



WEST LONDON TEACHER TRAINING ALLIANCE TEACHER TRAINING 2026-27

in partnership with



St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

COURSE
CODE
37F9

UNSALARIED PRIMARY PGCE(M)+QTS

with additional school bursary

The experience you would get on this programme will focus on pupils ages 5-11 but you would become qualified as a primary teacher which has no restriction on primary ages you could teach.

Provider 1EL

West London Teacher Training Alliance (Primary)

This programme is available at

- ◆ Sir John Lillie, SW6
- ◆ St Charles Catholic Primary School, W10

APPLICATION LINK

Instructions on how to apply, with a link to the application form are included in Section 9. It is important that you read this short document thoroughly before you apply.

Contents

	Page
1 About this course	2
1.1 Qualification Outcome	2
1.2 Special Features	2
1.3 The Training	2
2 How school placements work	3
2.1 Choosing your School	3
2.2 WLTTA Interview Process	3
2.3 Stage 1: University Interview	4
2.4 Stage 2: School Interview	4
2.5 Internal Referrals	4
2.6 Our Detailed Website and Live Online Presentation and Q&A	4
3 Entry requirements	4
3.1 Academic Requirements	4
3.2 Personal Qualities	5
3.3 Other requirements	5
4 Fees & unique financial support	5
4.1 Fees	5
4.2 School Bursaries	5
4.3 Student Loans	5
5 About the training provider	6
5.1 The West London Teacher Training Alliance (WLTTA)	6
5.2 Our approach to trainee recruitment	6
5.3 The Accrediting Body	6
6 Training with a disability	7
7 Contact Details	7
8 How to apply	7

1 About this course

1.1 Qualification Outcome

This course **37F9** leads to PGCE (M) QTS. Click [here](#) for further clarity on the significance of different teacher training qualifications.

1.2 Special Features

This course is run by the West London Teacher Training Alliance (WLTTA) in partnership with St Mary's University, Twickenham.

Some WLTTA primary courses (including this one) come with our unique school bursaries, see more in section 4.

We make prompt shortlisting decisions and liaise with you quickly if we need additional information.

WLTTA **enables you to choose where you aspire to work as your main host school**. Later, if there is a teaching vacancy and they want to retain you, you can be employed for the following year **without the post being advertised**. By becoming a WLTTA trainee, all our other schools could employ you this way and we operate a pool.

Our aim is to produce exceptional teachers who could remain in alliance schools to continue their careers, taking advantage of further professional development, including the accredited Early Career induction programme.

1.3 The Training

Most of your training takes place in your **host school which you have chosen as a good fit for you**, and at the school that WLTTA selects as a contrasting placement, where you will spend approx. 8 weeks in the Autumn term. You will also spend two blocks of four and three weeks during the year at university and you will enrol as a student at the university with full access to their facilities and mentors. You will attend lectures and seminars along with their core university students.



St Mary's University Twickenham

As a guide: [Typical Timetable](#)

Through an initial programme of observations, you will become familiar with the organisation and working of the school: pupil groups and pastoral systems; safeguarding and child protection; staffing; curriculum; resources; facilities; approaches to learning and teaching; lesson planning and assessment.

You will be treated like a member of staff. With your Class Teacher Mentor and your School Mentor, you will feel supported as you progress and become ready to teach. Our mentors are excellent teachers who undertake rigorous training to develop their mentoring skills.

Being in school provides you with the opportunity to develop your teaching expertise and relationships with children and young people in a familiar environment through lessons and extracurricular enrichment.

You will be observed as you start teaching and will receive formal and informal feedback and mentoring in school from your mentors each week.

Your university tutor (Lead Mentor) will visit you twice a term to monitor your progress at both schools, and to discuss your development with you and your school mentors. Additional support is offered by our WLTTA Primary Lead, based at St Charles' Catholic Primary in W10; the school has many years' experience of teacher training. You will maintain close links with your host school throughout the programme.

The university-based theoretical learning covers all aspects of the Initial Teacher Training and Early Career Framework, giving you a strong grounding in theories of pedagogy which you then put into practice and reflect upon in authentic classroom settings in your placement schools. You will also receive subject specific sessions at university which will help to contextualise the more generic pedagogical material.

During the year assessment is a combination of

- university academic assignments leading to the award of your PGCE and
- formal observations in school which will be judged against the Teachers' Standards in order for you to achieve QTS (Qualified Teacher Status).

