support from experienced mentors and expert colleagues. 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.

The tuition fee for the programme is £9250 and fees are payable directly to the University of Derby.

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



Why Chose Fairfields?

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: 22 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.

Testimonials

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 both the nature of the course and the incredible support from all involved.

The personal and professional support I have received from Fairfields has been excellent. When my mental health was very low both my Link Tutor and Alliance Leader stepped in and supported me, giving of their time to ensure that I did not make any quick decisions while not thinking clearly.

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

I feel that the ITE provision from Fairfields has been excellent. I think that there have certainly some elements of online training that can be embraced. It may be that moving forward some but not all of the training could remain online. On a personal note I would like to thank Charlie for all of her incredible hard work and the support she has given to everyone.

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 Charlie provided us with additional sessions and content when we asked for it. I never felt overwhelmed with what we were being delivered and Charlie 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.

Trainee Responsibilities

Induction (prior to September):

- Meet with the Head Teacher of your placement school, School Direct Alliance 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 Placement—No teaching 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%



Support and future employment

Our School Direct students are very well supported by a team including the Head Teacher of Fairfields School, who has over 5 years experience of supporting School Direct trainees, the alliance leader (who is an Associate Lecturer for the University of Derby), experience Link Tutors, and the University Alliance Link Tutor who also delivers on the programme. Further support is provided by our experienced School Direct administrator. We work very closely together to support each individual student with their own bespoke training plan – this is a characteristic feature of our course.

Due to us being a large and experienced provider, including large primaries, small primaries, special schools and ability to call on expertise from secondaries, we can match trainee to school intelligently. Wherever possible, placements are made through consultation and try to avoid long daily journeys (particularly on second placements in January and February).

Employment prospects at the end of our programme are excellent, not only because we work with a large number of schools in our Alliance, but also because of the excellent relationships we have with schools across the county—100% of trainees have been employed within 6 months of completing the programme.

Northamptonshire needs good teachers. And, if you are thinking of coming to train with us from outside of the County, it's a great place to be: <https://www.teachnorthamptonshire.com/life-in-northamptonshire/>

Please visit: www.teachnorthamptonshire.com for more 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.

Applications

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

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

For further information you can call us on 01604 714777 or e-mail:

info@fairfields.northants.sch.uk

