

R2S Career Factsheet: Secondary School Teacher



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'Being a secondary school teacher has various demands. Firstly, as a classroom teacher you are either trying to build upon the excellent skills gained by many young people during primary school or you are trying to "close the gaps" on weaknesses that really need addressing ASAP.

The job of a teacher is both rewarding and challenging. However, the key to what makes a good teacher is PASSION. You need the passion and drive to help young people who, at a challenging developmental stage in their lives (adolescence) still need you to push them to excel, to recognise their worth and to fulfil their infinite potential (no matter where they come from! Your reality does not create your point of view; your point of view creates your reality!) This is the main role of a teacher...to instil confidence in young people in order to help them to establish a positive reality.'

Duties:

- Preparing lessons and teaching materials
- Mark and assess work
- Manage class behaviour
- Work with other professionals such as educational psychologists
- Discuss pupils' progress with parents and carers
- Attend meetings and training
- Organise outings, social activities and sports events

Skills:

- Enthusiasm for the subjects you teach
- The ability to develop good working relationships with a wide range of people
- The ability to work in a team as well as use your own initiative
- Excellent creative ideas to inspire children
- Good organisational and time-management skills
- The ability to manage classes and deal with challenging behaviour

You must have GCSE grades A-C in English and Maths, as well as passes in Numeracy, Literacy and Information and Communication Technology skills test. You will then need to complete Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and gain Qualified Teacher Status (QTS). You can choose from undergraduate, postgraduate, school centred and employment based ITT routes, depending on whether you already have higher education qualifications. You will always need an enhanced background check by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

What does a secondary school teacher do?

A secondary school teacher teaches one or more national curriculum subjects to pupils aged 11-16, or up to 19 in schools with sixth forms.

Who employs secondary school teachers?

- State schools
- Private schools
- Sixth form colleges

How much can you earn?

The main salary scale is from £21,588 to £31,552 a year (£27,000 to £36,387 in inner London and £25,117 to £35,116 in outer London).

Teachers who reach the top of the main salary scale may be able to move on to a higher scale, ranging from £34,181 to £36,756 (£40,288 to £43,692 in inner London).

There are also separate scales for teachers who have advanced skills or progress into leadership roles, and additional payments for those who take on extra responsibilities.

Career Development:

- Key Stage Co-ordinator/Director
- Head of Year
- Head of Faculty
- Assistant/Deputy Headteacher
- Headteacher

Useful Resources:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/secondaryschoolteacher.aspx>

<http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/GTTG2011.pdf>

<http://www.buckingham.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/GTTG12.pdf>

Top academic institutes for Initial Teacher Training:

1. King Edward's Consortium
2. University of Cambridge
3. Ninestile's Graduate Teacher Consortium
4. University of Exeter
5. University of Manchester

2011 (refer to useful resources)