

2.

QVine: Help for teachers – students, NQTs,
Friends going to new jobs.

1. Quaker values as applied to schools:

- **That of God is in every person** – teachers; heads; even inspectors! - and in every child, no matter what her/his 'intelligence' or supposed lack of it. Remember, when children are not doing well in school, the problem may not be in their brains but in their experience, socialisation, emotions [see Heather Geddes' 'Attachment in the Classroom'] or the inappropriateness of the curriculum to their mind-set and particular capabilities.
- **Equality of esteem:** children's ideas are the product of their thinking; hold their thinking in esteem, whether it conforms to convention or not – a 'creative' idea in Art could be thought of as 'wrong' in Maths.
- **Integrity, Truth:** in what is both specifically taught, how it is taught and what is implied in structures and behaviour.
- **Simplicity, Sustainability:** Keeping goals of community and the world before students, rather than power or money.
- **Peace** can be seen in classroom management, manner of speaking to each other – teacher to student and vice versa, student to student and between adults.

Think of these in planning work.



3.

2. Support: from the start of a PGCE course or new job, seek back-up, both within and outside the profession. Friends have a fairly unique resource in their Local Meeting - Elders and Overseers; in Area Meeting there may be other teachers and retired teachers, as well as personal friends. Keep them up to date with where you are, so that support can be available if needed.

[Ask your AM to form a group, so that someone could be on the end of a phone line].

3. Anti-bullying and Assertiveness:

Look out for a chance to train in this – PGCE courses may incorporate by this time? Bullying can be by Heads, parents, other teachers, children bullying teachers.

Try to be aware of your own behaviour: catch yourself before you get into a groove of negativity about individual children or colleagues. Ask about Peer Mediation.

4. Job-seeking: check the website, look out for signals e.g. on welcoming new colleagues? - does it say 'we've got it all worked out already' or does it suggest 'we are working together and learning together as a team'?

Phone them up if you have questions, and in a secondary school, ask to speak to the head of department if possible.

On Peace: does it mention a cadet force? –Anti-Bullying strategies and resources, such as Peer Mediation?

5. Interviews: You are interviewing the head and school, as well as vice-versa. Make sure you get the chance to speak to other colleagues [in secondary school the head of department]; notice the secretary's demeanour, talk to lunch-time staff, teaching assistants; try to gauge if they feel part of the community.

[continued>

4.

Ask about Continuing Professional Development: Can you choose what CPD you go to in your subject or area [just as long as you can justify it to the school]? Or are you told what CPD to go to, or that it's all provided in-house? – is this going to be enough for you?

Will you be treated gently as an NQT? Ask about workloads and support, but also how your teaching will be evaluated – is there a standard check-list? Is there teamwork and discussion? Is there peer-mentoring or is it all top-down?

Would you be able to carry out what love requires of you in this school?

Don't be afraid to turn it down, especially if you aren't given the chance to think about it overnight. It's not unprofessional to ask for thinking time. Be especially dubious if you are pressed to accept – it may not be love! If you do have to say 'Yes' for fear of losing a chance, but regret this by morning, GO BY YOUR VIBES! - phone them and turn the job down. Good Luck!

JS June 2015

An amazing book: 'How to be a Peace-full Teacher' by Jim Wingate, a Quaker teacher from Cork. 1985 Friendly Press, 61 Newtown, Waterford: Trust Games, Awareness, Activation. Out of print, but we are seeking a reprint.

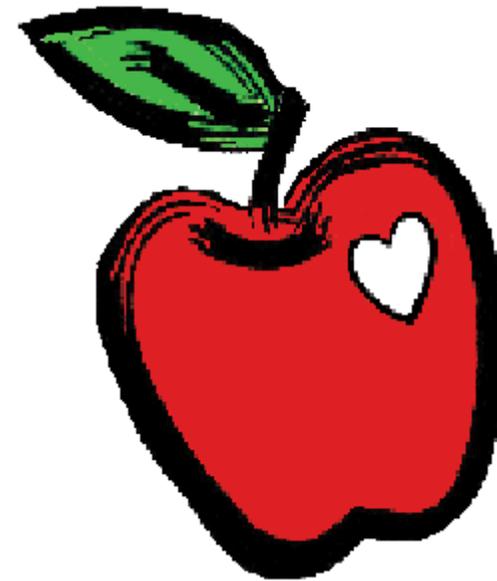


Just as each child is special, so is each teacher!

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NOTES FOR NEW TEACHERS

*Some Quaker Teachers' Thoughts,
from Experience!*



QVinE

Quaker Values in Education