

Independent training

There are independent teaching systems that follow particular philosophical approaches to the education of very young children, such as those of Rudolf Steiner and Maria Montessori. Training in one of these systems is unacceptable on its own for teaching in state schools, but can lead to jobs in private nurseries or schools.

You are unlikely to get financial assistance, such as help towards fees, for independent courses.

Pay and prospects

For current pay rates for teachers in England and Wales please visit the Training and Development Agency's website: www.tda.gov.uk

Pay for teachers in Guernsey is generally negotiated on an annual basis. Teachers in Guernsey can generally earn more than their colleagues in England and Wales. Current salaries for teachers in Guernsey are available from the Education Department.

With experience, there are good opportunities for promotion e.g. to deputy headteacher or headteacher.

Only around 15% of trainee primary school teachers are men. The TDA is keen to see the recruitment of more male primary teachers and teachers from ethnic minority backgrounds – important as role models for young children. Recent growth in nursery education has led to more jobs for teachers of the very young in England and Wales.

N.B. Church-controlled primary schools are common and they prefer staff (especially headteachers) to be practising members of the appropriate denomination, or have empathy with their values.

For further information

Careers Service

Tel: **(01481) 733044**
Email: careers@education.gov.gg
Web: www.careers.gg

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Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA)

Teaching information line:
0845 6000 991
(or 0845 6000 922 for Welsh speakers).

View careers and training information at:
www.tda.gov.uk

Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR)

Tel: **0871 468 0469** (customer services).
You can also find additional information and apply online at: www.gttr.ac.uk

For information on degree courses leading to QTS, visit: www.ucas.com

The General Teaching Council for England

Teacher enquiry service: **0370 001 0308**.
www.gtce.org.uk

The General Teaching Council for Wales
Tel: **029 2055 0350**. www.gtcw.org.uk

Maria Montessori Institute

Tel: **020 7435 3646**.
This is the international training centre in the UK for the **Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)**, and the sole provider in the UK of the AMI Diploma. Can provide general information on Montessori education.
www.mariamontessori.org

Montessori Centre International

Tel: **020 7493 8300**.
Offers a range of full-time, part-time and distance-learning courses. Positions for Montessori-trained teachers can be found on: www.montessori.org.uk

Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship

Tel: **01342 822115**. A range of courses in Steiner Waldorf Education is available, up to degree level. For details see: www.steinerwaldorf.org.uk

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The following may be available in school, college or Careers Service libraries:

Working in Schools & Colleges
Published by Babcock Lifeskills, £8.50.

Inspire A Generation

THE FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS

Teaching:
Nursery & Primary Schools

Teaching: Nursery & Primary Schools

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Teaching young children is a responsible and rewarding job. Teachers can develop a child's enthusiasm for learning, which may remain with them for the rest of their lives. To teach in a state primary school, you need to gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). This involves studying to at least degree level.

This leaflet gives an overview of teaching in nursery and primary schools. Information on teaching in general can be found in the leaflet *Teaching: An introduction to the work and training*

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What do Teachers do?

Up to the age of five, the emphasis is on learning through play. Teachers working with these very young children help them develop basic skills, such as physical coordination and speech, as well as personal and social skills through fun activities, such as games, music and art. In England, teachers who work with this age group must follow the early years foundation stage (EYFS), which sets out the standards for the learning, care and development of children from birth to the age of five. It gives guidance to teachers about the type of environment, support and activities that children most benefit from. In Wales, similar standards come under the foundation phase – this will eventually cover children from the age of three to seven. Guernsey does not currently have statutory nursery education but this is currently under review.

Once they are four or five, children must attend school, which is when they start

their primary education. Primary teachers are responsible for teaching the subjects that have been set out in the National Curriculum, but also focus a great deal on developing pupils' literacy (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and numeracy (number skills, mental arithmetic, multiplication and so on). Teachers need to be able to adapt their approach according to the ability level of the children they are teaching, which varies between different age groups and between individual children. For example, older children generally have higher levels of skills and concentration. In every case, the teacher aims to develop and expand the child's curiosity and knowledge.

