

Teaching in Faith Schools

There are approximately 7000 faith schools that account for 1.9 million pupils, out of a total of 21,000 maintained schools in Britain. They make up about one third of schools in England. The large majority are either Church of England or Roman Catholic although there are others including Jewish and Muslim faith schools. There are also about 1000 independent faith schools.

The government is keen to support faith schools as they feel they provide a high standard of teaching and a positive learning environment. Some faith schools require their teachers to be practicing their faith however most schools are looking for a supportive attitude.

Most of this leaflet will be devoted to Christian faith schools as that represents the majority of the enquiries we receive at St Mary's Careers Service. However, if you are interested in teaching in other faith schools please ask us for further information.

The Importance of Cohesion

The government has been in favour of choice and supportive of faith schools. It would like more to be established, for example, encouraging the growth of multi-faith academies, although this is not without criticism from secular groups and some teaching unions.

The future trend looks to be for an increasing number of faith schools, although government policy is not explicit on this currently ().

Finding Faith Schools

Go to get-information-schools.service.gov.uk to search for schools in a particular area. You can see which are private schools and which ones have Special Needs provision. You can also search on specific faith-related websites – please see the relevant sections and the resources list in this booklet.

Teaching Qualifications

There are different ways of becoming qualified to teach and further information is available in St Mary's Careers Service. One of the most popular routes for students here is the PGCE. The following tips are designed to help you get onto the PGCE course of your choice. St Mary's PGCE courses are competitive as they are very highly regarded. It is useful to assume that even as a St Mary's undergraduate you will still have to compete with a high quality pool of applicants. Further information on the application process, application checks and mock interviews are available at St Mary's Careers Service. To increase your chances of success you may want to bear the following in mind:

Attend a St Mary's PGCE open event:

This is an easy way to gain the necessary insight into the course to enable you to decide whether this is right for you and to prepare for making a good application. It also demonstrates your enthusiasm for the course. For details, see the St. Mary's admissions pages.

Get some work experience

For primary PGCEs there is usually a minimum of 2 weeks and for secondary a minimum of a couple of days. However, considering the competition, if you can do more than this it will stand you in good stead. You can arrange work experience by contacting your local schools, your own previous school, or through the [School Experience Programme \(SEP\)](#). Other experience working with children is also beneficial, be it babysitting, coaching kids or working on your local play scheme. We have a hand out in the Careers Service for 'Finding Observation and Work Experience in Schools'.

Write an excellent application

There is a booklet available in St Mary's Careers Service about routes into teaching and getting on to a PGCE course, which includes pointers for the application and interview process.

The following points may help you put together a good application. We highly recommend that you then get it CHECKED by St Mary's Careers Service.

1. Make sure it has no mistakes in it - either spelling or grammatical.
2. Sell your undergraduate degree. How is it relevant, what did you learn – both soft skills such as team work and also knowledge such as world religions.
3. Convince your reader of your enthusiasm for being a primary or secondary teacher. What has led you to think this is the right career for you?
4. Show how your work / volunteer experience has reinforced your ability to be a great teacher in terms of your skills and enthusiasm.

Teaching in Catholic Schools in England and Wales

In England and Wales the main recruiter of Catholic teachers is the [CES, Catholic Education Service](#). The CES negotiates, on behalf of all bishops, with Government, and other national bodies on legal, administrative, and religious education matters. Although a supportive attitude to the ethos of the school is obviously essential you do not usually need to be a practising Catholic to apply to teach in a Catholic school.

Finding teaching vacancies

On the CES website in the 'Schools and Recruitment' section, you can search for live vacancies in Catholic schools, or you can use the Schools Directory section to look for schools to approach for work experience opportunities. [The Catholic Teachers' Gazette](#) also publishes vacancies along with general news and updates.

Catholic 'Pool' System

For students about to gain QTS and seeking appointment at a Catholic school you can download and complete a teacher registration form from

When you send it back to the CES they will alert dioceses and schools to your availability and they will be in touch with you if they have anything that may be of mutual interest. This registration does not replace the need to make specific applications for particular posts.

