#TBCSfutures
Career of the Week

PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Primary school teachers look after the educational, social, physical and emotional development of children from ages 5 to 11.

Most teaching jobs are in state schools and academies, but you could also work in independent schools, pupil referral units and hospitals.

You'll teach subjects in the primary National Curriculum at Key Stage 1 (ages 5 to 7) and Key Stage 2 (ages 7 to 11). Subjects include English, Maths, Science, Music and Art. With experience you could develop a specialism in a particular subject like Computing or Art and Design.

Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- planning lessons and preparing teaching materials
- marking and assessing children's work
- providing a safe and healthy environment
- discussing children's progress with parents and careers
- working with other professionals like education psychologists and social workers
- organising outings, social activities and sports events

You may also work with under 5s in a Children's Centre or a Reception class in a Primary School.

UK Entry Requirements

To become a primary school teacher, you'll need:

- GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C) in English, maths and science
- passes in numeracy and literacy skills tests
- some school experience to support your application
- enhanced background checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

If you have a degree, you can train through a postgraduate teacher training course. There are 2 main routes: school-led and university-led. Both provide you with the practical skills and knowledge needed for teaching, but are delivered differently.

If you don't have a degree, you can qualify by taking a course that awards qualified teacher status (QTS).

Skills required

You'll need:

- the ability to inspire and motivate
- creativity to design activities and materials
- IT, organisational and planning skills
- the ability to manage classes and deal with challenging behaviour

There is a real shortage of male primary school teachers.

Why do you think this is?