

Teaching 



Department
for Education

Supporting former teachers back into the classroom

Communications toolkit
September 2024



Department
for Education

Teaching 

About the toolkit

The Department for Education is supporting teachers to return to the classroom. This toolkit provides content to highlight that support to help you inspire others to feel confident about returning to teach:

- ✓ An overview of the support on offer
- ✓ A range of communications and content to help you raise awareness of the support on offer
- ✓ Case studies of former teachers who have made the transition back to the classroom

For more information or to discuss the creation of any new or bespoke content to reach returning teachers, please contact
returnto.teaching@education.gov.uk



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Why return to teaching?

Returning to teaching is easier than people might expect. Thousands of teachers are returning to the classroom every year after taking time away from the profession.

Time away and different life experiences gained from a career break can help give a fresh perspective on being a teacher and is highly valued by schools.

Free support is available. A return to teaching adviser can help former teachers choose a career path that suits their skills, situation, and ambition.

Flexible working options can help former teachers return to the classroom in a way that works for them.



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Support for returning teachers

The Return to Teach Advisory service is a comprehensive package of free one-to-one support for qualified teachers who are looking to return to teach Primary or any Secondary subject in a state funded school in England.

Candidates will have access to an exclusive Facebook group for returning teachers and the support of a named Return To Teaching Adviser, who will:

- ✓ talk through gaining classroom experience;
- ✓ signpost relevant returners' courses, teaching job vacancies and events;
- ✓ help prepare applications for teaching posts, including preparing for interviews



3 Things You Can Do To Support



Tell your network via your newsletters or Intranet

[Details here](#)



Share your support on social media

[Details here](#)



Host our logo on your website with a call to action to the Return to Teaching page on the Teaching Vacancies website

[Details here](#)

Content Package

This content package is designed to provide stakeholders with materials to help encourage former teachers to get back into the classroom and show the support on offer for people returning. The materials are designed to act as a base that you can tailor as you see fit.

You'll find the following content:

- ✓ **Newsletter/web copy** – copy you can include in your newsletter or on your Intranet or website to explain the support on offer for teachers returning to the classroom to your network and encourage them to use it
- ✓ **Social copy** – social posts and assets you can share on your social feeds to inspire
- ✓ **Signpost Return to Teaching on your website**– where to download logos to host on your website
- ✓ **Case studies** – see what teachers are actually saying about being back in the classroom, the reasons they returned to teaching after taking time off, the barriers they overcame and why they think others should return to teaching
- ✓ **Events** – information about how you can request a DfE representative to attend one of your events

Newsletter/Web Copy

This is copy you can include in your newsletter or Intranet or on your website to help inspire former teachers to return to the classroom and explain the support on offer for those looking to return.

Are you a former teacher considering a return to the classroom?

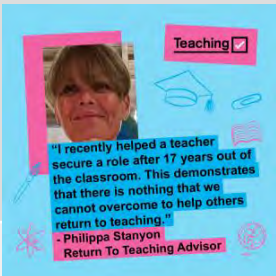
Returning to teaching might be easier than you think. Thousands of teachers are returning to the classroom every year after taking time away from the profession. The experience and perspective gained from a career break can enrich your skills which you can share back in the classroom.

If you're a qualified teacher looking to return to the profession in a state school in England, support is available to help you find the right role and the right school for you. Flexible working opportunities make it easier than ever to return to teaching. A return to teaching adviser can provide free one-to-one personal support to help you choose a path that suits your skills, situation, and ambition.

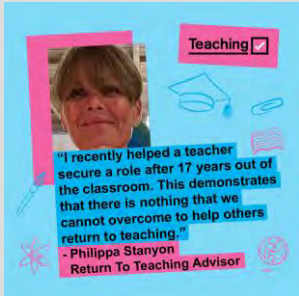
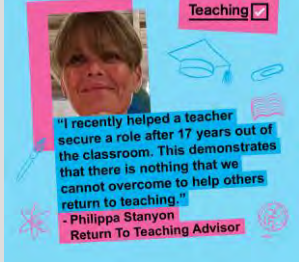
Advisers can support you with navigating the whole return to teaching process from preparing for job applications to lesson planning. A return to teaching adviser can also signpost you to courses that will help refresh your teaching skills. This means you can go to interviews with the confidence to teach your subject.

