

Primary PGCE: Pre-Course Preparation

Personalising your training

The PGCE is an intensive course of professional training and education, and we are keen that you start the course from as strong a position as possible. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you take the opportunity to work on the following before the course begins. These will form part of your initial self-appraisal and review once you have joined the course and help us to personalise your training effectively.

English

Please access the National Curriculum and look closely at the Programmes of Study for Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335186/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_English_220714.pdf

The Appendices (pp39-88) outline subject knowledge for spelling and grammar.

The core text for English is:

Wyse, D. and Jones, R., Bradford, H. & Wolpert, M.A. (2013). *Teaching English, language and literacy* (3rd ed.). London: Routledge.

Please read this, targeting areas where you feel less confident following your review of the Programmes of Study in the National Curriculum.

Children's literature forms a central part of the English course and we believe that teachers should be voracious readers of current quality texts. To get your reading underway, access the following websites for recent award lists:

<https://ukla.org/awards/ukla-book-award>

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/>

Mathematics

The 'self-evaluation tools' on the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics) website <https://www.ncetm.org.uk/> is a good resource to help you assess your current maths knowledge for teaching. (You will need to register with the NCETM to do this - registration is free). We recommend that everyone does this before the start of the course.

Familiarise yourself with the Primary Curriculum for mathematics (including the appendices on pages 46/47)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335158/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Mathematics_220714.pdf

Identify areas of mathematics that you need to revise/develop further and make certain that you are confident in your own mental and written arithmetic. Buy the mathematics core book and read and make notes on the relevant chapters that relate to your identified areas.

Familiarise yourself with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum for mathematics in:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/eyfs-statutory-framework/>

For additional EYFS guidance, also look at: <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2012/03/Development-Matters-FINAL-PRINT-AMENDED.pdf>

The core texts for maths are:

Early Primary mathematics core book:

Haylock, D. & Cockburn, A. (2013) *Understanding Mathematics for Young Children* (4th ed). London: Sage

or

General Primary mathematics core book:

Haylock, D. (2014). *Mathematics Explained for Primary Teachers* (5th ed). London: Sage.

(n.b. earlier editions of these books are also appropriate)

The Primary Magazine available on the NCETM website (in the Resources tab) will help you to improve your awareness of teaching early and primary mathematics as will other articles and resources.

Science

Familiarise yourself with the Primary Curriculum for Science, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425618/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Science.pdf

The core reader for the course is:

Loxley, P. et al. (2014) *Teaching Primary Science: promoting enjoyment and developing understanding*. (2nd ed.) London: Routledge.

Following from your analysis of the National Curriculum, target your reading of Part 2 of the reader so that you focus on topic areas where you feel less secure. If you wish to further boost your subject knowledge in topics where you feel less secure, read relevant sections of this website:

<https://www.le.ac.uk/se/centres/sci/selfstudy/>

Continue to develop your understandings of the requirements for academic writing.

You might find it useful to read:

Wyse, D. (2012) *The Good Writing Guide for Education Students: Sage Study Skills Series* 3rd edition. London: Sage Publications

Judge, B., Jones, P. & McCreery, E. (2009) *Critical Thinking Skills for Education Students (Study Skills in Education)*. Exeter: Learning Matters

Keep abreast of current educational policy and debate by regularly reading the Times Educational Supplement and Educational Guardian. This will enable you to engage with the political landscape and consider your own position and opinions of these issues in order to further your ability to think and analyse critically.

You may also identify areas of personal interest (eg. SEN provision, use of TAs in the classroom, museum education etc).

Another way of keeping up to date with current educational issues is through Twitter @CamEdFac
