

5) The day of the interview

The day of the interview can be hectic, particularly if you have other commitments like getting your children to get to school or nursery, so be prepared. The night before:

- Check you have everything you need for your lesson
- Know what you are wearing – you want to look professional (and consider having a change of clothes/ avoiding sticky children once you're dressed!)
- If you have been asked to bring anything along, like photo ID, ensure you have it.
- Get there on time – know where you are going and know how long it will take to get there
- Have the school phone number ready should you need it

At the interview

Do:

- Spend time getting to know the school. See an interview as a chance for you to audition the school, as much as how they are auditioning you. Is it right for you? Could you work there happily for the next five years? What do they do that is different from the school that influenced your decision to leave in the first place?
- Have an answer ready for "Why do you want the job?" Make sure the answer doesn't involve a reference to money or the distance to where you live.
- In your answers try to include references to staff and pupils you have spoken to during the day.
- Think of some honest compliments that you pay to staff and governors during the interview
- Prepare some questions for the end of the interview when you will be asked, "Do you have any questions?"

Don't

- Sit in the staff room all day when not occupied. Get out, walk around, talk to the caretaker/dinner ladies and most importantly the students.
- Take notes into interviews. Let answers be honest reactions not pre-planned speeches.

Childcare Logistics

Ideally, your children will be at school, in nursery or with a family member, friend or babysitter during the interview. Organising for someone else to do drop off and pick up on the day of your interview is likely to make things far less stressful. If this is not an option, inform your school in advance regarding your timings. If they are not flexible or understanding, despite your efforts to organise childcare, then they might not be the school for you.

If, however, you still have a nursing baby and need to feed them throughout the day, don't let this be a barrier to attending an interview.

Once you are shortlisted, call the school and ask to speak to their HR Manager. Explain your situation and give them a list of options that work for you:

- A room with a lock and a sink (not a toilet) and breaks to express
- A room for your partner, a friend, family member or babysitter to sit in with your baby for the day and breaks to feed
- Breaks for your baby to be brought in to feed, and somewhere for you to do this on school site or nearby

When asked, most schools will be very accommodating of your needs. If they're not, this is an illustration of a discriminatory and exclusive culture, and is probably not the right school for you.