Teaching is a career that changes lives. Discover the best way of returning for you so you can start inspiring children in the classroom again. Find out how you can [return to teaching](#). And when you're ready, you can search for a job on [Teaching Vacancies](#).

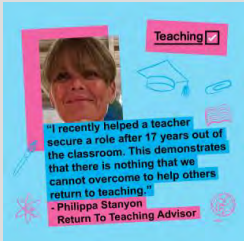
Social copy – aimed at job seeking former teachers looking to return to teaching

Copy	Image
Are you a former teacher ready to return to teaching? Free support is available from @educationgovuk on everything from the application process to finding the right role and the right school for you, visit: Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a teal background. It features a photo of a man, Will Luck, in a suit. Text on the graphic includes "Teaching" with a checked box, a quote: "Returning to teaching has been life-changing - a positive decision for both me and my pupils.", and the name "- Will Luck". There are also decorative icons like a pencil, a lightbulb, and a graduation cap.
With different flexible working opportunities available, getting back into teaching has never been easier. Return to the classroom in a way that works for you. To find out more, visit Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a light blue background. It features a photo of a woman, Dena Tickner, smiling. Text on the graphic includes "Teaching" with a checked box, a quote: "A teaching career can complement family life quite well. To be able to spend the school holidays with the kids is priceless.", and the name "- Dena Tickner". There are also decorative icons like a pencil, a graduation cap, and a book.
Returning to teaching might be easier than you think. Free and ongoing one-to-one support from a return to teaching adviser can help you choose a path that suits your skills, situation, and ambition. To sign up visit: Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a light blue background. It features a photo of a woman, Philippa Stanyon, smiling. Text on the graphic includes "Teaching" with a checked box, a quote: "I recently helped a teacher secure a role after 17 years out of the classroom. This demonstrates that there is nothing that we cannot overcome to help others return to teaching.", and the name "- Philippa Stanyon Return To Teaching Advisor". There are also decorative icons like a pencil, a graduation cap, and a book.

Social copy – aimed at job seeking former teachers looking to return to teaching

Copy	Image
Unsure about your route back into teaching? A return to teaching adviser can help you navigate your whole return to teaching journey from the application process to gaining classroom experience. For more information visit Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	
Looking to refresh your knowledge after a break from the classroom? There is lots of support on offer for those looking to return to teaching. A return to teaching adviser can give you free personalised support, with advice on how to brush up your skills so you can go to interviews with confidence. To find out more visit Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	

Social copy – aimed at teachers who are still thinking about returning

Copy	Image
Share your skills back in the classroom! The experience and perspective you've gained during a career break from the classroom is highly valued by schools. If you're thinking about making the transition back into teaching, support is available from @educationgovuk to help you find the right role and right school for you. Make sure to visit Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a teal background. It features a photo of a young man, Will Luck, in a white shirt and tie. To the right of the photo is a pink box with the word 'Teaching' and a checked checkbox. Below the photo is a quote in white text: "Returning to teaching has been life-changing - a positive decision for both me and my pupils." At the bottom, it says "- Will Luck" in pink. There are also some faint icons like a lightbulb and a book.
Are you a former teacher considering a return to the classroom? Share your passion and inspire the next generation. Free one-to-one tailored support is available from @educationgovuk – ranging from interview prep to lesson planning and finding teaching vacancies in your area! Find out about returning to teaching Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a yellow background. It features a photo of a man with glasses, Christopher Murray, in a blue shirt. To the right of the photo is a green box with the word 'Teaching' and a checked checkbox. Below the photo is a quote in black text: "To see the beaming smile on their face when they say 'I can do this, this is easy now', is one of the best bits." At the bottom, it says "- Christopher Murray" in green. There are also some faint icons like a lightbulb and a book.
Spending time in the classroom is one of the best ways to decide if the time is right to return to teaching after time away. Sign up for personalised support from a return to teaching adviser who can help you with everything from gaining classroom experience and exploring new school cultures to applying for the ideal job. Visit Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a light blue background. It features a photo of a woman, Philippa Stanyon, in a white shirt. To the right of the photo is a pink box with the word 'Teaching' and a checked checkbox. Below the photo is a quote in white text: "I recently helped a teacher secure a role after 17 years out of the classroom. This demonstrates that there is nothing that we cannot overcome to help others return to teaching." At the bottom, it says "- Philippa Stanyon Return To Teaching Advisor" in pink. There are also some faint icons like a lightbulb and a book.

