

Teacher - Additional Support for Learning

Additional support for learning teachers work with class or subject teachers to help all pupils cope with school work and other aspects of school life. They aim to develop pupils' potential, so that they do as well as possible in school, and to increase their confidence and self-esteem. They may work in primary or secondary schools.

The Work

You could be:

- working with individual pupils, with small groups or supporting pupils in the main classroom
- providing special support for pupils who have social, emotional or behavioural difficulties, learning difficulties, limited hearing or eyesight, difficulties with mobility, or other physical disabilities
- where appropriate, keeping in contact with other professionals such as psychologists, medical staff and social workers
- monitoring pupils' behaviour, and working with them and the teacher to improve on any issues
- building good relationships with pupils and parents
- preparing tailored work suitable for pupils' abilities and aptitudes, ensuring progression
- carrying out assessments and writing reports
- preparing for, and attending, parent-teacher meetings and staff meetings
- sometimes supervising out-of-hours activities such as outings or social events.

Pay

Teachers in Scotland are paid on a national salary scale. The starting annual salary for a probationer teacher is £35,022 (April 2026).

If you do your probationary period on the Teacher Induction Scheme, and are prepared to work anywhere in Scotland during that probationary year, you can also apply for the Preference Waiver Payment. For secondary school teachers, the payment is £8,000 before tax and national insurance.

After your probationary year, your salary will increase to £42,018 and increase an increment each year up to £52,740 (April 2026).

Where a teacher is employed in a remote school on a distant island both the remote schools allowance and the distant islands allowance are paid, in addition to the teacher's normal salary.

Lead teachers earn between £59,871 and £85,047.

A principal teacher earns between £57,498 and £74,205 a year, while the scale for depute head teachers and head teachers ranges from £65,214 to £120,450 a year, depending on the size of school.

(April 2026)

Salaries in private schools may differ slightly.

Conditions

- You would work in a classroom or support base, with groups of pupils or on a one-to-one basis.
- You might work in one school, or be based at one and work across a number of schools in the local authority.
- Your working hours are based on a 35-hour week, working in a classroom 9.00am to 3.30pm or 4.00pm. You would use the rest of the time for preparation and marking.
- You may have to do some preparation and assessment work at home, in the evenings or at weekends.
- You would have 13 weeks holiday each year but would probably use some of this time to prepare next term's work.
- You would have to prepare for and attend parent–teacher meetings, which are usually in the evening.
- You should be aware that teaching is a mentally and physically demanding job.

Getting In

- Entrants to support teaching are usually qualified teachers with several years' experience of primary or secondary teaching.
- For entry requirements see [Teacher - Primary or Early Years](#) and **Teacher – Secondary School** (of the relevant subject).
- You can take part time postgraduate courses (SCQF Level 11), while you are teaching, in a number of related subjects, such as inclusive education, at universities in Scotland.
- You can take a Postgraduate Diploma in Deaf Education at Manchester University on a part time or distance learning (online) basis.

You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact [Disclosure Scotland](#) for details on the type you would need.

Newly qualified teachers who want to teach in local council schools must complete a probationary period to demonstrate that they meet the Standard for Full Registration of the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTC Scotland). Those who wish to teach in independent schools may also require to be registered.

You are guaranteed a teaching post with a Scottish local authority for a full school year to complete this probationary period.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- an interest in child development, particularly with additional support for learning
- tact, patience and adaptability
- enthusiasm and energy
- confidence
- imagination
- a firm and assertive approach when necessary
- good organisational skills

- a sense of humour and a positive outlook.

You need to be able to:

- encourage pupils of all abilities
- work on your own and as part of a team and to stay calm under pressure
- get on well with parents and carers.

Training

You would take in-service training courses on relevant topics throughout your teaching career.

Getting On

- With experience and further training, you may become a principal teacher.
- You may then become a depute head teacher, then a head teacher.
- You may be able to move into related work such as further education teaching, advisory work, education authority administration, or schools inspection.

More Information

Most teachers work in local authority schools but there are also jobs in private schools, British schools abroad, such as schools for the children of British armed services and in private tuition. Job vacancies are normally advertised on local authority websites or look on [myjobscotland](https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/) website.

Contacts

Education Scotland

Tel: 0131 244 4330

Email: enquiries@educationscotland.gov.scot

Website: [education.gov.scot](https://www.education.gov.scot/)

X: @EducationScot

General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTC Scotland)

Tel: 0131 314 6000

Email: gtcs@gtcs.org.uk

Website: www.gtcs.org.uk

X: @gtcs

Teach in Scotland

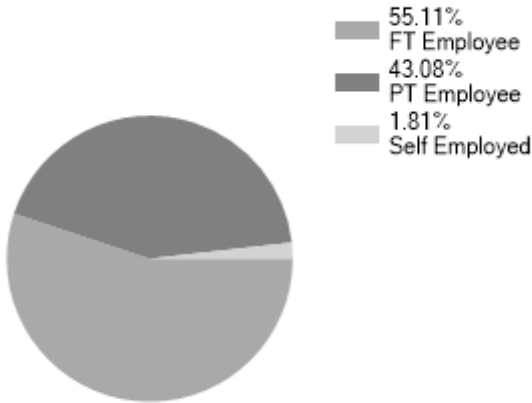
Tel: 0845 345 4745

Email: teachinscotland@gtcs.org.uk

Website: teachinscotland.scot

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

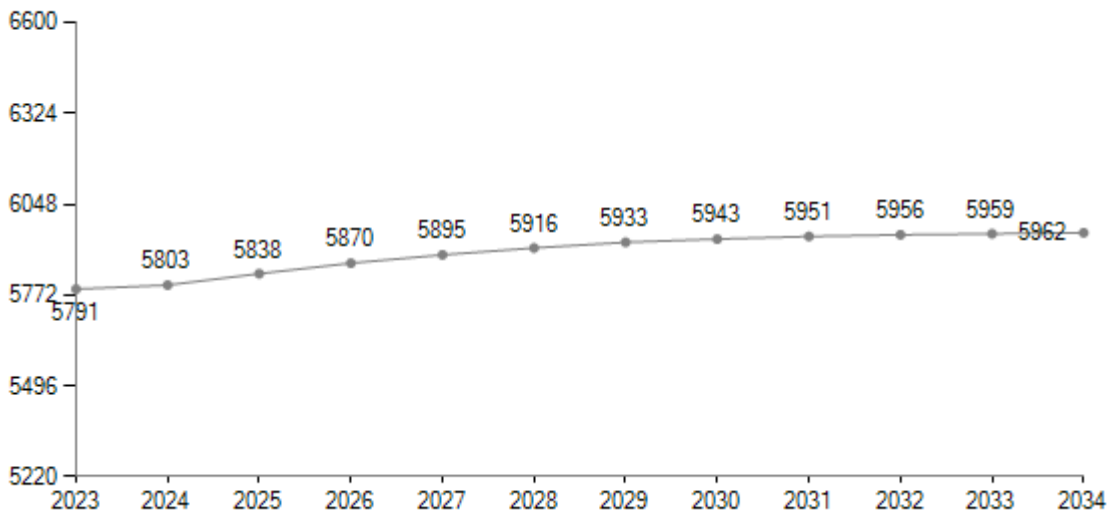


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)