



School Direct PGCE

Information for Applicants



National Teaching School
designated by

National College for
Teaching & Leadership

University of
Cumbria 

Great Sankey Teaching School Alliance

@SchoolDirectGS

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What is School Direct with Great Sankey TSA?

Work towards a **PGCE**, **gain qualified teacher status** and train in schools which thrive on developing the next generation of outstanding teachers. When you join Great Sankey Teaching School Alliance you will become part of the school community and train as a professional from day one. In partnership with the University of Cumbria, our programme is designed and delivered by outstanding teachers with a proven track record of developing future teachers and leaders.

Why complete your PGCE with us?

- **Outstanding staff**; experienced and fully trained mentors who are committed to developing the next generation of outstanding teachers.
- **Become part of the team**; School Direct trainees start on the first day in September following an induction in the summer term and are immediately made to feel part of the staff, being known as Associate Teachers.
- **Employment opportunities**; schools in our partnership engage with School Direct because they are seeking to recruit outstanding teachers.
- **Innovative programme design**; from partnership conferences and subject knowledge enhancement to leadership development, we pride ourselves on delivering a programme which is bespoke to the needs of our Associate Teachers and includes enrichment opportunities in a special school, a pupil referral unit and opportunities to learn alongside NQTs as well as experienced colleagues. Twelve University days enhance application of subject knowledge.



Which schools are involved in our School Direct partnership?

Located in Warrington with excellent access to Manchester and Liverpool, our partnership is led by Great Sankey High School; a National Teaching School and developing outstanding teachers through School Direct is central to our core purpose of providing the highest possible standard of education and care. The school has over 1900 students including our sixth form college.

The partnership is growing with more primary and secondary schools joining and ready to recruit. The following schools are in our School Direct partnership:

Secondary

Great Sankey High School (secondary lead), Birchwood Community High School, The Prescott School, Green Lane Community Special School

Primary

Appleton Thorn Primary, Barrow Hall Primary, Beamont Primary, Brook Acre Primary, Burtonwood Primary, Callands Primary, Chapelford Primary, Dallam Primary, Gorse Covert Primary, Great Sankey Primary, Latchford St James Primary, Locking Stumps Primary, Meadowside Primary, Old Hall Primary, Park Road Primary, Penketh South Primary.

What does our School Direct programme look like?

School Direct programmes vary from partnership to partnership so it is important that you are aware of the key features of our programme. These include;

- Regular Partnership Conferences (on Fridays) in our purpose built teaching centre are led by Specialist Leaders of Education and practicing teachers. These conferences focus on a full range of professional practice including Behaviour for Learning, SEND & Inclusion and Assessment.
- Subject knowledge is deepened in both placement schools and during twelve days at the University of Cumbria, Lancaster Campus.
- Quality support and feedback are crucial to your development as a teacher. You will be assigned your own school-based mentor; outstanding teachers who have been trained in coaching and mentoring skills. You will usually meet your mentor on the induction day in the summer term and we find this eases concerns about the first day in September.
- Associate Teachers are fully integrated into the life of the school – currently they are involved in residential trips, extra-curricular activities, attached to a form group and have a lunch & break duty which they do alongside an experienced colleague.
- Mock interview days will prepare you for employment opportunities – we have an outstanding record of supporting trainees in to employment, often within the Alliance.
- Enrichment opportunities in Green Lane Special School and transition experience in primary & secondary schools in the partnership will broaden your understanding of education.

The decision about where to place Associate Teachers on placement will be taken by Great Sankey Teaching School Alliance in consultation with all schools involved in the Alliance. Associate Teachers will be informed of their placement at an induction day prior to the Summer.

What are we looking for in a candidate?

We are looking to recruit talented candidates who have the qualities and attributes suited to a career in teaching and the drive and ambition to make it happen.

The sorts of personal qualities we are looking for are;

- Excellent interpersonal skills – friendly and approachable
- Organisation and time management skills
- Passion for your subject
- Resilience and a positive outlook
- A creative and innovative approach
- The ability to reflect on and improve practice
- Potential leadership capabilities

We have places in primary and secondary areas below.

Qualification	Subject Area
PGCE Primary with QTS	General Primary (5-11 year olds)
PGCE Secondary with QTS	Art & Design Biology Chemistry Computing Design & Technology Drama English Geography History Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish) Mathematics Music Physics Physical Education Religious Education Social Science

Our School Direct route is non-salaried, meaning you will not be paid a salary, however, you may be eligible for a student loan and an NCTL training bursary.

"Training to become a teacher is... undoubtedly rewarding, incredibly challenging and indisputably taxing. However it only takes one child to say 'thanks Miss that was a great lesson' and it becomes the most rewarding job."

