

## **Example personal statement for a teacher training course**

Enabling children to grasp the foundational knowledge and skills that they will use for the rest of their lives is a wonderful gift. Good education is, in my belief, the single most important thing we can impart to the younger generation.

I am very motivated to equip young minds to learn more about the academic world, introducing them to mathematics, English and other subjects such as the arts, history and geography. Equally important to convey are life skills including treating others with respect, working in teams and learning how to be fit and healthy.

I was first inspired to pursue teaching during my work experience at XXXX, after I had completed my A-levels. I was mentored by an inspiring primary school teacher who included me completely in assisting the children with their maths, reading and writing skills.

The children were involved in their learning and assessed their knowledge through fun 'game'-based exercises. I was able to observe the academic gains from children working collaboratively in groups. I was also able to work with children who needed extra help on areas such as letter formation. I saw the children develop and found his method of teaching very effective.

Since October 2012 I have volunteered two days a week at YYYY which has given me more experience in classroom-based teaching. I work with the class teacher, preparing the classroom for activities, listening to children read, and supporting a group of lower ability pupils. This enabled me to understand the importance of differentiation in lesson planning and how it is facilitated.

I have been involved with pupil's Individual Educational Plans (IEP) motivating them to learn and individually structuring their learning according to their specific needs. I am also extending my range of teaching methods including listening exercises, poster making, starters, games, quizzes, debates and workbooks.

To encourage pupils in their learning I have devised some games and assessment sheets and have prepared my own lessons. This year I am supervising a pupil with moderate Asperger's syndrome during lunch and break times. This opportunity has been particularly rewarding, enabling me to gain a broader perspective on experiences of primary school, give extra support and learn new behaviour management strategies.

I have also completed a two-week placement at this school in June 2013 where I spent one week in a Key Stage 1 classroom and one week in Key Stage 2. This allowed me to interact with and support children in a different range of abilities, lessons and activities and give them appropriate feedback including rewards and targets.

I feel that my history degree would be relevant, not only is it an academically tough subject but it enabled me to develop many transferable skills including the ability to interpret and explain complex information, undertake research and evaluation, and develop confident written and oral communication skills and excellent attention to detail.

My first year university placement was spent working with vulnerable adults in court and prison. However, although I enjoyed working in criminal justice, it did not motivate me as much as teaching.

My outside interests include piano playing to grade 5 and I have sung in choirs for many years; both would potentially contribute to school life. Friends and family tell me I am empathetic, caring and dynamic, particularly suited to teaching the primary age.

As a reflective and enthusiastic practitioner I am dedicated to enabling young minds to develop and achieve. I feel that Initial Teacher Training will give me valuable experience to develop my own style and confidence in teaching and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my application in person.