

Job Description

Nursery Teacher

George Watson's College wishes to appoint a Nursery Teacher from March 2018 to cover for maternity leave.

THE SCHOOL

George Watson's College is renowned as a large, inclusive and vibrant co-educational school offering all-through education for children from 3-18. Despite its size, everyone remarks that it has a small-school 'feel': the close-knit and friendly relationships amongst all its constituents are a hallmark of the School. Its motto – *ex corde caritas* (Love from the Heart) – is central to its values as it seeks to sustain what is described as 'The Watson's Family'.

This tangible sense of togetherness is significantly enhanced by everyone being on one purpose-built site, which is located in the attractive residential district of Morningside, to the South West of the centre of Edinburgh. Edinburgh itself is the second strongest city economy in the UK, outside of London, with the highest percentage of graduates and professionally qualified adults in the UK and over 25% of school age children attending fee-paying schools. Watson's is proud of its independent status and, whilst remaining true to its Scottish roots, seeks to sustain and develop an international perspective. The curriculum is adapting to the innovations inherent in Scotland's new Curriculum for Excellence and the new Scottish National Qualifications. In addition, the School offers its older pupils the opportunity to take the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme. Watson's is the only school to offer this alternative alongside Scottish qualifications.

The School welcomes a wide range of academic ability, and has very high academic standards, with 90% of pupils going on to Higher Education and a large proportion of pupils achieving outstanding success. Watson's also has excellent facilities, and offers a huge range of courses as well as extra-curricular activities. In addition, it has particular strengths in Sport, Music, Drama, Outdoor Education, Technology and in Support for Learning. The School is very well resourced with a campus-wide IT network.

The current Principal, Mr Melvyn Roffe took up his post in August 2014. He is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC).

THE NURSERY

In the Nursery, we aim to provide our children with an education which will be a foundation for life and which will meet the child's needs in the Junior School. Above all, we aim to have happy, contented children who thoroughly enjoy their nursery experience.

The Nursery curriculum covers eight areas of learning:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Expressive Arts
- Social Studies
- Religious and Moral Education
- Science
- Technologies

These eight key aspects of development and learning provide a framework to help staff plan appropriate learning experiences and activities.

The individual child's development is fostered by the team of Nursery staff, although all children also have their own key worker. The content of the curriculum is based upon children's interests, local and topical events, seasonal work and the natural world. The Nursery environment is carefully planned and structured to provide new experiences and facilitate the acquisition of skills through a child-centred curriculum.

Our Nursery hours are from 8.40am–3.00pm.

Our Nursery classes have a highly qualified staff of teachers and nursery practitioners with a staffing ratio of 1:8.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person appointed will:

- be a trained and qualified early years teacher, registered or eligible for registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland;
- have experience of teaching in a Nursery;
- be flexible and imaginative in developing new ideas and resources, as well as adapting to curriculum changes;
- have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and be able to work with colleagues from different disciplines and across both Junior and Senior Schools as well as partners from the wider community.

JOB SPECIFICATION

All teachers in the Nursery are responsible to the Principal through the Head of the Junior School. The duties of the class teacher are expressed in the Contract issued by the School and the teacher is subject to the policies of the School to perform such duties as the Head Teacher shall reasonably direct related to the following areas of responsibility.

1. To take responsibility for the progress of and assigned class of primary age pupils
2. To organise the classroom and its resources to create a positive learning environment
3. To be thoroughly conversant with relevant syllabuses and available teaching resources
4. To plan, prepare and present lessons that cater for the whole ability range of the class
5. To motivate pupils with interesting, stimulating and imaginative presentations
6. To prepare and mark work to facilitate positive pupil development
7. To assess, record and report on the work of the pupils as required by the School
8. To maintain good order and discipline among pupils throughout the campus and to safeguard their health and safety
9. To provide accurate and meaningful feedback to parents at parents' evenings and other meetings
10. To participate as necessary in the development of the school curriculum and to contribute constructively to the development of Junior School policy and methodology
11. To participate in the School's Professional Review and Development programme
12. To maintain appropriate Career Long Professional Learning in line with the standards for full registration set by the General Teaching Council for Scotland
13. To contribute, where appropriate, to the professional development of colleagues, including probationary and student teachers
14. To participate in the administration and organisation of the School as deemed appropriate by the Head of the Junior School and Leadership Team
15. To help to foster good working relationships with pupils and colleagues - teaching and support staff - in all aspects of School life
16. To attend meetings and school functions as appropriate and to contribute positively and effectively to the corporate life and welfare of George Watson's College
17. To participate in the wider life of the School, contributing in at least one area to the School's extra-curricular programme and be aware that this may include weekend sporting commitments
18. To endeavour to play a part in the constant desire to keep George Watson's College in the vanguard of modern education

19. The person appointed will be responsible for teaching classes across the Junior School from Nursery to Primary 7, using his/her skill, experience and best endeavours. S/he will abide by the Code of Conduct for Staff at George Watson's College

REMUNERATION

Teaching staff at George Watson's College are paid at a level which is currently 8% higher than the Scottish Teachers' Pay Scales. The salary is pensionable under the Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND - PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS SCHEME

All staff must be prepared to undergo screening to confirm their suitability to work with children and young people.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / PROFESSIONAL REVIEW

All staff are required to participate in appropriate programmes of continuing professional development and undergo professional review as set out in the School's policy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A letter of application, addressed to Mr. George Salmond, Head of Junior School, together with a completed application form and diversity monitoring form, must reach Jane Robinson, Head of HR by email (vacancies@gwc.org.uk) no later than noon on Friday 19 January 2018.

Interviews are scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24 January 2018.

Candidates called for interview will be asked to teach a lesson as part of the selection process.

Further information on our School can be obtained from the School's website at www.gwc.org.uk.