Lift
Schools
Train to
teach with
Lift Schools
A guide to Initial Teacher Training
→ Learn more here
liftschools.org/itt

About Lift Schools

Thank you for your interest in joining Lift Schools. We're one of the largest networks of schools in England with 33,000 children in 57 primary, secondary and special schools in virtually every region of the country. We hold a very simple core belief – that every child has an entitlement to an excellent education in every classroom, every day.

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Training programme

The Lift Schools Teacher Training programme is in partnership with Ark Teacher Training. The programme was developed by Ark, an international education charity and network of schools, to ensure that every child has access to a great education and a great teacher. Jointly, we believe that every young person has the potential to succeed, regardless of their background.

We know that great teachers are key to this success, so we work hard to select the best graduates and career changers to join our outstanding programme and receive the best training and support, to ensure you can really make a difference to the young people within our schools.

Orientation	1	Prior to starting, you will complete a five day school orientation experience. This experience enables you to meet with your mentor/coach, familiarise yourself with the school/staff/students and observe lessons.
Ark Summer School	2	**Week one: 3 – 7 August 2026.** **Week two: 10 – 14 August 2026.** You'll start your journey with an intensive two week training course learning vital classroom skills and pedagogy. The first eight days are usually virtual, the last two days are held in London.
Start in school	3	**1 September 2026** Starting on 20-50% teaching load in the first term.
Second placement	4	Your second placement will take place in the spring term. This will be a three week block at a contrasting setting and will be arranged between your placement school and second placement school.
Continuous training	5	Thursday afternoons will be devoted to training and working with your mentor.
Support	6	You'll have an in-school mentor, a subject specialist and an Ark coach.
PGCE assignments	7	You'll complete two x 5000 word PGCE* assignments one by Christmas and one by Easter. The first assignment will be on 'climate for learning' and the second will be on 'assessments for learning'. You will receive support from Goldsmiths University.
Summer term	8	You'll increase to 50 – 80% teaching load by the summer term.
QTS	9	At the end of the year you'll be recommended for Qualified Teacher Status.

*Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)

Funding options for teacher training

The Recruitment Team will have a conversation with you to determine the best route for you, depending on your individual eligibility and programme availability.

Salary/Apprenticeship

If you have considerable work experience you may qualify for a salary and your school will pay for your tuition fees. The exact amount you will receive will depends on which region your school is in.

Bursaries

Bursaries and scholarships are available for trainees during their training year on the Lift Schools Teacher Training programme for certain subjects. You'll need a first, 2:1, 2:2, PhD or master's to be eligible for a bursary or scholarship. The exact amount you are eligible to receive depends on your highest relevant academic award and the subject in which you are training to teach.

To find out whether you are eligible to receive a bursary, please visit our website.

Scholarships

If you wish to train to teach physics, maths, chemistry, geography or modern languages and have a 2:1 degree or higher in your teaching subject, you can apply for a scholarship. This scholarship replaces the bursary that you would receive from the government – and comes with extra perks, such as access to resources for your subject and a network of other trainees.

For more information on scholarships and how to apply through the relevant organisation, please visit our website..

Tuition fees

All trainees on the bursary or scholarship route will need to pay the £9,250 tuition fee. As with a undergraduate degree, you can apply for a tuition fee loan from the Student Loans Company to support with this.

For more information on your student loan options, please visit our website..

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Application process

Apply on DfE or on our ITT website	You will need: • Details of your academics (degree, A-levels, GCSE's or equivalents, UK ENIC statements for overseas qualifications) • Personal statement • Referee details
Telephone interview	If your application is successful, a telephone screening conversation will be arranged. This will include some competency based questions and will give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have at this stage. Please ensure you have carried out some research on the school you have applied to and our training programme.
School interview	If successful at the telephone screening stage, you will be invited to an interview with the school you have applied to. This will involve competency based interview questions and a five minute teaching episode. This is a role-play exercise with the panel (not a live class) to showcase your communication skills and potential to be a good teacher.
Offer	If successful, we'll be contacting you to offer you a place on our programme. The offer will also be processed via the DfE platform and you'll need to accept this here.
Enrolment	To enrol you on the programme, we'll need your ID documents, DBS check, references, qualifications certificates (GCSE's, degree, transcripts and ENIC statements), overseas police check (if applicable). Original certificates must be presented.
Onboarding	We'll stay in contact up until you start and will help you prepare for the upcoming training programme. We'll advise whether a Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE) course is recommended and help you arrange your school orientation experience.

Application tips

Qualifications

Ensure these are listed as clearly and accurately as possible.

Experience

Ensure to capture any employment history you have as clearly and accurately as possible ensuring you confirm whether your experience is part time or full time.

Personal statement

Tell us about yourself and why you are applying for teacher training! Include experiences you may have gained, why you are interested in a specific phase (i.e primary, secondary or special education) and what you can bring to the role.

Use of AI

It's fine to use AI tools to help shape your application, but your personal voice matters most. We can tell when things are copied and pasted. Your statement should reflect who you are.

Use AI to support your thinking, not replace it. We want to hear from you.

References

Ensure you have two reliable referees that have agreed to provide you with references. Satisfactory references will be a condition of any offer and your referees will be contacted after an offer has been made.

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Interview tips

- Do some research about the programme and school you are applying to. Visit their website or glance through recent Ofsted reports.
- Competency questions will be asked assessing your motivations for teacher training, self-awareness, resilience and your suitability to teach.
- Guidance will be provided if you're shortlisted for interview with the school. This will include a five minute teaching episode (role-play) of a set topic, with feedback, followed by a five minute re-teach incorporating that feedback.
- If you don't have recent school experience, find out about the basic structure of a good lesson.

Qualifications

- Have a minimum level 4 (grade C) in Maths and English GCSE or equivalent (and also a level 4 grade C in a science subject if you'll be teaching primary).
- Upon offer we will need to see original certificates of your qualifications, your degree and GCSEs or equivalents - so if you have misplaced these, you'll need to re-order them from the examination board.
- For secondary subjects, a strong A-Level (C or above) or degree relevant to the subject you want to teach is preferable.

- At least a 2:2 undergraduate bachelor's honours degree (or equivalent) by the start of the programme.
- Any qualifications obtained overseas will need to be ENIC checked - we will need to see a copy of your ENIC Statement Of Comparability for all overseas qualifications.
- Have the right to live and work in the UK for the duration of the programme. Please note, we are unable to provide visa sponsorship.
- Not currently hold Qualified Teacher Status in the UK.

Trainee testimonials

“You feel fully supported before you even step in the classroom. ”

“You feel fully supported before you even step in the classroom. The programme builds on this each week and the strategies given in training apply directly into classroom practice. I can not fault the programme, it was everything I needed.”

-- **Deanna Frank, The Green Way Academy**

“Summer school helped me to be prepared for September. From the start of term I felt part of the staff team. I felt very well supported by colleagues and my tutors.”

-- **Owen Westall, Brockworth Primary Academy**

“The level of support has been fantastic. It is focused on not just about how to be a teacher but how to be an excellent teacher.“

-- **Alex Varey, Percy Shurmer Academy**

“A highlight of the programme was the relationships you build with your mentor, tutors and tutor group. The in person days are great because you can catch up with peers from across a range of different subject areas and support each other across the year. Some of the people I have met will be lifelong friends. I feel so confident going into my ECT year and I am very grateful to have been supported by such a great team.”

-- **Ella Cross, Clacton Coastal Academy**

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