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All headings and paragraph text is Times New Roman, Size 12

All headings have a paragraph border, are in bold and centered.

## **Career Investigation**

### **Title**

A Career Investigation into Primary School Teaching.

### **Author**

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### **Summary**

This investigation took place for two purposes. One was to find out different pathways and options into my chosen career and the others was to satisfy links module criteria.

### **Description of Career**

Primary school teachers education children between the ages of four and twelve by developing schemes of work and lesson plans in line with curriculum objectives. They develop and foster the appropriate skills and social abilities to enable the optimum development of children, according to age and ability. They challenge and inspire pupils to help them deepen their knowledge and understanding.

### **Skills and Qualities Required**

A Primary school teacher must have good organisational and time-management skills and must have the ability to maintain good relationships with pupils, parents and colleagues. Excellent communication skills are required. A primary school teacher must be patient, confident, understanding and non-judgemental.

Table, all categories in bold

**Qualification and Training**

**Pathway one**

<b>Course Title</b>	Education-Primary Teaching
<b>Course Code</b>	MI005
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade C3 on a Higher Level paper in at least three Leaving Certificate subjects.</li> <li>• Mathematics Grade D3 Ordinary Level or Higher Level.</li> <li>• Grade D3 in three other subjects (Higher Level or Ordinary Level).</li> <li>• Irish Grade C3 Higher Level.</li> <li>• English Grade D3 Higher Level or Grade C3 Ordinary Level.</li> </ul>
<b>Entry points</b>	470 in 2017
<b>College name and location</b>	Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland.
<b>Length of Course</b>	4 years
<b>Details of Course</b>	
<b>Subjects studied</b>	<p>During Year 1 of the programme, all students will follow a core programme consisting of 15 units of study. Subjects that can be studied include Irish, Physical Education, Music, Drama, Religious Education, History and Geography.</p> <p>Students will spend part of this in school observing and teaching.</p> <p>As students' progress through the programme, there will be increasing opportunities for them to specialise especially in years 3 and 4. Students can specialise in a variety of different areas.</p>
<b>Course description</b>	The Bachelor of Education Honours Degree is designed to qualify students to teach in Primary Schools.
<b>End qualification</b>	B.Ed. Primary School Teacher

### Pathway two

<b>Course title</b>	Education-Primary Teaching
<b>Course Code</b>	DC002
<b>Entry Points</b>	470 in 2015
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grade C3 Higher Level in not less than 3 subjects and Grade D3 in three other subjects.</li> <li>• Grade C3 in Higher Level Irish.</li> <li>• Grade C3 in English Ordinary Level or D3 in Higher Level.</li> <li>• Grade D3 in Mathematics (either Ordinary or Higher Level).</li> </ul>
<b>College name and location</b>	St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra.
<b>Length of Course</b>	4 years.
<b>Details of Course:</b>	
<b>Subjects studied</b>	<p>Students study core education modules each year. In all years students have a school placement and a Gaeltacht placement. Subjects that can be studied include Irish, Biology and Science Education, English, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music and Religious studies.</p> <p>In 2<sup>nd</sup> year choose one of the three Foundation options taken in year one, or select an option from Education specialisms in Early Childhood Education, Physical Education, Human Development or Special and Inclusive Education.</p> <p>In years 3 and 4 a major specialism is taken again along with minor specialism.</p>
<b>Course description</b>	The bachelor of Education prepares you for a career as a primary teacher.
<b>End Qualification</b>	B.Ed. Primary School Teacher.

### **Out of class Interaction**

**Date:** February 2015

**Location:** Nagle Rice Primary School, Milltown, Co. Kerry

I gained a lot of experience about primary school teaching from my time spent in Nagle Rice Primary school. I learned that the job would suit me and I loved the week I spent there. I discovered that a primary school teacher needs a lot of patience and understanding. Furthermore I discovered that a teacher uses various teaching methodologies to engage all pupils and use differentiation in their methodologies as pupils learn in many different ways. I discovered a lot about what the career as a primary school teacher involved. I was involved in the following activities:

- Assisted Third Class with their reading for 15 minutes every day.
- I did arts and crafts with the Junior and Senior Infants.
- Daily Maths with First Class for a 30 minute period.
- Aiding Junior Infants with English.

### **Insights gained**

I found that this career involves enabling students to develop as a person; you have to motivate them to succeed and teach them to the best of your ability. I found that this is stressful and is not for a quiet timid person and I discovered that my aptitudes are suited to the career as I took an aptitude test and my result was interpersonal. As a warm, caring and patient person with a constant desire to help people this is the career for me. Teaching requires an interpersonal intelligence as you need to be good at communicating, like working in groups and a person who likes responding to the needs of others. I've been involved in organising class projects and fundraisers and during these events successful in encouraging, understanding, inspiring, and leading, qualities a good primary teacher will have. I spoke to my former primary school teacher Ms O'Sullivan and she gave advice on the skills required for primary teaching. A dedicated teacher will identify students that are in need of extra help, or those that need to be challenged further, and plan appropriate programs for them. My Leaving Certificate subjects English and Irish at higher Level would help me in this career as I will be competent in communicating to the children in both languages. Communication skills are critical in gaining the support of parents, the wider public and fellow teachers.

### **Interactions**

I interviewed many Primary Teachers including my Cousin Jacinta and Aunt Norma. They informed me on how they obtained their qualifications and told me about the intense but enjoyable training they received. They enlightened me on the difficulties they sometimes encounter e.g. dealing with difficult children in the course of their work but their passion for their job really inspired me. Their advice helped me a lot. I also spoke to students during these courses on college open days last October and November and they gave me information on the colleges and the course itself. I attended a careers day in Tralee last year where I gathered more information on this career. My Career Guidance teacher Ms Golden helped me find the courses available and the requirements needed for each college offering these courses.

## **Evaluation**

On completion of my career investigation I found that obtaining a Bachelor of Education Degree would suit best because it is a relevant course involving a lot of teaching experience and secondly the subjects such as Irish and English appeal to me as they are my stronger subjects. I am taking them at Higher Level in the Leaving Certificate. My work experience has enabled me to realise my competency as a communicator, my ability to observe and listen, qualities that are so important in a career of teaching. This work experience has also shown me how classroom management relies on the teacher's capacity to accommodate differences between students be it abilities, learning styles or cultural differences. My time spent on research, career talks, college visits, talking to primary teachers and college students all have directed me to a career in a primary school teaching and help me to be more focused in my studies. I feel the job prospects in the area of primary teaching are excellent, the variety of age groups and subjects taught are also appealing. I now have become more confident, I have improved my communication, interpersonal and IT skills as a result of this career investigation as is evident from my contribution and involvement as secretary in our local youth club where I speak regularly at meetings and it is my duty to carry out secretarial duties and relay correspondence to all members.