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Opportunities for Our Partnership Schools

Placements, professional development and wellbeing | Autumn 2026

Working in partnership with schools is central to the University of Reading's approach to teacher education. We value the expertise and support our partner schools provide to trainee teachers and are committed to making our partnerships mutually beneficial.

Work with us: Host a trainee teacher on placement

Support the next generation of teachers while benefiting your school community

We are inviting primary schools to host our first-year BA Primary Education (QTS) students for Key Stage 1 placements during the 2026–27 academic year. Hosting a trainee provides an opportunity to contribute to the development of future teachers, bring fresh perspectives into the classroom and build professional relationships with the University of Reading.

Why work with the University of Reading?



- **High-quality teacher education:** The University of Reading is ranked 4th in the UK for Education and 7th for Teacher Training in the Daily Mail University Guide 2027. Our trainees receive structured training and support throughout their programme.

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- **Local support when you need it:** Our tutors and course leaders are on hand to offer advice and support to schools and mentors throughout the placement.
- **Financial recognition:** Schools receive a placement fee of £317 per student, in addition to the mentor training grant.
- **Funded mentor training:** The Department for Education continues to fund eligible mentor training at £43.80 per hour, or £45.10 per hour for London fringe schools, subject to the applicable grant conditions.
- **A manageable approach to mentoring:** We have listened to school feedback and streamlined placement expectations, including reducing paperwork, simplifying lesson observations and providing concise guidance to make the process more manageable.
- **Meaningful professional development:** Hosting a trainee offers opportunities for professional reflection and collaboration. Training in SEND and mental health needs is embedded throughout our programme, helping prepare trainees to respond to the needs of today's classrooms.

What does the placement involve?

The placement offers an opportunity to build a relationship with a trainee over an extended period, rather than through a single block of experience.

- **Initial visits:** Weekly school visits, mostly on Thursdays, from November 2026 to May 2027.
- **Block placement:** Four weeks of school-based experience during the summer term, from 10 May to 11 June 2027.
- **Mentor support:** Mentors receive training, including a minimum three-hour core element, alongside additional professional development materials.

Students are typically placed in pairs, although individual placements can be considered where that better suits the school's capacity.

Interested in hosting a trainee?

Please contact **ioeschoolplacements@reading.ac.uk** to discuss whether a placement could work for your school.

Placements need to be agreed ASAP, so please get in touch if you are interested.

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