Social copy – aimed at teachers who are still thinking about returning

Copy	Image
Rediscover teaching in a way that works for you! If you're qualified and interested in heading back to the classroom after time away, you can access lots of free valuable advice and support from @educationgovuk to help you find your ideal role. Visit Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) for more information #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a light blue background. It features a photo of a smiling woman with long brown hair. To the right of the photo is a pink box with the word 'Teaching' and a checked checkbox. Below the photo is a quote in a blue box: "A teaching career can complement family life quite well. To be able to spend the school holidays with the kids is priceless." Below the quote is a pink box with the name '- Dena Tickner'. There are also some faint icons like a graduation cap and a book.
Teaching is a career that changes lives. Whether you're just thinking about returning to the classroom or ready to apply after time away, a return to teaching adviser can offer free personal advice and support to help you find the right role. Discover the best way of returning for you and start inspiring children in the classroom again Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK (teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk) #ReturnToTeaching	 A social media graphic with a light yellow background. It features a photo of a smiling man with glasses. To the right of the photo is a green box with the word 'Teaching' and a checked checkbox. Below the photo is a quote in a blue box: "To see the beaming smile on their face when they say 'I can do this, this is easy now', is one of the best bits." Below the quote is a green box with the name '- Christopher Murray'. There are also some faint icons like a lightbulb and a book.

Signpost Return to Teaching on your website

Host our logo on your website with a clickable link through to the Return to Teaching website. We've included a line of suggested copy below:

Returning to teaching might be easier than you think. If you're qualified to teach and interested in getting back into the classroom, support is available. Find out how you can [return to teaching](#). And when you're ready you can search for a job on [Teaching Vacancies](#).

Download our logos [here](#).

Case studies

Here are some of the positive things teachers are saying about the support on offer and the rewards of being back in the classroom...

'If you are thinking of returning to teaching, I would encourage you to access the bespoke return to teaching adviser service. I was so glad for the help. I had not been to a competitive interview since 1993. From the personal statement to the interview, the return to teaching adviser helped me navigate the whole application process. It was like having a mentor and I was able to secure a role at a school where I want to teach on my second attempt, after more than a decade out of the classroom.'

Christopher Murray, returning Maths teacher



Case studies

'Success and happiness in teaching is dependent on the school environment being a good fit. I made the return to the classroom as I missed the quick pace and fulfilment of teaching. I was determined to find a school that would be a good match for me and was fortunate to find a teaching position in just one week. Fast forward nearly 10 years and I am now Assistant Principal at the same school. I love teaching despite its challenges because even a tough day is a rewarding day. To see the difference you can make to pupils' lives is hugely gratifying and the decision to return to the classroom has been life changing – a positive decision for both me and my pupils.'

Will Luck, returning Maths teacher



Case studies

'When I returned to the classroom after an eight-year break spent raising my two children, it wasn't the teaching itself that I found challenging. It was having to manage my job differently around the kids. It means I am a lot more conscious of my time management. I was lucky to secure a job as a part-time English classroom teacher working two days a week, which was perfect to help ease myself back into teaching and my time has now built up to four days a week as Second in Charge of English. As a mother, although it can be a juggle, I think a teaching career can complement family life really well. To be able to spend the school holidays with the kids is priceless.'

Dena Tickner, returning English teacher



Case studies

Here are some of the things a return to teaching adviser can do to support former teachers...

'As a return to teaching adviser, my role is to offer one-to-one coaching and mentoring support to help former teachers find the right role and right school for their return to the classroom. The interviews for teaching roles are very bespoke. I can support with everything from the application process to gaining classroom experience. Recently I helped a former teacher secure a teaching role after 16 years out of the classroom. It's an amazing feeling to be able to help people rediscover their love for teaching and make a successful application so they can start inspiring children in the classroom again.'

Philippa Stanyon, return to teaching adviser



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Want to know more?

If you want to request any additional information, bespoke content, or to discuss working together please reach out to: **returnto.teaching@education.gov.uk**

To find out more visit: [Return to teaching - Teaching Vacancies - GOV.UK \(teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk\)](https://returnto.teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk)