**About Us**

Kingfisher School is a member of the Propeller Academy Trust (PAT) [w*ww.thepropelleracademytrust.org.uk*](http://www.thepropelleracademytrust.org.uk)

Kingfisher School is a vibrant and dynamic school where the needs of the pupils are at the heart of our decision making. Kingfisher School is situated in Abingdon, South Oxfordshire and currently has over 80 pupils on roll all of whom will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The school provides specialist education for pupils aged 2-19 years, it meets the needs of children who have severe learning difficulty including children on the autistic spectrum, with profound and multiple learning difficulties and those with speech, language and communication needs. Pupils are drawn from a wide geographical area and most travel to school on transport provided by the local authority.

Kingfisher School was established in 1995, following the amalgamation of the two existing special schools in Abingdon, and is located on the site of the previous primary school. The school opened a Post 16 facility in 2008 following a request from the Local Authority. Pupils are drawn from a wide catchment area; the school serves Abingdon, Didcot, Cumnor, Botley and the neighbouring villages. Most pupils travel to school using transport provided by the Local Authority depending on distance from home to school. The large majority of pupils are of White British heritage and their first language is English. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is lower than the national average. Kingfisher is at an exciting time in its development with a brand new extension which will increase our numbers further. Pupils also have access to facilities and learning projects at Abingdon and Witney College to further enhance the learning experiences.

There is considerable pressure within the county for special school places and the governors are working very closely with the local authority (Oxfordshire County Council) to provide additional capacity through our ‘new build’ programme. This will increase our numbers to 88 pupils. The main school site at Radley Road, Abingdon comprises of single storey accommodation with large classrooms, appropriately adapted for the needs of pupils using them, two assembly halls, therapy and ‘break out’ spaces, a food technology room, a sensory room, a soft play room and a large indoor swimming pool with specialist hoist and changing facilities. There are extensive grounds with an array of fixed specialist outdoor equipment, outdoor learning and play areas.

Kingfisher School works within a multidisciplinary framework of CAMHS, NHS Oxford (physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and occupational therapy), the Propeller Academy Trust and the Oxfordshire County Council SEN Department. The school provides an eclectic and enriched curriculum, as well as a strong academic component. The curriculum includes sports (including competitive sports), music (singing and instrument), music therapy, rebound therapy, pets as therapy, communication therapy, swimming and hydrotherapy. Outcomes for pupils are moderated within the Oxfordshire Association of Special Schools Data Users Group, the local EYFS consortium and Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement (RARPA). Kingfisher is a happy school and outcomes for children are excellent.

The school set ambitious targets for all pupil progress, using B-squared and Comparison and Analysis of Special Pupil Attainment (CASPA) predictions. All pupils are set targets that exceed national expectations; this is rigorously monitored throughout the school year, with swift intervention implemented if necessary. Additionally all pupils have personalised Individual Learning Plans (ILP) developed with parents which are rigorously monitored. This scrutiny ensures that the majority of pupils make the progress expected of them and beyond.

Most pupils will stay with Kingfisher School once they have been placed with us with a small minority moving to other specialist provision. Occasionally pupils will transition to mainstream school, although this is rare, for some of our pupils this is the right course of action.

Kingfisher School has an active Parents Friends and Staff Association (PFSA) who have supported the school in a number of ways. Community links have been developed and are continuing to do so.

# Our Curriculum

We have developed a curriculum that is firmly rooted in the needs of our children and young people. The Kingfisher Curriculum is a flexible, skills based framework designed to accommodate the different learning needs of our young people. It is framed within six key areas of learning, to which the subjects of the National Curriculum have been assigned. The following table illustrates how the areas of learning incorporate different curricular strands.

The key areas of learning are known as Learning Journeys.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Communication Language and Literacy | * Communication Skills
* Reading
 | * Writing
 |
| Independent Life Skills | * Careers
 | * Independent Living Skills
 |
| Physical Development | * PE
 |  |
| Problem Solving and Reasoning | * Number and Place Value
* Calculations
 | * Measure
* Geometry
 |
| Knowledge and Experience of The World | * Use of ICT (Computing)
* Science
* History
 | * Geography
* RE
 |
| Creative and Leisure | * Art and design
* Design and Technology
 | * Music
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The skills are based on the EYFS and National Curriculum as well as elements of BSquared. These Areas of Learning have a developmental and progressive list of skills and learning objectives which provide a scaffold for the learning experiences of our young people. They inform our planning and are delivered through a topic based long term plan

# Our Aims

The aims of the school are:

* To enable our children and young people to become effective communicators
* To develop the skills in our children and young people that will maximise their independence, confidence and self esteem
* To support our children and young people to be included and to actively participate in their communities and society
* To ensure that our children and young people aspire and achieve whilst enjoying their learning
* To ensure that our children and young people feel and learn how to keep themselves safe and secure
* To protect the entitlement of our children and young people to a broad and balanced curriculum and relevant learning experiences

# Conditions of Service

The Propeller Academy Trust recognises the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document and the Conditions of Service for School Teachers (Burgundy and Green Book)

Benefits available to all employees include access to the OCC Staff Care service and Occupational Health service and excellent opportunities for CPD. We also subscribe to a child care vouchers scheme.

# How to apply

Please complete the application form attached to the Kingfisher School website at [www.kingfisher.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.kingfisher.oxon.sch.uk)

Applications in the form of CVs will not be considered unless accompanied by a fully completed application form.

To assist in shortlisting the most suitable candidates, please submit a **Statement in support of application which forms part of the application form.** This should be completed electronically as a Word document, in Calibri (or similar) font size 11, and should be no more than 2 sides of A4. **An additional covering letter is not required.**

**You must include your full education and all employment details since you left school. Failure to do this may prevent your application from progressing to shortlisting.**

Your referees must include your most recent employer. Since references can be required within a short timeframe, it is helpful if you have notified referees of your application to assist them in providing the required information at short notice. References will be sought directly from the referee. Open references or testimonials provided by the candidate will not be accepted. Where necessary, previous employers who have not been named as a referee may be contacted in order to clarify any anomalies or discrepancies.

Please return your completed application form to recruitment@kingfisher.oxon.sch.uk

# Safeguarding

Kingfisher School is committed to safeguarding children and young people and promoting their welfare. All staff are expected to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undertake an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service. Any offer of employment is subject to the receipt of a satisfactory DBS check and appropriate references.