

# TeachFirst

## FAQs

### What is Teach First?

Teach First is an independent education charity founded in 2002, which works to improve the life chances of children from the most deprived backgrounds. In the short term it does this by recruiting high calibre, motivated graduates and working to place them in schools in challenging circumstances while supporting them to become effective, inspirational teachers. In the long term Teach First is creating a movement of leaders who are committed to influencing change in education, from both inside and outside the classroom. Teach First has developed a powerful community of ambassadors which will grow to more than 1,500 this year, working to improve educational, and life, outcomes for hundreds of thousands of children.

### Why does Teach First exist?

The link between low family income and poor educational attainment is greater in the UK than in almost any other developed country. Teach First believes that the causes and consequences of this problem are so great that it will take a movement of leaders to break this link and close the attainment gap. By encouraging many of the country's top graduates to teach in the most challenged schools Teach First is equipping them with the motivation, skills and understanding they need to make a life-long commitment to tackling educational disadvantage as leaders in all fields.

### Where does Teach First operate?

Teach First operates in six regions across England; London, North West, North East, the East and West Midlands and Yorkshire. Participants currently work in around 250 schools reaching more than 200,000 pupils.

### Who is eligible to apply for Teach First?

In order to be considered for inclusion onto the Teach First Leadership Development Programme participants require:

- 2.1 or above in a subject that is aligned to a National Curriculum subject
- 300 UCAS points (excluding General Studies)
- Grade C (or equivalent) in GCSE Maths and English
- Flexibility to work anywhere within Greater London, the Midlands, the North West, the North East or Yorkshire & The Humber

### What types of schools do Teach First participants teach in?

Since 2002 more than 200,000 pupils in the most disadvantaged areas of London, the North West, the East and West Midlands and Yorkshire have had access to a Teach First teacher.

In order to employ a Teach First teacher, schools must meet one of the following criteria:

- **A first criterion based on the IDACI\*** - Teach First works in schools that have more than 50% of their pupils living in the lowest 30% of the IDACI, prioritising those schools with higher levels of deprivation;
- **A second criterion based on attainment** - Teach First prioritises schools with low attainment in regards to the 5+ A\*-C (English & Maths) GCSE measure. Teach First works in schools whose results fall below the lowest 30% of the national distribution;
- Teach First also works in schools that have a **Challenge status**: either National Challenge or City Challenge.

*\*Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index.*

### **What do Teach First participants teach?**

Three quarters of Teach First participants teach the most demanded shortage subjects; Maths, Science, English, Modern Foreign Languages, ICT, Music and Religious Studies.

### **How many graduates does Teach First recruit?**

Since launching in 2002, Teach First has placed increasing numbers of participants in schools each year - 560 entered the programme in June 2010, more than double the 265 in 2005.

It has developed a powerful community of ambassadors which will grow to more than 1,500 this year, who work to improve educational, and life, outcomes for hundreds of thousands of children today.

Teach First was rated seventh in the 2010 Times Top 100 Graduate Recruiters. It hopes to place over 780 graduates in 2011 and as many as 1140 per year by 2013.

### **How is Teach First funded?**

Our funding is a three-way split between Government, private donations and schools.

### **Does the Government support Teach First?**

Since it was launched in 2002, Teach First has been supported by the Government of the day. In 2010, Teach First was identified by all three political parties in their election manifestoes as an initiative they each wished to support and expand.

On July 5 2010 Teach First announced that it had received a £4million grant by the Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove, providing start up funding to support its expansion into every region of the country and to enable its progression into primary schools.

The funds will allow the charity to undertake the following by 2013/14:

- Place teachers in every region of England, starting with the North East, and in almost a third of all challenging secondary schools by 2013.
- Start a new programme placing Teach First participants in primary schools with the aim of placing 300 new primary teachers by 2013/14.
- Expand the Teach On programme that accelerates the progression of its growing community of teachers who are ready to become senior leaders and head teachers within challenging schools.
- Targeting STEM graduates to increase the numbers of high calibre science, maths and technology teachers working in challenging schools.
- Conduct research into the feasibility of expanding Teach First into hard to reach rural and coastal pockets of educational disadvantage.