



PGCE Primary Education with QTS

**School Direct Applicant Handbook 2022-2023**

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**Welcome from the Programme Leader**

As Primary PGCE Programme Leader for School Direct, I would like to introduce you to the School Direct Alliances that work in partnership with Edge Hill University and provide an overview of the School Direct route of the Primary PGCE.

School Direct is a school-led route into Initial Teacher Education (ITE) which involves a close partnership between Edge Hill University as your accredited ITE provider and a lead school, along with other schools within the school direct cluster.

As the accredited teacher training provider for School Direct, at Edge Hill University we are delighted to work in close partnership with our School Direct partners listed in this handbook.

Each School Direct alliance offers its own unique experience through enhancement days and teaching practices are offered in specific geographical locations.

Should you choose to train to teach through the School Direct route, we very much look forward to receiving your application, and to working with you, as you begin your journey.



**Richard Doherty**

Primary PGCE Programme Leader (School Direct and Satellite Provision)

**Email**dohertyr@edgehill.ac.uk

**Welcome from the ITE Partnership**

Thank you for considering school direct as your route into teaching. If you are successful, you are in for a wonderful year ahead. The PGCE Primary Education with QTS programme is full of diverse experiences to support you in developing a wealth of skills to build your teaching toolkit in an ever-changing educational landscape. Your year will be a seamless blend between academic study and professional practice.

Edge Hill have supported the School Direct route for over 10 years; training up exceptional and highly employable teachers who will ‘stand out from the crowd’. Edge Hill is an award-winning University, which prides themselves on their quality ITE curriculum and strong relationships. Together we have built up a vast pool of Partner schools, within specific locations, to allow a variety of experiences and practices, which can build bespoke packages in your teacher-training programme. Our schools are fully mentor trained and passionate about supporting trainees in becoming the best Early Careers Teacher they can be. All mentors, facilitators and tutors want the next generation to be ‘weavers of magic’ and provide exceptional teaching experiences for children.

It is a year for the dedicated, passionate and not faint hearted, as you will be expected to throw your all at it. Each placement will be an opportunity to learn from mistakes, absorb feedback, take risks and grow into the inspirational teacher we aspire you to become!

Good luck on your year ahead and remember; ‘*Teaching is not a job. It is a lifestyle. It permeates your whole being’*

Ladywood School Direct Cluster

Sarah Dakin

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**The Primary School Direct Team- key contacts**

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**Entry Requirements**

When you apply, you are expected to have:

* A commitment to, and understanding of, primary education, demonstrating the personal attributes, values and motivation required to train as a teacher
* Suitable presentational qualities, including a good standard of written English.

Before the programme commences, you should have:

* A degree equivalent to UK first-class or second-class honours (2:2 or above). No specific subjects are required.
* GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics at Grade C or Grade 4 or above (or equivalent)
* GCSE in Combined Science, Physics, Chemistry or Biology at Grade C or Grade 4 (or equivalent).

Please note, for the purposes of initial teacher training, level 2 literacy and numeracy qualifications are not considered as equivalent to GCSE Grade C or Grade 4 in English Language and Mathematics.

An academic reference is required for all students who have graduated in the last five years. An interview forms part of the selection process, which can be conducted online or face to face.

If you accept a formal offer from Edge Hill University you will be required to meet the Department for Education’s standards for physical and mental fitness to teach and clearance to work with children. Further information, including a Declaration of Health questionnaire and details of how to apply for a [Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Enhanced Disclosure](https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/dbs) will be sent to you after you have firmly accepted an offer.

English language requirements

International students require IELTS 6.5, with a score no lower than 6.0 in each individual component, or an equivalent English language qualification.

If your current level of English is half a band, one band, or one-and-a-half bands lower, either overall or in one or two elements, you may want to consider our [Pre-Sessional English](https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/course/pre-sessional-english/) course.

