

TeachFirst

BECOME A COACH

With the Teach First
Coaching Programme



Do you want to help young people realise their potential, regardless of their background? Do you want to develop your professional knowledge and skills?

You could build on your own skills and those of a teacher working in a low-income community by joining our Coaching Programme.

How much you achieve in life should not depend on how much your parents earn, but in the UK it does.

We recruit dynamic, passionate people to train and teach in the schools that need them most. They work only in schools where more than half the pupils come from the poorest homes.

Coaching with Teach First helps to support our teachers to overcome and learn from the challenges they face in developing as leaders. Whether you meet to work through a complex issue, listen to an idea they've had or are at the end of the phone after a long day at school, you will be supporting your teacher's professional development as they guide their pupils to reach their potential.

The Coaching Programme is a fundamental part of the support network we build for our teachers and a way for you to have a direct and meaningful impact on young people, their families and communities.



"Having someone who is so supportive and wants to see you succeed is amazing and encouraged me to achieve things."

Anna Watkins, St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

The Programme

As a coach, you will be matched with a teacher to help them develop their professional goals and address the leadership challenges they face within their school.

You'll receive:

- Bespoke, high-quality training showcasing a range of professional coaching techniques from our partner [Beyond Now](#).
- Year-round support from our Coaching team and professional coaches at Beyond Now.
- Access to an online coach development tool to deepen your skills and build your confidence in coaching.
- An insight into the impact our teachers make in schools in low-income communities and a chance to help them make a real change to children's lives.

If you are located in the same area you may also wish to visit their school to observe a lesson and experience the challenges they face first hand. Each coaching relationship is unique and guided by your respective needs.

We will be on hand to support you every step of the way throughout your coaching journey.

Coaching vs Mentoring

Coaching can be confused with mentoring but there are crucial differences. Mentoring usually involves a professional using their knowledge and wisdom to guide improvement whereas coaching relies on questioning so that the coachee arrives at the solution themselves.

A great coach will:

- Be non-judgemental.
- Be an active listener, using effective questioning techniques.
- Build rapport and demonstrate empathy.
- Respond appropriately to responses in their coachee, providing appropriate feedback.
- Build a professional relationship based on trust and respect.
- Provide a space to enable their coachee to discover their own solutions and strategies, resisting the urge to provide instant answers.

A coach should have:

- Over three years' experience working in a professional environment.
- The ability to support individuals.
- A willingness to learn and to develop the use of coaching techniques to support participants.
- Commitment to our vision that no child's educational success is limited by their background.

Training events and process

Our Coaching Programme runs nationally across England and Wales. You will receive training to provide face-to-face coaching, or phone coaching. The former may involve a matching event, where you will meet your teacher in person during the evening, or you may be matched after the event. Choosing to be a phone coach enables you to support teachers in more remote areas of the country, or where matching events aren't taking place.

The matching process for phone coaches, and for those where no matching event takes place, is led by Teach First after the training event has taken place.

You will receive an email with guidance on initial steps, arranging your first meeting, as well as introducing you to the teacher who will be your 'coachee'.

You should select the training event you wish to attend according to where you live and/or work. The timings of events will vary depending on whether it is a training-only event, or a training and matching event.



2019 coach training events

Coach training and matching events (12:30pm - 8:00pm)

Birmingham - 15 and 16 May

Bristol - 11 June

Cardiff - 23 May

Manchester - 9 May

Nottingham - 10 May

London - 30 April, 1 May, 2 May and 7 May

Coach training only (12:30pm-6:30pm)

Leeds - 14 May

Phone coaching training event (9:30am-5:30pm)

London - 11 June

Applications to become a coach open in February. For more information visit:
www.teachfirst.org.uk/community/volunteering/coaching



“One of the many highlights from the programme is seeing both of my coachees grow in confidence and understand the need for strong leadership skills. One of the first sessions I did was to help them overcome challenges with the leadership team, as often these teachers are viewed as inexperienced. When you help someone overcome these challenges, you leave thinking ‘I’ve really made a difference today!’”

Tracey Mallet, Improvement Lead, National Grid