

School Direct Programme – Funding and Fees Overview 2021/22

School Direct is a one year, school led, teacher training programme with two distinct routes: Salaried and Tuition Fee (unsalaried) route. On the Salaried route, there is no “supernumerary” requirement (i.e. in addition to the regular teaching staff numbers) and the trainee is employed as an unqualified teacher by the school. On the Tuition Fee route, the trainee is deemed to be a student of higher education for the period of training. Whilst it is for schools to decide what teaching duties the trainee is able to take on, trainees should generally receive an appropriate school based training programme alongside their centre based training. No trainee will be required to perform more than 90 per cent of the teaching duties normally required of a full-time qualified teacher; trainees are working and training at the same time and they have the same rights and responsibilities as any other teacher.

The DfE no longer provides salary grants to schools to cover training costs for salaried primary trainees.

Salaried route

Salaried trainees are paid as an unqualified teacher and generally have 3yrs work experience:

Unqualified Teacher salary* Pay Scale 1 (by region) for 2020-21	Amount
Inner London	£22,849
Outer London	£21,582
London fringe	£19,363

*NB Correct information for 2020-21. Unqualified Teacher’s salary increases slightly every year.

Example

On costs are calculated at approximately 20% so, for example, for a School Direct trainee at a partnership primary school in 2021/22 the figures would be roughly as follows:

	Inner London	Outer London	London fringe
School Direct Trainee Salary	£22,849	£21,582	£19,363
+ On costs	£4,570	£4,316	£3,873
+ Tuition fee	£9,250	£9,250	£9,250
+ Payment to Lead School	£500	£500	£500
= Total cost to school	£37,169	£35,648	£32,986

School Direct Tuition Fee (Unsalariated Route)

Trainees are not employed and are classed as “students”. They are responsible for paying the £9250 tuition fees and generally apply to the Student Loans Company for tuition fee and maintenance loans. Some schools offer a range of other financial incentives to support their unsalaried trainees such as:

- Paying the £9250 tuition fee on behalf of trainee
- Paying the trainee a bursary to support with living costs
- Providing free school lunches
- Reimbursing travel