**The Selection Process**

The recruitment process will be coordinated by both the Alliance lead and Edge Hill Cluster Lead. This will involve either an online or face to face interview via Teams with the School Direct Lead, Head Teacher and a School Direct link from Edge Hill:

* Observed teaching activity
* An interview Prior to your interview day, you will be informed of the content of the activity. The rigorous and thorough process is aimed at recruiting trainees of the highest calibre.

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**Arch Alliance School Direct Cluster**

Arch Alliance is a lead school for the Shine Partnership School Direct programme; achieving ‘outstanding’ at the previous Ofsted inspection. The Shine Partnership works directly with Edge Hill University. Every school within the partnership offers enhancement training to its trainees in addition to that offered at Edge Hill; promoting a collaborative approach of excellence.

There are tremendous opportunities for developing teaching and learning pedagogy within highly dedicated teaching teams focused upon being at the forefront of educational development.

**The schools that could be involved in delivering aspects of training include:**

* Arch Alliance
* Heap Bridge Village Primary
* Harwood Park Primary
* Hopwood Community Primary
* St Luke’s CE Primary
* St Margaret’s CE Primary
* Our Lady St Paul’s RC School
* Siddal Moor High School
* St Luke’s CE Primary School

# **Lead Contacts**

**Gemma Croston**  
Head of Development Hub All Souls' CE Primary  
office@allsoulsce.rochdale.sch.uk

**Edge Hill Cluster Lead**Richard Harley  
[harleyr@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:harleyr@edgehill.ac.uk)





**Eatock School Direct cluster**

The Eatock Primary Cluster School Direct programme will be delivered by good and outstanding practitioners in a highly supportive and aspirational environment. The programme is aimed at developing your skills, knowledge and understanding required for teaching within the classrooms of tomorrow. The majority of training will be delivered by the Eatock Cluster School Partners and Edge Hill University. The programme supports trainees to develop innovative and creative approaches to teaching in a supportive environment. Trainees will be provided with classroom based experiences which will enable them to reflect on pedagogy in practice. Edge Hill University’s teaching and learning experience is of the highest quality, with a curriculum that is inspiring, relevant and informed by the outcomes of up to date research. As part of your School Direct experience, you will have access to state of the art facilities at Edge Hill University’s Ormskirk campus and regular interaction with fellow PGCE trainees.

**The schools that could be involved in delivering aspects of training include:**

* Eatock Primary School, Westhoughton
* Aspull C of E Primary School, Wigan
* Wood Fold Primary, Standish
* St Thomas Halliwell, Bolton
* Pikes Lane, Bolton
* St Georges C of E, Westhoughton
* Haslam Park, Bolton
* Oxford Grove, Bolton

**Lead Contacts**

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Rebecca Green: 01942 634672

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**Edge Hill Cluster Lead**

Marcus Hill

Email: [hillm@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:hillm@edgehill.ac.uk)



**Ladywood School Direct cluster**

By becoming part of Ladywood you will receive a holistic training package to support you into becoming a strong and effective teacher.

You will be at the forefront of education being part of our established and evolving Educational practice and receive a customised and bespoke training plan which meets your individual training needs.

The programme allows you to take risks and discover your potential in a safe environment, whilst allowing you to be reflective and bring your classroom to life.

There is the opportunity to have three placements in a range of settings including special educational needs if this is something you are interested in. You will be supported by outstanding mentors, as well as visiting tutors from Edge Hill University.

You will receive outstanding teacher training delivered by highly experienced school-based practitioners enabling you to be truly reflective and make the links between theory and practice.