Helen Crowder, English SD 2014/15

Entry requirements

Primary

- Applicants must have a 2:2 or above honours degree
- At least 3 GCSE A-C grades to include English Language, Mathematics and Science
- A satisfactory academic (university) reference and a satisfactory professional reference if more than three years since academic study
- All candidates must demonstrate professional suitability through interview and must obtain medical and enhanced DBS clearance according to established University of Cumbria procedures

Secondary

- A minimum 2:1 or above honours degree is required for Drama & PE
- 2:2 or above honours degree is required for Art, Geography, History, RE, Music
- 2:2 or above honours degree is normally required for Computing with ICT, Design & Technology, English, Mathematics, MFL and Science
- GCSE grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics or recognised equivalent qualifications
- We strongly recommend that you obtain school experience in a mainstream UK secondary school observing a class in your chosen teaching specialism before applying
- A satisfactory academic (university) reference and a satisfactory professional reference if more than three years since academic study
- All candidates must demonstrate professional suitability through interview and must obtain medical and enhanced DBS clearance according to established University of Cumbria procedures



How do I apply?

All applications will be made online through **UCAS Teacher Training** accessible via www.ucas.com/apply/teacher-training. Applications cannot be submitted until they are complete and two references are attached. There will be a single application form and one personal statement.

To find out more information about how the system works go to <http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/teacher-training>.

What will the interview process involve?

Interviews will take place at a school in our Alliance and the process will ensure that School Leaders and tutors on the panel are able to assess your suitability for becoming an Associate Teacher in one of our schools.

The process is likely to involve the following activities:

- Informal discussion with Headteacher and/or Senior Leaders
- Teaching activity with a group of learners
- Opportunity to meet and speak with a group of pupils who will ask some questions
- Written task
- Short presentation to interview panel
- Formal interview

How will I be informed of decisions?

Following your interview we will make one of the following decisions:

- Unconditional offer
- Conditional offer
- Reject

Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) courses

Don't hold back from applying for our programme in biology, geography, maths, physics, chemistry, computing, design and technology, or a language because of your subject knowledge. You may still be able to train to teach these subjects (and be eligible for the bursaries they attract) by building up or refreshing your existing knowledge with a subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) programme.

We have supported applicants on a range of fully funded SKEs which have helped them to hone their knowledge prior to starting, or alongside, their School Direct PGCE.

This could be for several reasons, including:

- your degree wasn't in your chosen subject, but it was closely related
- you studied the subject at A level, but not at university
- you have relevant professional experience, and an SKE course will show you how to apply that to the curriculum and your teaching

SKE courses are fully funded – so you won't have to pay any tuition fees – and you may be eligible for a training bursary to support you throughout the course.

SKE can be offered as full-time classroom-based study, part-time and evening/weekend study, or delivered online. It could also be a combination of these approaches.

Talk to us if you think you may be eligible for a SKE as we have expertise in arranging these with previous candidates.

"Maths has always been one of my strongest subjects, however having a degree in Sport didn't make me the most ideal candidate to become a Maths teacher. Completing a subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) course in Mathematics not only gave me the knowledge and confidence to teach KS3 and KS4 maths, it has given me a nationally recognised qualification which employers regard as a high level subject knowledge base of the national curriculum. The course was all online and support is available at all times. Highly recommended for anyone who has the passion to teach but lack a subject specific degree."

Michael Robinson - 32 week SKE in Mathematics via TES institute 2015/16



Training Bursaries

To encourage the best graduates to enter the profession, financial incentives are offered to trainees intending to train to teach certain subjects. You do not need to apply for a bursary – if you are enrolled on a non-salaried postgraduate course and meet the eligibility criteria, you will begin receiving payments at the beginning of your course.

Scholarships

Scholarships may be available in maths, physics, chemistry and computing for trainees who are starting their training in the upcoming academic year. These prestigious awards are aimed at high-quality graduates with a 2:1 or first-class degree, who are passionate about their subject and have the potential to be inspirational teachers. To apply for a scholarship and for further information, you should visit the appropriate subject association website.

For more information visit

<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching/funding/postgraduate-funding>

“Thank you so much for the support you have given me. What happened today would not have taken place without all your hard work training me and supporting my development over the past six months. I feel relieved that I don’t have to worry about getting a job now and I feel extremely motivated, here’s to future progress...”

Matthew Wilson, Geography SD 2013/14

Directions

A central location in the North West with very accessible motorway links to the M6, M62 and M56. Approximately 50 miles from Lancaster, 20 miles from Manchester, 15 miles from Liverpool.

You can find Great Sankey High School a short distance from Junction 8 off the M62.

Sat Nav: WA5 3AA

Two main line train stations: Central and Bank Quay; Sankey station is a local station a ten minute walk from the school