Nursery and primary school teachers have a wide range of duties, including:

- organising and planning what they want particular children to do
- making imaginative use of resources and often making their own materials
- assessing each child's progress
- caring for younger children – tending to minor ills and sorting out their problems
- with experience, perhaps taking on responsibility for coordinating a particular subject, e.g. science, across the whole school – in some schools there are specialists for certain subjects, such as physical education or music.

Teachers in a nursery or primary school usually spend most of their time with the same group of children. This helps teachers build up a good relationship with the pupils. In some schools, two teachers may share responsibility for a larger group of children to allow for flexibility in activities.

Teachers can sometimes be supported by one or more teaching assistants (see **Teaching: Teaching Assistant** leaflet for further information).

Schools and Nurseries

In some areas, primary schools cater for children across the age ranges, from reception classes through to age 11. In other areas, children begin their primary education in an infant school before moving up to a junior school. Primary schools vary in size from small village schools with a few dozen pupils to city schools with over 600. In a small school of around 60 children, there would typically be three mixed-age classes – one for infants up to about seven, one for lower juniors up to nine, and one for upper juniors up to 11. At the other extreme, a large school may have two or more classes for each year group.

There has been an expansion in nursery/early years education in recent years, and this is likely to continue. Teachers who are qualified to teach nursery-age children may work in state-funded nursery classes or in private nursery schools.

What it takes

Teachers of young children need:

- to like children, and to have concern for their mental, physical and moral welfare
- a patient, tolerant and sensitive approach

- enthusiasm and a wide range of abilities, interests and skills (art and craft, physical education, music and drama skills are always welcome)
- good communication and listening skills.

To work with children, you have to undergo background checks.

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How to qualify

The most common route into nursery and primary teaching is through a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, or a BA or BSc with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). You will normally need two 'A' levels or equivalent (such as a BTEC Level 3 National qualification) for entry to a degree course. It is important to check course entry requirements with individual institutions as they do vary.

There are also primary Postgraduate Certificate in Education/Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) courses and various employment-based entry routes. When training, you specialise in a particular age range.

All would-be primary teachers must have GCSE English, maths and science at grades A*-C, or equivalent qualifications. Some training providers allow candidates to take equivalence tests instead.

Whichever route you are applying for, you should try to gain some classroom experience with the age group you wish to teach, so that you can show an understanding of the teacher's role.

The Education Department runs a Teaching as a Career course every year with the general aim to provide students in Years 11, 12 and 13, with the opportunity to find out more about what it is like to work in a school and what is needed to become a teacher.

There are two parts to the course:

- **Part 1** provides you with information on the skills, knowledge, understanding and insight needed to become a teacher; the different types of initial teacher training available and the opportunity to meet with a representative from an Initial Teacher Training provider to discuss courses and life at university. Time is also spent in a primary school observing teachers at work.
- **Part 2** is available the following year for Year 12 and 13 students who have normally previously attended Part 1. You are provided with the opportunity to spend a full week in either a primary or secondary school, where you can have a more in-depth experience of talking to teachers and observing them at work. Time is also spent working with groups of children.

The progress of all local students undertaking initial teacher training programmes is tracked by the Education Department and in November each year those students coming to the end of their training programmes are contacted by the Staffing Services Section. You will be advised of the Department's recruitment procedures for the next academic year and given the names of Education

Department contacts should you wish to return to Guernsey to take up a teaching post. The Education Department is always keen to welcome back local teachers at whatever stage in their career.

The Education Department also offers information, advice and support to former teachers interested in returning to the profession

First degree courses

On a first degree initial teacher training course, you can choose to specialise in a primary-level National Curriculum subject as well as train to teach across all other curriculum subjects. Alternatively you can choose a general course, where you train in all curriculum subjects. Currently, the National Curriculum subjects for primary level are: English, maths, science, design and technology, ICT, history, geography, music, art and design, physical education, Welsh (in Wales), religious education, and modern foreign languages (for ages seven plus in England and Guernsey; foreign languages are not compulsory in Wales).

Postgraduate courses

For the PGCE route, your first degree (or degree-equivalent qualification) should normally be relevant to the school curriculum. Institutions will advise on their specific entry requirements.