**The schools that could be involved in delivering the training include:**

* Beaumont Primary School
* Brownlow Fold Primary School
* Castle Hill Primary School
* Devonshire Road Primary School
* Eatock Primary School
* Green Fold School
* Hardy Mill Primary School
* Haslam Park
* Ladywood School and Outreach Service
* Markland Hill Primary School
* Masefield Primary School
* Moorgate Primary School
* Mytham Primary School
* Pikes Lane School
* Red Lane Primary School
* Rivington and Blackrod High School
* St Matthews Primary School
* St. Saviours C of E Primary School
* The Oaks Primary School

**Lead Contacts**

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**Sarah Dakin**

[schooldirect@ladywood.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:schooldirect@ladywood.bolton.sch.uk)

**School Direct Alliance Lead**

**Richard Doherty**  
[dohertyr@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:dohertyr@edgehill.ac.uk)

**Edge Hill Cluster Lead**



**OWLS School Direct cluster**

OWLS run a challenging but rewarding School Direct PGCE programme which will help you to secure deep and meaningful knowledge and understanding of teaching within primary education. The OWLS cluster is a dynamic group of schools offering a diverse range of contexts and training enhancements. OWLS consists of large schools, small schools, faith schools, community schools, forest schools, international schools, Early Years specialists as well as bespoke Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEN/D) departments, to name but a few.

The cohort is big enough to share ideas and experiences, but small enough to offer opportunities for truly tailored provision and personal support. In school, we will guide and coach you in putting theory into practice and develop your craft as a teacher. You will work alongside and be trained by outstanding, highly skilled, experienced class teachers who will guide, support and challenge you on your journey to becoming an outstanding practitioner. At OWLS you will learn ‘on the job’ and we will ensure that you gain a richly diverse set of experiences in school which will prepare you for a successful career in teaching.  You will complete placements in at least two of our schools and visit the other schools for enhancement days. Throughout the year you will be supported by outstanding mentors as well as a visiting tutor from Edge Hill University who is also your Personal Tutor.

**The schools that could be involved in delivering the training include:**

• Aughton Christ Church C.E. Primary School Lancashire  
• Farnborough Road Junior School Sefton- a popular and successful 4 form  
• Farnborough Road Infants School Sefton  
• Newburgh CE Primary School Lancashire  
• Bishop David Shepherd C.E. Primary School Sefton  
• Aughton St Michael’s C.E. Primary School Lancashire  
• Aughton Town Green Primary School  
• St Philip’s CE School Litherland  
• Holmeswood Methodist Rufford Near Ormskirk  
• LIPA  Primary School Liverpool  
• Hesketh With Becconsall  All Saints CE  Hesketh Bank  Near Southport

**Edge Hill Cluster Lead**

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Claire Buck:   
Email: [buckc@edgehill.ac.uk](mailto:buckc@edgehill.ac.uk)

**Edge Hill Cluster Lead**

**Lead Contacts**



Barbara Stevens

Email. [barbara@owlsteach.co.uk](mailto:barbara@owlsteach.co.uk)

**School Direct Alliance Lead**

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**Forward First School Direct cluster**

Forward First is a forward-thinking network of Lancashire primary schools committed to developing, equipping and sustaining the next generation of inspirational teachers. We provide an innovative Post Graduate Certificate of Education with Qualified Teacher Status (PGCE with QTS), in partnership with

the award-winning Edge Hill University. Our vision is to provide all children with the very best educational foundation for a happy, fruitful and successful life.  At Forward First, we aim to create rich and diverse ‘experiences’ for our trainees so that you can learn, use, refine and consolidate your pedagogic approach in highly supportive, highly effective settings. Training to teach in this small and supportive network of likeminded schools will mean you become part of a very special school family, the Forward First family, where trust and enjoyment underpins excellent educational opportunities for our children. If you have a passion for teaching, are organised and hard-working, please explore our programme further and contact us to find out more about studying with Forward First.

**The schools that could be involved in delivering the training include:**

* Penwortham Broadoak Primary School
* Tarleton Community Primary School
* Lostock Hall Community Primary School
* Delph Side Primary School
* Trinity CE / Methodist School
* St. Aidan’s Primary School
* St. James’ Catholic School
* New Longton CE Primary School
* St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School

Whilst on professional practice you will also receive full paediatric and mental health first aid training, as well as the opportunity to take part in an exhilarating outdoor adventure activity day in a specialist setting.

