



CULHAM ST GABRIEL'S
CHAMPIONING RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS EDUCATION

So you want to be an RE teacher?

Routes to achieving your
dream





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Two important questions:

- Do you already have a **degree**?
- Do you want to teach **Primary** (ages 5-11) or **secondary** (11-16/18).

Usually, **teachers in state schools** need QTS (**Qualified Teacher Status**). It is also worth remembering that all teachers need **GCSE English** and **Maths** (grade 4 / C or above) and **primary teachers need GCSE Science** (grade 4 / C or above).





Entry requirements across the 4 Nations

England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
GCSE English and Maths (4/C+)	GCSE English and Maths (4/C+)	National 5 English and Maths	GCSE English and Maths (C+)
GCSE Science for primary	GCSE Science for primary	National 5 Science for primary	GCSE Science for primary
QTS required	QTS required	No QTS must train through GTCS – accredited ITE and probationary year	Recognised ITE qualification)QTS accepted but not required
Registration: TRA	Registration: EWC	Registration: GTCS	Registration: GTCNI



If you don't have a degree....

There are **very few specialist RE Teacher routes.**

- Birmingham Newman have a Secondary Humanities (Geography, History and RE) degree with QTS.
- There are lots of Primary Education with QTS degrees which include some RE (sometimes very little, sometimes quite a lot)
- Scotland and NI do have some 4 year BEd routes combining Religion and Education with Initial Teacher Education.
- Otherwise, you can do an **undergraduate degree in Theology, Religious Studies or similar**, and then apply for a **postgraduate teaching course.**





If you have a (relevant*) degree...

There are a few options....

- There are a few salaried routes for both Primary (about a dozen) and secondary (less than 5). These are one or two year (occasionally part-time over a longer period), and very intensive, where much of your training is on the job, whilst you are paid a small salary (over £21K). Often you need significant experience of teaching to apply.
- There are some Postgraduate Teaching Apprenticeships (less than 10 providers for secondary, but many for Primary), usually for those who have been working as Teaching Assistants for over a year. These are one year, highly intensive, where much of your training is on the job, whilst you are paid a small salary (over £21K).
- Most routes are fee paying

* "relevant" for secondary usually includes Theology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Philosophy, and often History, Criminology, Psychology, Anthropology, Law, Classics... For Primary it can be much wider, as long as there's a link to any National Curriculum subject





Fee-paying routes

- If you have extensive experience (at least 2 years) as an Unqualified Teacher, you may be able to gain QTS by an Assessment Only Route. This is a short (usually 12 week) course where you build up evidence that you can meet the teachers' standards. The cost is currently approximately £3000.
- The most common route is a PGCE with QTS. This is a 1 year (sometimes 2 year part-time) course which includes 120 days on work placement in 2 schools. It can be offered as a University-led, or school-led course – and costs £9,790 for a one year PGCE for UK trainees.



Differences in fee paying PGCE routes

Feature	University-Led PGCE	School-Led PGCE / School Direct
Who leads the training?	University is the main training provider and arranges placements	School or partnership of schools leads training
Academic award	PGCE with QTS (60 M-level credits typical)	PGCE with QTS (same academic award if partnered with a university)
Where trainees spend most time	Split between university campus (~40 days) and school placements (~120 days)	Mostly in school from day one, with university days (~20 days) for theory
Structure	Often front-loaded theory, then placements, with occasional time back at University	Often a short induction then a combination of practice with theory woven in
Placements	Usually two long contrasting placements arranged by the university	Usually two placements within the school partnership (but one may be very short - e.g. 6 weeks)
Mentoring and support	School-based mentor, with University Tutor support	School-based mentor, with support from senior staff.
Cohort experience	Large university cohort; strong peer network	Smaller cohort; more embedded in school staff team



Applying

- All routes will require an **online application, interview** (often online) sometimes a written or presentation task. You will need to go through **DBS clearance** with your provider.
- Your application will benefit if you can **evidence your passion for the subject** you want to teach and **experience of the age group** you are hoping to teach (voluntary, work experience, uniformed organisations, TA work...)
- Postgraduate Course applications are [Apply for teacher training - GOV.UK](#) and undergraduate through [Choose your future | UCAS](#)

