



Primary Education Interviews.

CANDIDATE GUIDANCE

Overview.

Well done for being offered an interview for Primary Education at Canterbury Christ Church University. We look forward to seeing you and hope this guide will help you to get organised and prepared for the process.

Watch the programme welcome talk prior to your interview.

These videos discuss key aspects of the course, including information on assignments, placements, and wider opportunities available.

Our interviews are online and conducted in two parts, both taking around 20-25 minutes each:

- **A group activity** – working with up to 5 other candidates.
- **An interview** – where you will be interviewed by a member of the academic staff and, where possible, a school-based partner.

A successful interview is based on good preparation. The more effort you put in to learning about the course, the role of a teacher and challenges facing education, the better. Being well informed about current issues demonstrates to us that you are not only passionate about the career but can talk confidently about wider issues too.

Interview Preparation.

In the interview we'll be talking to you about the experience you have had to date, particularly if you have worked with children or in a school environment. We'd like to know how this has developed your understanding of the role of a teacher. We may also ask you questions about learning, or children in general.

You can't plan for every question! Our interview process is designed to be flexible and respond to what you say, not stick to a script.

However, if you wanted an idea as to how you could structure/talk about something which has influenced your understanding of being a teacher, or perhaps how children learn, you talk about your examples using the STARR technique:

SITUATION	<i>Which class were you in, what kind of school, working with which pupils?</i>
TASK	<i>What were you/the teacher setting out to do? What was the learning objective?</i>
ACTION	<i>What did you actually do? How did you/the teacher do it? what strategies/methods did you use and which skills? This should form the major part of your answer.</i>
RESULT	<i>How did you measure the success of what you did? E.g. from good verbal feedback from pupils/the teacher, better behaviour, or an improvement in outcomes, etc.</i>
REFLECT	<i>What did you learn from this example? Is there anything you would do differently?</i>

Cont'd...

Issues in education.

You may want to think about changes to the curriculum, government policy, new national strategies and current developments/hot topics. You could do this by speaking with teachers or reading relevant websites – e.g:

- [The Times Education Section](#)
- [Education Guardian](#)
- [BBC Education](#)

We will ask you about the big challenges in education now, so do come with opinions in your interview.

Also, you could use this link to make sure that you familiarise yourself with the [National Curriculum for Primary Education](#). It's a very long document, but you may want to look and pick something you find interesting in it. Perhaps think of a subject you found interesting at school and check what the expectations are for that.

Technical aspects.

Our interviews are hosted on TEAMS. It is ***your responsibility*** to ensure your webcam, microphone and connection are suitable and working, ahead of your interview.

Once you have downloaded TEAMS, do some test calls with friends/family to ensure it is working and also [carry out a TEAMS test call to ensure everything works](#).

If you have a technical issue on the day of the interview itself, then please contact our interview team by emailing FAHE.interviews@canterbury.ac.uk who will be able to reschedule.

The Group Activity.

You will be sent a Microsoft Teams link for this group activity.

You will be asked to engage online for 20-25 minutes, with up to 5 other candidates. In this group activity, we will give you a question or situation to respond to. You will be expected to consider this question and give a reasoned response – which means justify your thoughts and answers. The questions/situations aren't complex and don't require any preparation ahead of the task.

This is your opportunity to demonstrate how well you:

- **Interact with people**
Teachers need to have good interpersonal skills, which means not being too dominant or too shy.
- **Express ideas, opinions and thoughts**
Clearly articulating ideas and concepts is a key part of teaching.
- **Justify your ideas (how well you back them up)**
Why do you think the way you do? What has informed that? Our teachers are informed, autonomous professionals.
- **Consider other people's views**
Teachers need to continually develop. Did other people's views change your opinions? How? Why?

What to Expect in the Individual Interview.

You will be sent a separate Microsoft Teams link for a specific time.

In your interview, we are looking for your potential to teach. We're interested in what kind of teacher you will be after you have completed the course and we want to see that real passion for teaching and learning come across clearly.

In this interview, we're specifically looking to hear about:

- Your passion for your own learning and inspiring others to learn
- Your desire to have an impact on the people with whom you work
- Your thoughts about how learning happens and what helps us learn best
- Your ability to communicate effectively and in a confident, friendly way
- Your commitment to the role – what do you already know about being a primary school teacher?
- How you show resilience when the going gets tough.
- In what ways are you creative and innovative?

We may ask questions like:

- Why do you want to be a teacher?
- What do you think the big differences are between education now and when you were at school?
- Why do you want to study at Canterbury Christ Church University?
- What will you find difficult about training to be a teacher?

The interview will last between **20-25 minutes**.

There will be time dedicated for you to ask questions at the end, but we encourage questions throughout – as our interviews are designed to be more like a professional discussion.

Interview Outcomes.

After the group activity and interviews, you will be informed of our decision by the admissions team. This usually happens within 5-7 working days, so don't worry if you don't hear back immediately after the interview itself.

Thank you very much for taking the time to apply to become a teacher.

It is possibly the most rewarding, inspiring and challenging job in the world and we look forward to working with you at Canterbury Christ Church University.