

John – Aged 34 - Career Changer  
Training year 15-16

John had worked in industry since he completed his degree at 21, and after always wanting to be a teacher, John was looking to move to North Yorkshire from Cambridgeshire and train to teach at Primary level. He was looking to start a family and knew that they would all benefit from the long school holidays whilst understanding that the hours were often longer during term time. Both John and his partner loved North Yorkshire where the walking and outdoor opportunities are varied and the schools offer excellent education with great links to the universities in Leeds where his partner worked.

Whilst balancing the requirements of the programme and a relationship was not easy, especially when his partner worked full time, John quickly found his feet in the classroom and learned to manage behaviour. John was teaching whole lessons in Maths and English by Christmas and was enjoying the breadth of 13 subjects and the challenges of researching subject knowledge in subjects he hadn't studied since Secondary School.

John opted to train in Key Stage 2 with 9-11-year olds for his main placement and was placed in an outstanding school with support from a very experienced tutor.

"I loved teaching the older children in the Year 5 and 6 class. There was a lot to think about and learn for me and I had to work hard in the evenings to make sure that lessons were planned around what the children had understood from the previous day's lessons to make sure that everyone kept up and understood. I learned how to challenge the children who learned quickly and support those that found learning a little harder. Having two-year groups in one class was interesting and often I had five or six groups all doing different activities in the same lesson. That took a while to learn to do, but I was so pleased when I looked at the results and saw that all the children were learning."

John had opted to train for part of the year in a faith school and his second placement school, in key stage 1, was in a non-faith school.

"the teaching practice in key stage 1 was a real eye opener. I had been very anxious as I was worried about how I would make good relationships with such young children. I needn't have worried as everyone was so welcoming and the children were brilliant. I thought there would be less rigour in the teaching, but there was so much to think about and the same kind of detail and assessment that was needed in Key Stage 2. It helped me to understand that I wanted to apply for jobs in key stage 2, which I did."

John completed the programme with an outstanding grade and got a job in Key stage 1 in a faith school close to the Yorkshire Dales National Park. He has worked hard and is doing well in his career as a teacher. He loves teaching the younger children and works as part of a busy team.

Names and some details have been changed to protect the identity of the person.