Teaching in the Republic of Ireland

Teaching in the Republic of Ireland is divided into slightly different age ranges: Primary School children are aged 4-12 years old and Post Primary (Secondary) children are 12-18 years old.

Post-primary schools can be divided into three sectors:

- *Voluntary Secondary schools*
[Joint Managerial Body for Secondary Schools](#), Ireland, (JMB)
- *Community & Comprehensive schools*
[Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools \(ACCS\)](#)
- [Education and Training Boards Ireland \(ETBI\)](#)

Studying for a post graduate teaching qualification in the Republic of Ireland

If you have a first degree, you can follow a Postgraduate Teaching qualification (e.g., Graduate Diploma in Education). You also need to undertake an oral test in Irish and will be required to be fluent as you will need to teach Irish once you qualify.

For Post Primary you will need the 1 year Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) previously known as the H Dip. You must already have a degree in the subject you wish to teach.

Universities that teach the H Dip:

- [National University of Ireland](#), Maynooth:
- [National University of Ireland](#), Galway
- [University College Cork](#)
- [University College Dublin](#), Dublin
- [University of Dublin](#), Trinity College, Dublin.

Teaching with a UK PGCE

The UK PGCE is not automatically recognised by the Registration Council for Primary or Secondary Teachers.

Detailed instructions for how to apply are on the [Teaching Council's website](#).

Registration

You will need to apply with an application form downloaded from [here](#). Any questions and you can phone the Teaching Council on +353 1 651 7900. If you think you may be applying to teach in Ireland at some point in the future, please keep your module handbook and keep

track of how many hours you spend on each subject as you will need this information for your application form.

Your application will include:

- Application Form
- Original qualification transcripts for both
- PGCE and Undergraduate degree.
- Other documentary evidence
- Application Fee

If recognised, you will be granted a five year period of provisional recognition to teach in national schools. During this time you must satisfy the Irish language requirement by:

- i) Passing the written, aural and oral parts of the Scrúdú Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (S.C.G.). This is normally held in April and October. More details can be found [here](#).
- ii) Provide certification that you have resided in the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking region) while attending an approved three-week course or its aggregated equivalent either in one-week blocks or in a combination of one-week and two-week blocks.

Useful Links:

- [Irish Department of Education and Skills](#)
- [Citizens' Information](#)

Teaching in Church Schools in England and Wales

At the time of writing there are approximately 4,500 primary and 200 secondary schools that are Church of England or Church in Wales.

Do I need to be a practising Christian?

The law allows the governing bodies of Church schools to take the religious commitment of candidates for teaching posts into account although many do not require you to be a practising Christian but would require you to support the aims of the school. It also depends on the type of school.

Types of Church school

There are three main types of Church school which will affect how much the LEA is involved and also who your contract of employment is with:

- Voluntary aided schools
In these schools the governors employ the staff, are responsible for the admissions to the school, and determine the content of the religious education syllabus. The governors nominated by the Church are always in the majority.
- Voluntary controlled schools
In these schools the LEA employs the staff, is responsible for the admissions to the school, and determines the content of the religious education syllabus.
- Foundation schools

In these schools the governors employ the staff and are responsible for the admissions to the school, but the LEA determines the content of the religious education syllabus. There are also many independent schools who are run as a C of E school and also fairly recently the establishment of C of E academies.

Finding a vacancy in a Church school

Teaching posts are advertised in the usual places such as via the LEA, TES and Eteach. Posts are also sometimes advertised in the Church press, especially in the Church Times and the Church of England Newspaper.

Locally, there is the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS) and the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education. The LDBS covers 147 Church of England Schools including academies. A full list is on their website organised by LEA which includes Richmond and Surrey. They run a matching service much like the LEA pool system but for the Church schools. More information and application forms can be found on the [LDBS website](#).

