

The appeal of primary teaching

Graduates training to teach primary through Teach West London are drawn by the opportunity to shape young learners' foundational experiences. Many value the chance to witness the growth and development of young children. Other trainees highlighted the unique connection primary teachers build with their students, emphasising how they **“set the foundation of their learning”** and help children view school as an enjoyable and exciting experience. One trainee emphasised the unique focus of primary teaching explaining, **“Secondary teachers have a passion for their subject; primary teachers have a passion for the children”**.



The broader scope of teaching in primary schools appeals to those who enjoy variety and the chance to teach multiple subjects, **“In secondary, you focus on your subject, but in primary, you’re involved in everything with the children—you build relationships across so many areas”**.

Ultimately, the ability to make a meaningful and lasting impact on children’s early education is a key motivator, with trainees citing the joy of helping young learners grow academically, socially, and emotionally as a driving force in their decision to pursue primary teaching.

All Teach West London's initial teacher training (ITT) courses for Primary and Secondary phases lead to QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). Scan here to find out more.



Motivations to teach

Teaching offers a unique opportunity to shape young lives. For one Primary trainee in Hillingdon, the appeal lies in witnessing personal growth; **“for me, it’s about the journey and the growth... my passion lies in seeing growth year on year.”** For other trainees, it’s the chance to make a broader impact. One trainee emphasised that, **“seeing the impact you can have on other people’s lives”** is what drives their commitment to the profession. Another reflected on the joy of building relationships with children, **“children are really sweet, I love their personalities, and seeing their progress”**. Teach West London provides practical, community-focused, and accessible teacher training. Location and accessibility were key factors for one trainee, **“The placement schools that Teach West London offered were good locations for me”**.

Support and mentorship

One of Teach West London's standout features is its emphasis on mentorship. Through structured guidance and hands-on experience, trainees benefit from a well-rounded approach that balances challenge with support. One participant noted, **"They give you support at every step, ensuring you're not overwhelmed while learning critical skills in real time"**. This approach allows trainees to grow at a manageable pace while tackling real-world teaching scenarios. Another trainee described the experience as, **"being thrown into the deep end, but with solid support, so you find your feet quickly and build confidence fast"**.

By cultivating resilience and professional growth, Teach West London empowers future teachers with the skills needed to thrive in dynamic school environments. This support helps trainees build confidence and adapt effectively to the challenges of the classroom.

Choosing secondary teaching: specialising in what you love

For many graduates, the decision to teach secondary school was a natural one, shaped by their academic interests and a desire to work with older students. One trainee explained, **"I prefer teaching complex ideas and working with students who can engage with them"**. Others, particularly those with a background in STEM, saw secondary education as the ideal platform to inspire future scientists. As one trainee shared, **"My specialism is chemistry, and secondary is the best place to develop students' skills in STEM subjects, especially to inspire women in science"**.

However, beyond subject expertise, many are drawn to teaching by a deeper purpose. One trainee reflected, **"I want to make a difference to children's lives. My teachers made sure I never gave up and didn't slip through the cracks"**. This sense of responsibility, combined with the joy of working with young people, makes teaching incredibly fulfilling. As another trainee put it, **"Working with secondary kids is brilliant. You get so much joy out of it; their energy is unmatched"**. For many secondary teachers, the chance to support and inspire students at a crucial stage in their academic journey is what makes the profession so rewarding.



The value of immersive training

Teach West London's school-based training model offers an immersive experience that bridges theory and practice. For one trainee, this practical approach is invaluable, **"Spending more time in the classroom will really benefit me in the long run, and you can really understand how the programmes that Teach West London put in place, actually make sense in the classroom"**. Another reinforced the sense of belonging this model fosters, crediting her mentor and the programme's structure for helping her feel supported during her transition to teaching.



Bright futures for West London

With Teach West London, graduates are not only building meaningful careers but also laying the groundwork for the next generation of learners. Their motivations, combined with Teach West London's comprehensive training, mentorship, and community focus, are setting them up for success in the classroom—and beyond. For those considering a career in teaching, their stories offer inspiration and a reminder of the profound impact educators can have.

Begin your teaching journey

Get in touch today

