

Pre-application task for School Direct applicants

Before you apply for a School Direct place you will need to have at least one week's experience in a mainstream state school. Primary applicants need to spend this time in primary settings and secondary applicants in secondary settings.

Before your visits:

- Read the following pages, so that you know what things you are looking for.
- Share with the person who will be your host, the things that you will be interested in looking for. This will help them to organise opportunities for you, to make your visit as useful as possible.
- Be prepared to discuss things that you observe with teachers in the school, to help you understand the purpose of their actions and words.

After your visits:

Record your reflections on your experiences and the activities that you observed.

- What were the most valuable things that you have learnt from your visit?
- How will this impact on your thinking about education and/or your practice?
- How has this experience affected your view of the teacher's role?
- How have your knowledge, skills and attitudes been enhanced as a result of this experience?
- What skills will you need to develop?
- What aspects of subject knowledge will you need to build on?

Primary Applicants

What to look for:

1. National Curriculum/National Strategies in KS1/2
2. Look at Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum
3. How is the teaching and learning organised?
 - a. What teaching and learning strategies are used?
 - b. How is the curriculum covered?
 - c. Behaviour issues – are there any?
 - d. Differentiation – how are different pupils given opportunities to engage with the learning?
 - e. Working with additional adults – what are their roles and how are they organised?
 - f. How is learning assessed?
 - g. What questioning techniques are used?
 - h. How is technology used to enhance learning?
4. Additional support provision:

- a. Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- b. Provision for pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- c. Observe the teaching of Early Reading/phonics in Foundation Stage/KS1 using the Early Reading and Phonics form.

5. Observe other lessons and make notes on the HRP Observation Form

Secondary Applicants

What to look for:

1. National Curriculum Programme of Study for KS 3/4 for your subject and the Secondary National Strategy
2. Examination courses on offer in your subject
3. How is the teaching and learning organised?
 - a. What teaching and learning strategies are used?
 - b. How is the curriculum covered?
 - c. Behaviour issues – are there any?
 - d. Differentiation – how are different pupils given opportunities to engage with the learning?
 - e. Working with additional adults – what are their roles and how are they organised?
 - f. How is learning assessed?
 - g. What questioning techniques are used?
 - h. How is technology used to enhance learning?
4. Additional support provision:
 - a. Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
 - b. Provision for pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL)
5. Observe some lessons and make notes on the HRP Observation Form