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Transforming lives and shaping the future



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Why should you choose a career in teaching?

There are few things as rewarding as shaping the lives of young people and inspiring them each to become the best version of themselves. Teachers are there as an inspiration for the next generation and the role is incredibly rewarding in more ways than one.

According to research from the Teaching Council, 80pc of the public believe that teachers play an important role in Irish society. And they have a high level of trust in teachers when compared to other occupations and professions.

Society knows just how important teachers are, but why choose a career in teaching?

It is a rewarding profession

As society has changed, the role of the teacher has expanded. They are there not only to impart knowledge, but also to challenge thinking, stretch students' capabilities, and provide tools to learn. Teaching transforms and can shape the future.

Teaching is an interesting and fulfilling career. Other than parents or guardians, teachers have arguably the biggest influence on a young person's life. Seeing that young person develop every day, being able to support them in

challenging times and helping them reach their potential, , can be the most rewarding experience of your life.

Diversity within the profession inspires young people

The teaching profession can shape young people's lives through education and give them a stepping-stone to a bright future filled with prospects. But it is also a role that can inspire young people from diverse backgrounds to reach for the career they want. A range of teachers from diverse backgrounds can show students what's possible for them.

'If you can see it, you can be it' – if a young person wants to become a teacher, it is important they see people like them in the role already. By becoming a teacher, you can inspire others into the role too.

Primary student-teacher Ceelan Simon, who is of Muslim heritage, said, "Society needs to have positive role models that reflect a range of diversities and backgrounds."

Ceelan is excited to share his identity with the classroom in his future teaching career. There is so much diversity within the profession already, but with the face of Ireland changing every year, there is a need for enhanced diversity from every walk of life, so that staff rooms in schools reflect the diversity of the classroom.

Teaching Transforms – Ntube Ntoko Short Clip



It is a collaborative career

A lot of people still think teaching is a solitary career, standing alone at the top of a classroom, imparting wisdom to students. But teaching has been transformed over the years into a collaborative career, one where you work as part of a team.

Schools such as Borrisokane Community College in Co Tipperary have embraced team teaching and collaborative initiatives. The school has been at the centre of life in the community for more than three-quarters of a century and they aim to provide high-quality and wide-ranging education which caters for the diverse skills and aptitudes of the school community.

Not only can team teaching help to create a more interactive learning environment, but it can also inspire new research ideas and supportive partnerships between teachers.

Paula Molloy, Deputy Principal at the school says, “Team teaching is provided in maths and English classes. Here, the teachers plan and deliver the classes in collaboration. This benefits both teachers and students. The school also has numerous collaborative initiatives including staff induction, and our Helping Hands anti-bullying programme. Other collaborations include:

Alert Programme: teachers work together delivering cognitive learning and sensory activities to make students more aware of their levels of responsiveness to the demands of the school situation. They can then learn personal strategies to manage their own behaviour.

Vocabulary Enrichment Programme: this programme supports and develops language and literacy skills. Teachers work together to support students to develop the language skills needed to succeed at the post-primary school level.

Peer Collaboration (Observation): the peer collaboration activities in the school involve teaching colleagues working on strategies and teaching approaches together. Teachers observe each other teaching a new methodology or simply transfer the knowledge to classroom practice and reflect about what was learned. We continue this through Teach Meet where we organise meetings during the term, teachers share new ideas, and new teaching strategies with all staff. Our Teach Meet sessions are also used for our new staff to learn more about initiatives that are up and running in the school.”

Borrisokane Community College was also amongst the winners at last year’s Léargas Innovative Learning Awards (LILAS). These awards celebrate the most creative and inspiring communities, organisations, and teachers at the forefront of teaching and learning across Ireland.

Molloy says, “The key to this is having a caring, collaborative and committed staff which we are very fortunate to have in Borrisokane Community College.”

There is lots of variety in the job

If you dread the monotony of an office job, then teaching could be a great move. No two days are ever the same.

Whether it’s the subject or the students themselves with their own unique family background, strengths and weaknesses, there is a challenge in connecting with every student, making every day a brand-new adventure. And since they ask plenty of questions, you have to always be on your toes!

There are few who can truly use their passion in their job, but teachers get to do this every day. Whether that is their passion for maths, English, or Irish, or just a passion for instilling enthusiasm in their students, every day is a new experience.

That creativity to explore in the classroom, and the challenges of shaping young people’s inquisitive minds and making the subject interesting is what makes every day completely different.

Teaching sounds great, but how do you become a teacher?

If you have the right skills and an interest in helping young people to achieve their potential, then a teaching career could be for you. Even if you have gone on to another career, it’s never too late to start your teaching journey.

If you have a degree and want to be a primary teacher, or if you have studied at least one subject from the post-primary schools' curriculum at degree level and want to be a post-primary teacher, you can do a two-year [Professional Master of Education \(PME\) programme](#).

These postgraduate degrees are the perfect chance to be part of shaping the future. Paula Molloy adds, "Teaching allows you to make a difference in young peoples' lives. You get to enhance their future and seek out individuals' passions, qualities and skills. You get to see a shy young person from the day they arrive in first year grow into a confident independent adult. But you also get to make great friends on staff who will be there to support you through the good times and the more difficult times."

Applications for postgraduate courses in teaching are open. For more information on the postgraduate options that will qualify you to teach, please click [here](#). Always check with the higher education institutions for application closing dates.

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