

At Teach First our vision is that no child's educational success should be limited by their socio-economic background. We believe that disadvantage should not determine destiny. Our charity invests in the power of people to change the lives of children from low income backgrounds by: finding and developing great people to teach and lead in schools facing the greatest challenges, increasing the attainment of pupils and their access to higher education and employment; and building a movement of teachers, school leaders, social entrepreneurs, policy makers and business people who are committed to ending educational inequality.

Since we started in 2003 we have expanded across all regions of England and Wales. We have recruited and trained 10,000 participants to teach in schools serving low-income communities, the majority of whom are still in the classroom. Collectively, our participants have taught over a million pupils. Strong school leadership is key to a great education system and we are proud that there are now over 1,400 Teach First-trained middle and senior leaders in schools, including 28 headteachers. The majority of these headteachers left the profession for a period before returning. Teach First trained teachers are over seven times more likely to be in leadership positions.

Teach First has been placing teachers in schools in Lewisham for most of our fifteen year history. In total, Teach First has placed 216 participants in Lewisham, 24 of whom are part of the 2017 cohort who have just started in their schools in September 2017. Excluding those 24, of the 192 who have already started in school, 177 completed the first year of the programme (the vast majority of whom gained Qualified Teacher Status; and this number includes those who finished the programme in 2016), and 139 have so far completed the full two years\*. 111 of these Teach First teachers are in teaching, the overwhelming majority teaching in London. There are currently 56 Teach First alumni working in teaching positions in Lewisham, 16 of whom trained in other parts of London.

Lewisham is a target borough for Teach First. We know the challenges that the borough faces, and hope to work in partnership with others to help improve educational outcomes for its most disadvantaged young people. We prioritised Lewisham schools for placement in 2017/18, placing 24 participants in Lewisham out of a cohort of 116 in South London. We are also working with our alumni community across London, especially South London, to raise awareness of Lewisham's education needs and to encourage alumni to consider the borough for their next move. And, learning from success in Croydon, we are in the early stages of working with Teach First schools to set up a training hub for participants and for non-Teach First trainees and NQTs.

For context, schools can only be eligible for Teach First participants by a combination of their attainment and the deprivation of the communities they serve. This is a requirement of Teach First's Initial Teacher Training contract with national government. In addition, schools must have the capacity, capability and funding to employ a Teach First participant for the full two years of their training. So the potential community of Teach First schools is far smaller than the total community of schools in a given area.

\*note: not all 2015 starters have yet completed all the requirements to formally 'complete' the second year of the Teach First programme, so this may be an underestimate.

Rose McNamee  
Local Director - London South

**TeachFirst**