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Primary review: specialist teachers for infants

Specialist subject teachers should be introduced to English primary schools, according to the Cambridge Primary Review.

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Every school should be staffed by teachers with expertise in areas such as music, science, PE and humanities, it is claimed.

The Cambridge Primary Review praised the role of existing classroom “generalists” who are expected to teach all subjects. But it said there were concerns that some failed to provide the “expertise which a modern primary education requires”.



The Cambridge Primary Review suggested a combination of general, semi-specialist and specialist teachers for primary schools Photo: GETTY

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It suggested a combination of general, semi-specialist and specialist teachers.

The report also questioned Labour’s repeated claims that England’s teachers are “the best-ever trained”.

It said that the comments could not be substantiated and may encourage a culture of “complacency”.

The review also suggested that the existing one-year postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) – the most common route into teaching – could be extended to two years.

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