

School Direct Programme Great Schools Trust

Name: Catherine Ashcroft

Schools: King's Liverpool for Winter term, now training at King's Warrington

I chose to train with the GST school direct course to gain as much experience as possible in an outstanding school. By training through school direct I feel I have learned much more than I could have done if I was training through university. The bespoke CPD training offers so much opportunity for us to develop and become confident practitioners and the time we have in a school setting is invaluable.

I chose to train to become a teacher because of my own experience at school. My English teacher helped me build my confidence and I want to be able to help current pupils in the same way. I have always had a passion for English and reading so being able to foster the same love of learning is a really rewarding experience.

One of the most important things I have learned during my placements is to always use the advice that your mentor gives you. During both of my placements my mentors gave me invaluable advice on the skills and approaches I should think about when teaching, from pre-planning my questioning to something as simple as the inclusion of an image to scaffold work. As well as support from my mentors, our cohort of trainees is very supportive and encouraging of one another. We have made close friendships with each other and always help each other with our assignments and pedagogy.

If you are considering applying for school direct, my recommendation is to do it! My biggest piece of advice is to show your passion for making a difference to children's lives. As teachers our job is to encourage learning and to create a positive learning environment for pupils: let this shine through in your application!