**Lead Contact**



Tony Currie

Richard Doherty   
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**Edge Hill Cluster Lead**

Email: [info@forwardfirst.co.uk](mailto:info@forwardfirst.co.uk)

**School Direct Alliance Lead**



**For general enquiries, contact the School Direct Cluster Lead for any of the Clusters.**

**What you will study**

**Contemporary Issues in Primary Education**raises your awareness of complex contemporary issues and the impact they have on children’s lives. The module recognises that children’s educational experiences are subject to complex influential factors which have implications for social justice and achievement. These factors change over time, as new priorities emerge to which schools and teachers are expected to respond, however the implications for schools and their communities are contextual. Individual children and individual communities deserve individual consideration. The module provides you with the opportunity to embrace this complexity and begin to develop the expertise to manage complex issues in a systematic, informed and effective fashion. Building on the foundations of equity, justice and social responsibility, you will develop a framework which will guide your understanding of contemporary issues within the primary education context and which will facilitate your ongoing professional learning and development in the future.

Module code: PGP4110

Credits: 30

**Leading Development and Change in the Primary School** gives you the opportunity to identify and explore an aspect of special interest within a chosen focus area. You will select your focus area from a range of options which might include communication, language and literacy, primary science education, inclusion and special educational needs and disability (SEND), or learning outside the classroom. Working with specialist tutors, you will develop extended subject knowledge and an evidence-based approach to learning, teaching, assessment and curriculum design. You will also examine bias and political, historical and cultural contexts. The module will additionally enable you to develop the capacity to lead and manage change and to articulate and communicate your vision for curriculum development within your chosen focus area.

Module code: PGP4111

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**Professional Practice 1 - PGCE Primary Education** houses the first period of professional practice and will usually be undertaken between the end of October and February. This professional practice will take place in a primary school setting. The placement will comprise of an initial phase and a developmental phase. The initial phase will mostly consist of observing experienced teachers at work. The developmental phase will see you begin to teach parts of lessons, before gradually building up, towards the end of the placement, to teaching approximately 50% of a teacher's standard timetable. The placement will last for approximately 60 days.

Module code: PLCE\_PPG

Credits: 0

**Professional Practice 2 - PGCE Primary Education** houses the second period of professional practice and will usually be undertaken between March and June. The placement will be focused upon the consolidation of the your academic and practical learning. This placement is usually in a reception or Key Stage 1 class. The initial phase of the placement will be in the form of an induction and will see you work closely with your host teachers, before quite quickly building up to teaching approximately 80% of a standard teacher's timetable. The placement will last for approximately 60 days.

Module code: PLCE2\_PPG

Credits: 0

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**How you will be assessed**

Assessment strategies will include presentations to different audiences, academic essays individually tailored around your own professional interests, and ongoing task submission.

For your professional practice, you will be placed within the cluster schools of your chosen school direct alliance. During your professional practice, your school-based mentor will assess your development through reflective conversations, reviewing and discussing your planning and assessment records, observing your teaching, and gathering the perspectives of other adults and, of course, of the children who work with you.

In all cases, you will be given clear assessment guidance. The assessment criteria will be shared with you and you will be given constructive feedback to help you to set targets and identify actions to help you make further progress.

You will compile an electronic portfolio that brings together evidence to demonstrate your professional development and your ability to meet the Teachers’ Standards.

There are no formal written examinations as part of the current assessment methods on this programme.

**Who will be teaching you**

The Faculty of Education has been at the forefront of teacher education for 135 years and today enjoys the enviable position of being one of the country’s leading providers of education, training and research for the children’s workforce.

You will be taught in University and on professional practice in schools by a range of highly qualified and experienced teachers and tutors who are dedicated to excellence in primary education and who will model high quality practice to enable you to develop your own teaching style.

You will be supported throughout your programme by a personal academic tutor who will help you to manage your workload, engage with your academic studies, prepare for professional practice placements and secure your first teaching post.

In addition to seminars and lectures on Campus, you will also receive 10 days of contextualised enhancement from experts within your School Direct Alliance.