

'A Guide to Tuition – what to look for'

This guide is for those parents/guardians who are looking for tuition in the subjects of English, Maths and Science for their primary or secondary aged child/ren. It will show you what to look out for and what questions to ask.

Questions you might want to ask!

- a) Will your son/daughter be taught by a fully qualified and experienced teacher?
- b) How long will the assessment take?
- c) Will the work be tailored for my son/daughter's specific needs?
- d) How long are your sessions?
- e) Is all work marked and is feedback given for the work they have produced in a session?
- f) How are children actually taught? Using computers/paper or a mixture of both? In groups, how big are the groups?
- g) How much time will my child actually spend with a tutor?
- h) Do you get feedback – how do you know how your child is doing?
- i) How long will it take for progress to be made (please bear in mind that this is not an exact science as children work differently BUT anywhere from 8-10 weeks on average is about standard.) If a child has learning difficulties, this could be much longer.
- j) Is there any homework given? Will I be expected to help with homework given?
- k) Will what is taught be in line with the National Curriculum – (work they do in school)?

Read through more of our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

What should I look out for?

Qualified Teachers

A qualified teacher is a person who has either studied a 4 year degree at a teaching College/University or who has a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) in their specific subject area. They will have undergone one year of training after completing their required course which is known as QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). It is this that will determine whether they are a qualified teacher, and then as a QTS, they can be hired by a school. In their first year they are known as an NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher) on a reduced timetable so that they can get used to the rigours and demands of teaching. If they don't have the status of QTS then they are not a qualified teacher.

Is that enough though?

No! Whilst achieving QTS and completing the first year of teaching provides them with vital classroom practice, experience is key. By spending time in the classroom, they will get to practice the art of being able to identify, plan and then implement a plan of action to create progress and ultimately meet individual children's progress. The classroom experience is fast paced, overwhelming at times and very dynamic. Without the experience of handling a huge workload, I believe, it is difficult to ascertain quickly what specifically a student needs to progress.

At every stage the person either assessing or teaching your child should be a qualified teacher.

Make sure you are shown proof of qualification and experience. This can be done as a direct question over the phone and a request to see their qualification (if it not already provided) if an assessment is booked.

Most quality tutors/tuition centres offer an initial assessment; some are free, and others charge for their time. Asking how long an assessment is likely to take should give you an indication as to the quality of the assessment that has a priced attached to it. Anything that takes less than 30 mins (age dependent) or is conducted as part of a teaching session should be avoided.

Make sure to check if the teachers/tutors are enhanced DBS checked (The Disclosure and Barring Service) – these should be made available at request. If a teacher/tutor does not have an up-to-date DBS, avoid at all costs.

First Aid Paediatric trained teacher/tutor on site and available during all sessions? Again, this should be made available for you to see at the time of your child/dren completing an assessment.

Are they Ofsted Registered? Whilst this isn't a requirement, it is good to know that they are following regulations with regards to safeguarding your child/ren when in their care. Another added bonus is that parents can access up to 70% of the fees through Childcare Vouchers, Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit (obviously parents do have to qualify and meet their individual circumstances determine whether they meet the necessary requirements set down by the varies bodies).

I do want to point out that this is not an exhaustive guide but it will certainly point you in the right direction and avoid you having to waste your all too valuable time and money.

Why not give me a call, to book your in-depth assessment or have an initial phone consultation – call Joanna on [01133456188](tel:01133456188) or email – info@tuitionleeds.co.uk