Teaching in Scotland and Northern Ireland

Teaching in Faith Schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland is similar to teaching in England and Wales except that there are often offshoots of the main organisations that are the sources of information. These contacts are in the resources list at the end of this leaflet.

Other places you could work

Christian values are promoted in many volunteering opportunities around the world from teaching children to working in their local community. Youth work is a popular choice and can be a great way of gaining experience prior to starting a teaching course, or a way of taking a year out before you start work, while still gaining good experience for when you return to find a job. We have listed some places you may want to look for these opportunities in the resources section.

Other options to consider would be teaching RE in other maintained schools or working in school chaplaincy.

Resources

The links below provide both information about teaching in faith schools and places to look for vacancies in faith schools. Information and advice can also be found in St Mary's Careers Service, Room J3.

Christian Links:

- [The Association of Christian Teachers](#) - this website has information for Christian teachers including a vacancies page. In the UK, there are also separate national Associations of Christian Teachers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- [Catholic Education Service](#)
- [Catholic Teachers Gazette](#) - updated weekly, shows details of current vacancies in UK Catholic Schools
- [Church of England](#) - Includes information on teaching and different types of C of E school

- [The Church of England Newspaper](#) - Church newspaper that includes job listings. To view their listed vacancies [visit](#).
- [The Church Times](#) - Anglican weekly newspaper website which includes an online job listing for teachers and other opportunities.
- [Catholic School Vacancies](#)
- [London Diocesan Board for Schools \(LDBS\)](#) - the LDBS is a Christian organisation committed to supporting and nurturing the 147 Church of England Schools (including Academies) in the Diocese of London. Includes a job search and matching facility (LDBS represents areas that are North of the River Thames).
- [The National Society](#) - the National Society exists to inform and encourage Church schools throughout England and Wales and to promote Christian education.
- [Southwark Diocesan Board of Education](#) - the Southwark Diocese provides support and advice for 91 primary schools and 15 secondary schools but does not have an applications service for NQTs. However you can find a list of schools in their diocese. (Southwark represents areas that are South of the River Thames).
- [The Tablet](#) - British Catholic weekly newspaper. Reports on current affairs, politics, religion, social issues, literature and the arts.
- [Transforming Lives](#) - The Transforming Lives Project exists to promote teaching as a Christian vocation. It wants to encourage more Christians to become teachers and support Christian teachers currently in post.

Teaching outside England and Wales

- [Scotland](#)
- [Christians Abroad](#) - listing of opportunities to teach abroad in Christian schools.
- [Christian Aid](#) - opportunities to teach in Great Britain and also Gap Year Volunteering Scheme.
- [Mission: Teach](#) - listing of international Christian School teaching positions.
- [National Catholic Education Commission, Australia](#)
- [Scottish Catholic Education Service](#)
- [Promoting understanding between faiths: Churches Together in England](#) - National body set up by the churches in 1990 that aims to help churches to work together.
- [Quaker Schools in England](#) - Information about Quaker Schools including a list of contact details for each of the Quaker schools in the UK.
- General teaching information and vacancies including those in faith schools can be found at: [Department for Education](#) - lots of information including a search function for all schools by type and area.
- [Eteach](#) - teaching vacancies and information.
- [TES](#) - Teaching vacancies, news and resources.

Faith School Teaching Resources

St Mary's Careers Service in J3 has take-away information to support writing CVs, applications and develop Interview skills. We offer quick queries to chat about what you might want to do next and check your applications. We also provide mock interviews so you can practice with us first.

The following websites provide information and resources for developing Christian and RE lessons:

- [Christian Aid Teaching Resources](#)
- [National Association of Teachers of Religious Education](#)
- [RE Online from the Culham Institute](#)

Curriculum resources by age:



- [The Stapleford Centre](#) - the Stapleford Centre is an independent Christian education organisation whose aim is to be a transforming Christian influence in education.

This material can be provided in alternate formats. Please ask a member of the Careers team. The Careers Service believes all material published here to be accurate at the time of publication. September 2017 © The Careers Group, University of London.

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