

FROM PRIMARY
TO SECONDARY:

Ceri Grisdale Jones



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Originally from Caernarfon, Ceri studied at Cardiff University and graduated with a History degree and went on to qualify as a primary school teacher at Cardiff University.

"I had always enjoyed working with children, teaching gymnastics during holiday periods and spent time working in a camp in America. There is no doubt I was also influenced by my parents' jobs, one a primary teacher and the other a secondary teacher.

"I think the primary appealed at the time because I was used to working with younger children, and also I didn't want to limit myself to one subject."

After a period of time in south Wales, Ceri and her family decided to move back to north Wales but permanent primary teaching jobs were not easily available. They were mainly temporary posts, and as one maternity cover role came to an end, Ceri saw the conversion course advertised.

"The timing was absolutely perfect, I wanted a different challenge and felt this would give me another option for the future.

"It took me a while to settle down, especially as I started during lockdown, but virtual support was readily available and my teaching schedule gradually increased over time, giving me a chance to get accustomed to it. At the end of the day, teaching skills are the same whether it's primary or secondary, it's just the way you communicate that needs to be adjusted.

"I have also had the opportunity to teach several different subjects in secondary school, and my primary experience has been invaluable, and will no doubt be worthwhile again as we move towards the introduction of the new curriculum.

"For me personally I wanted to try something new and challenge myself, teaching is very varied and that appeals to me - every day is different. This step has also given me confidence, knowing that I can teach in both sectors, and crucially for me, being able to do so through the medium of Welsh."

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