



WEST LONDON TEACHER TRAINING ALLIANCE SCHOOL DIRECT TEACHER TRAINING 2024-25

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

- ◆ Good Shepherd Catholic Primary W12
- ◆ St Charles Catholic Primary School, W10
- ◆ St James' Catholic Primary School, TW2
- ◆ St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W10
- ◆ St Mary's CE Primary School, W4

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.

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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

Through us, you would enrol at the university and would attend all the same university sessions with those who had applied through the university; have full access to university facilities and mentors; and the university still awards your PGCE.

WLTTA selects a contrasting school for your 'away' placement, which occurs before your (longer) time at your chosen host school.



St Mary's University Twickenham

As a guide: [Typical Timetable](#)

The university programme covers teaching; assessing; classroom management; child protection; maths, English, science, music, history, drama, geography, art, design and technology, PE, MFL and Masters.

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

You will be treated like a member of staff. With your school mentors, you will feel supported as you progress and become ready to teach. Our mentors are excellent teachers and undertake rigorous training to develop their mentoring skills. Your time in school provides you with the opportunity to develop your teaching expertise and relationships with children in a familiar environment.

You will have the opportunity to teach a range of year groups (aged 5-11) covering Maths, English, Science as well as other subjects and themed projects. You will have experience of the National Curriculum and teacher assessment.

Your university tutor will visit you at both schools to discuss your development with you and your mentors. You will maintain close links with your host school throughout the course.

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. We then later arrange your second placement at another contrasting WLTTA school to 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 - see our typical timetable linked above.

The schools seeking trainees on this particular course are listed below.

- Good Shepherd RC Primary, W12
- St Charles Catholic Primary School, W10
- St James' Catholic Primary School, TW2
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School, W4
- St Mary's 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](#).

Once you have submitted your application for this course on DfE Apply, please email [Adesola Bakare] (ABakare@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk) with your three preferred choices of school offering the course in order of preference. We will then forward directly to the school/s for shortlisting.

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

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

We recommend that you visit our website www.wlta.org.uk to properly see 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 and it includes an opportunity for Q&A. The presentation explains all about the different routes into teaching and their separate benefits; how the money works; tips about using the 'Find Postgraduate Teacher Training' portal; applications; offers; school experience 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 get excellent feedback on this session year after year.

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.

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. We have some advice relating to school experience on our website: [WLT TA 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

The tuition fee for this course is £9,250 payable to St Mary's University, Twickenham for 2024-25. Fees for international students will be confirmed by the university in October, but for 2023-24 the fees were £15,000.

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: [WLT TA 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 in many boroughs, you can get a reduction on 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.

We want you to choose the schools where you aspire to work, when you apply. 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 below).

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.

With just under 4,000 students training to teach on primary and secondary, they are now London's second largest teacher training course provider and in 2019 the St Mary's Institute of Education was once again rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Course tutors at St Mary's are all skilful teachers themselves, with many years of experience in schools and higher education. Schools in the Alliance have excellent relationships with the university.

6 Interviews

Our schools seek trainees who aspire to work for them. We enable you to select your preferred host school(s) at application and later through a referral process. We provide information about the schools to help you choose.

6.1 Stage 1: University Interview

Once shortlisted, we arrange for you to be invited to an online university interview. 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.

6.2 Stage 2: School Interview

The in-person interview at school usually follows 3-4 days later. It will include time in a classroom and could lead to an offer.

6.3 Internal Referrals

If you do not receive an offer from Stage 2 but have demonstrated potential, you can then choose another school and we would recommend your shortlisting. The university interview would not be repeated.

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 trainee and school and thus increasing the chances of the trainee's future employment within the school or the alliance.

7 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/>

8 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** (Adesola Bakare x466)

Email: abakare@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk

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

9 How to apply

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

The following link provides an overview of the application system

[How to apply](#)