

Advice on preparing your personal statement

Your personal statement needs to:

1. present clearly the reasons why you want to teach
2. showcase your relevant experience such as previous teaching, school visits and other work with children or young people.

Top tips on structure and style

- Make every word count. You can enter up to 47 lines of text (including all spaces and blank lines). That's about one A4 page – which isn't much! Use all the space you're allowed, and check that there are no hidden formatting features taking up space (e.g. a line space or bullet point).
- Use clear, correct English. Put yourself ahead of the crowd by keeping your statement positive, enthusiastic, different -and concise. Never waffle!
- Structure your statement. Write an opening paragraph that will interest your reader and grab their attention.
- Always proofread and spell check your statement before submission. If at all possible, ask someone you trust to check it for you. A second opinion can really help.

Helpful hints on content

Choose good, relevant content and you'll earn yourself that all-important interview! Here are some ideas to help you decide what to include

- Focus on your *reasons for wanting to teach*. Be honest and make sure you convey your enthusiasm. Interviewers want to hear what or who has inspired you... Was it one of your own teachers? Or perhaps working with teachers as an adult? What will you bring to the children you teach?
- Make sure you give *examples of your skills* and explain *how you've demonstrated them*. Why might you be better than other applicants? How have your experiences in the classroom strengthened your skills as an effective teacher? Remember that interviewers are interested in your *wider personal skills* that relate to teaching, and that not all your evidence needs to come from the world of education. For example, can you describe events that have demonstrated your determination and resilience? Make certain that you evidence that you have the personal qualities required.