PGCE Primary with PE Specialism

Entry requirements
A first or second class degree from a United Kingdom university or equivalent.
A minimum of grade C in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science (which may be in Biology, Chemistry or Physics)
At St Mary’s, we would like all applicants to have made a fully informed decision about considering joining the teaching profession. As part of that decision making process, spending some time in school(s) observing what teachers do and beginning to give some consideration to how they manage learning can be really insightful and informative.
Physical and mental fitness to teach.
Completion of literacy and numeracy skills tests prior to course commencement.
Satisfactory DBS check.
Candidates for this programme should apply via UCAS Teacher Training website.

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2018 Entry
Information accurate at the time of printing, April 2018.
For up-to-date information please see our website.

Disclaimer
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PGCE Primary with PE Specialism

Physical education poses unique challenges to the teacher in organisation, safety, assessment and pupil management, as pupils move in space and use a range of equipment. Research suggests that many primary teachers lack confidence and competence to teach PE effectively, thus the training of specialist primary PE teachers was introduced as part of the Primary Sport Premium initiative in March 2013.

The impact of the latter has raised the profile of subject leaders in PE further. The Primary PGCE with a PE Specialism programme at St Mary’s University aims to extend students’ subject knowledge, skills and understanding, to enable them to develop as skilled and confident teachers of physical education in primary schools.

Description

The Primary PGCE with PE Specialism programme provides training that combines academic rigour with personal and professional learning experiences. The training is designed to meet the needs of each trainee, to support and develop the skills, knowledge and attributes you will need to start your teaching career. In preparation for your teaching role, you will be trained across the 5-11 age range, developing knowledge and practice to support your development of quality teaching and learning, while working in dedicated partnerships with a range of schools.

Two awards are available for graduates who wish to become primary teachers:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Education (M) (PGCE(M)) with QTS
- Primary Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (H) (PFCE(H)) with QTS

“St Mary’s partnership excels in supporting its students to be outstanding teachers.”

Ofsted

Both awards include Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). The course runs over three school terms from the start of September to the end of June, with university based sessions five days a week and 120 days school-centred learning in partnership placements. The typical day for taught sessions starts at 9am and finishes at either 4pm or 6pm.

In May 2017, 97% of PG PE students had secured employment for September 2017. Support for the interview andapplication process is available during the course from the Careers Service on campus, and specific workshops offered by the School of Education staff (September and October 2017).

Programme structure and content

The programme structure incorporates a balance of learning experiences through a mixture of university, school and educational settings, which will support you on your learning journey.

Modules for Masters support your development across all areas. Whilst on the programme you will work in two different key stages or age phases, in two school placements, to ensure the broadest possible experience. You will also have the opportunity to take an enhanced placement in a school of your choosing. In each placement you will work alongside experienced teachers and gradually assume more responsibility for planning and teaching as your training progresses. Throughout this process you will be supported by university based mentors and a link tutor.

Developing discrete subject knowledge, understanding and skills across the full range of core subjects, PE, RE and computing is a priority. Whilst foundation subjects are not explored during school placements and within cross curricular learning at university.

Professional studies underpin the pedagogy and practice of being a teacher, including themes of managing behaviour for learning, SEND, lesson planning for progress and working with children in challenging circumstances.

Within the PG PE Specialism, specific SEND courses and experiences are available to extend learning in this essential area of teaching. The distinct nature of the University promotes high quality physical education and religious education, and all trainees undertake core modules to support their religious and physical education understanding.

The opportunity to study for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) is available. An optional additional 30 Masters credits can be undertaken through our summer school prior to starting your NQT year.

The intensity of the programme demands engagement, commitment, participation and self-motivated study. Strong academic and tutorial support is readily available from course tutors.

“Former St Mary’s trainees are in great demand.”

Ofsted

“St Mary’s provides “Excellent academic and pastoral care for trainees.”

Ofsted

Partnerships

Our partnership schools offer a rich and diverse training programme for our trainees. We work with partner schools throughout London and a wide geographical area; we are partners with more than 700 schools. During your placements you will be guided from working with small groups of pupils alongside a class teacher towards taking responsibility for whole class teaching.

An experienced teacher acts as mentor during the school placement and contributes to your overall assessment as a new teacher. Trainee teachers enrolled on the PGCE PE Specialism will receive a specific PE audit to address the needs of the PE module. In the second placement, the number of PE lessons will increase to extend and challenge your PE subject knowledge.

The partnership of St Mary’s University with our students and schools continues beyond your training and into your NQT year. Our Keeping in Touch (KiT) programme supports you throughout your NQT year. Ongoing support and the continuation of your MA studies are available when you have entered the teaching profession.

Assessment

Teaching and learning is presented and assessed through various formats including essays, a portfolio of evidence, audits, visual presentations, self-assessment, peer-assessment, micro teaching and tutor/teacher assessment.

“Trainee 2016-17”

At the start of the module, I did not think I needed to learn that much to be able to teach primary PE, but I was wrong. This module has made me rethink my ideas about primary PE, and its purpose and aims. I have been challenged and it has made me a stronger and more inclusive practitioner. The different courses and content of the module, alongside the school experiences, have all added to my learning. I am ready to inspire!”