Both at school and university you will learn from creative, reflective and dynamic practitioners. You will have the opportunity to teach a range of year groups (children aged 5-11) covering Maths, English and Science as well as other subjects and themed projects.

2 How school placements work

2.1 Choosing your School

With WLTTA, we want you to select your main host school at application, a school where you aspire to work. The schools seeking trainees on this particular course are listed below.

- Sir John Lillie, SW6
- St Charles Catholic Primary School, W10

The characters and location of our schools are varied. To help you decide, please refer to our overall [WLTTA Primary & Nursery School Summary Descriptions](#) and our [Map of WLTTA Schools](#).

Unusually, you will be in your contrasting placement during the first term (A WLTTA school chosen by the Primary Lead). You will spend the spring and most of the summer term at your main host school which will provide greater depth to your training experience.

If you want to see when you would be at the university; when at your main host school; and when the contrasting school – the timetable linked above in 1.2 will give you a clear idea.

You can contact us to ask how many applications (if any) are being considered by different schools when you are applying.

2.2 WLTTA Interview Process

Our schools seek trainees who aspire to work for them. We enable you to select your preferred host school at application and later through a referral process. We provide

information about the schools to help you choose; please do get in touch if you want to discuss – Pippa Currey pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk or 020 8748 7600 x290

Please look at the schools offering this course and once you have chosen your school and submitted your application for this course on DfE Apply, we will forward directly to the school for shortlisting. Each of our schools interview independently of each other, but the process is administered centrally through WLTTA. For this course, the interview has two stages.

2.3 Stage 1: University Interview

Once shortlisted, we arrange for you to be invited to a first stage online interview with our partner university, St Mary's. You will be asked to upload ID documents and relevant certificates if available. We can still make an offer subject to later verification of qualifications. The university may ask you to prepare a very brief presentation on a particular topic.

2.4 Stage 2: School Interview

The in-person interview at your preferred school follows 3-4 days later. You will be notified of all the arrangements by email in advance. On the day, as well as a panel interview, you will complete short tests in English and mathematics and a classroom task and there will be a tour of the school. This time in school ensures you are confident the school would be a good fit for you.

2.5 Internal Referrals

If you do not secure an offer after the school interview, but have demonstrated potential, you can then choose another school and we would recommend your shortlisting. You would not need to repeat the St Mary's interview.

We hope to fit good candidates with schools that they are happy with and where they can secure an offer. In this way we believe we are maximising the opportunity for a successful year for both the trainee and the school and thus increasing the chances of the trainee's future employment within the school or the alliance.

2.6 Our Detailed Website and Live Online Presentation and Q&A

We recommend that you visit our website www.wlta.org.uk to see properly all our vacancies. We have many other primary teacher training courses at other schools including a few salaried places. You can download the course documents and see a video about us, with previous trainees being interviewed.

You can also sign up there to join our fortnightly Zoom presentation about getting into teaching which it includes an opportunity for Q&A. The presentation explains the different routes into teaching and their separate benefits; how the money works; includes tips about using the 'Find Postgraduate Teacher Training' portal; discusses school experience, applications, offers etc. No pressure, you don't have to attend this at all. It is just there for anyone who is trying to understand it all better. We receive excellent feedback on this session year after year.

[WLTTA Zoom presentation and Q&A session](#)

3 Entry requirements

3.1 Academic Requirements

You will need a

- UK undergraduate honours degree (or equivalent) at 2:2 or above.

- GCSE Grade C (or grade 4 for GCSEs sat in 2017 onwards) or the equivalent in English Language, Mathematics and a science.

We would not shortlist anyone with all three GCSEs outstanding. We prioritise shortlisting of those with either none outstanding, or only one outstanding, over someone who still needs to take two equivalency tests.

For both the degree and GCSEs, where appropriate, see our important guidance on [Overseas Qualifications](#) and if necessary, also about [GCSE Equivalency tests](#).

3.2 Personal Qualities

We seek trainees with a passion to engage and inspire students to a love of learning, who are:

- committed to championing their students;
- open to learning about children's physical/social/emotional/cognitive needs and how these can affect behaviour;
- in good health with the ability to cope with stress. Teaching is incredibly rewarding, but it also requires an element of resilience and a sense of humour.
- professional and committed to equal opportunities;
- able to communicate well in written/spoken English, with at least basic computer skills and commitment to developing these; and with

3.3 Other requirements

A realistic understanding of the role of a teacher and an awareness of some current issues facing the profession is also important. School experience is always of benefit and we have some advice on our website: [WLTTA School Experience tab](#)

If you wish to train at one of our faith schools, you do not need to be of the same faith but you would need to be supportive/respectful of the values of their faith.

