



School Experience.

Find out how you can
see teaching in action.

Teaching

Every Lesson Shapes a Life.



Department
for Education

Search: Get Into Teaching

Is teaching right for you?

Getting classroom experience can help you decide whether teaching is right for you, and support your training application.

You may have heard that it's a requirement to get a minimum of 10 days school experience to get onto a training course. We can bust that myth; You don't!

School experience isn't a mandatory requirement to apply for teacher training; however, spending time in schools shadowing teachers will help you to decide whether teaching is right for you as you observe what working with students is really like.

How can you get school experience?

Register through the School Experience Programme

Once you've registered with our teaching experts on the Get Into Teaching website, you'll be able to book school experience online through the School Experience Programme. This programme offers prospective trainee teachers the chance to see what life is like in the classroom.

For more information on how to arrange a placement, please visit:

<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/school-experience> or call the Get Into Teaching Line on Freephone **0800 389 2500**.

Arrange your own school experience

You can also approach schools independently for classroom experience. It's a good idea to consider your objectives ahead of the experience and also be prepared to participate in lessons, not just observe.

You may need to contact a number of different schools in your area to arrange your school experience. You can use the search tool provided by GOV.UK to filter by location and local authority to find a suitable school. Visit: <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

Do your homework

Don't just send enquiries off to generic contact email addresses. Telephone the school in question and ask who would be best to contact. This varies from one school to another – sometimes it will be a specific member of staff responsible for organising work experience, at others it could be a head of department.

Be flexible

Classroom experience may have to fit in around a school's training placements, exams, and other activities. Schools might find it difficult to accommodate you if you only have fixed availability for a school visit.

Ask your university

If you're a student thinking about teaching, find out if there are any schemes led by your university. These can offer you the chance to gain some structured experience and school placements before you apply for teacher training. Depending on your degree, there may even be the option to complete a module that includes classroom experience at a local school.

Consider volunteering options

To improve your chances of gaining school experience, you could also offer to volunteer at a school. Volunteering in general is a great opportunity to gain experience of working with children. You could also volunteer to work in a youth club or as a Scout or Guide leader – particularly during summer months when schools are closed.

Many volunteering opportunities, such as after-school clubs, sports coaching or youth schemes, take place during evenings or at weekends, so you can fit volunteering around your existing commitments.

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