Offers are conditional on satisfactory outcome of a DBS check (approx. £60) and an occupational health check (approx. £20) both administered through the university after an offer is accepted.

4 Fees & unique financial support

4.1 Fees

2026-27: The tuition fee for this course is £9,535 for UK students, payable to St Mary's University, Twickenham. Fees for international students will be confirmed by the university in October, but for 2025-26 the fees are £17, 750.

4.2 School Bursaries

All trainees on this course will receive a bursary from the school despite bursaries not being available from DfE.

Full details of this unique additional funding can be seen in the tab on the Primary Courses page on our website: [WLTTA Primary School Bursaries](#).

4.3 Student Loans

You may also be eligible for a student loan while you study. You can take out a student loan even if you already have an undergraduate loan. Loans for tuition fees are not means tested

(whereas loans for maintenance are means tested) but you should confirm all this using the DfE's 'Get into Teaching' website tab: [Funding and Support](#).

4.4 Other Financial Support

Please also be aware that as a full time student, you would be eligible for cheaper travel in London using a student Oyster card and many boroughs offer a reduction in your council tax payments.

5 About the training provider

5.1 The West London Teacher Training Alliance (WLTTA)

The West London Teacher Training Alliance represents a large group of 60+ schools (nurseries, primaries, special needs, secondaries, sixth forms; faith and non-faith, maintained schools, independent schools and free schools) – who are all seeking to mentor and build a relationship with a trainee who aspires to work in their school.

Our schools are in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster, Richmond, Twickenham, Ealing, Hounslow, Hillingdon and Brent. The WLTTA office is based at Sacred Heart High School, in Hammersmith.

We have formal partnership arrangements with two universities:

- St Mary's University, Twickenham
- University of Roehampton

5.2 Our approach to trainee recruitment

We are one of the very few providers who want you choose the school where you train, ideally a school where you aspire to work, when you apply. We pride ourselves in the support that we provide potential applicants and in the speed of our shortlisting. We have a detailed website (do please look) and the WLTTA office is staffed full time with experts to talk to on the phone.

If you perform well at interview but fail to get a place at your preferred school, we operate an internal referral system rather than rejecting you (see the interview section).

We place significant emphasis on getting a good fit between trainee and school because we are all keenly focussed on recruitment for qualified teachers in our alliance schools the following year.

5.3 The Accrediting Body

St Mary's University, Twickenham accredits this WLTTA course and in 2024 the St Mary's Institute of Education was once again rated '*Outstanding*' by Ofsted.

In The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024 the university was ranked in the Top 10 for Student Experience and in the Top 5 for Teaching Quality. The Thames-side setting of the campus is stunning and the university has a long and distinguished history combined with a very modern outlook.

St Mary's University is now London's second largest teacher training course provider and course tutors at St Mary's are all skilful teachers themselves, with many years of experience in schools and higher education. Our WLTTA schools have been working with St Mary's for many years and have established excellent relationships with the university.

6 Training with a disability

WLTTA and all our partner universities are committed to supporting students with disabilities. Please contact us as early as possible in your application process so that your needs are met and support can be arranged.

You can also find support and information from the university accrediting this course. St Mary's University offer advice and support to their students who have requirements as a result of a disability, specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia), medical condition or temporary disability, such as injury. St Mary's Dyslexia and Disability Co-ordinator (DDC) works closely with the other members of the Student Services team, supporting students in their time at university assisting them to be proactive in their studies as an independent learner. <http://www.smuc.ac.uk/student-support/dyslexia-and-disability/>

7 Contact Details

The WLTTA office team administers all WLTTA teacher training recruitment and training. If you need further help, you can find all our contact details here with information about our availability during school holidays: [One-to-one advice for candidates](#)

Office phone: **0208 748 7600** (Pippa Currey x290)

Email: pcurrey@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk

Our website: <https://www.wlta.org.uk/>

8 How to apply

All applications for teacher training are made through the DfE portal. [Apply for teacher training](#).

The following link provides a useful overview of the application system

[How to apply](#)