



Head of Early Years - Overview

Sidcot School

Sidcot School is an independent school which dates from 1699, when it was established as a Quaker School. In 1808 it opened its doors to non-Quakers whilst remaining under Quaker auspices. The school owns extensive playing fields and agricultural land in the beautiful Mendip Hills. Sidcot is fully co-educational and caters for the age range 3 to 18. The school offers full boarding facilities as well as very good day scholar facilities. Fewer than half the total enrolment of over 500 students are boarders, with a majority being in the older age ranges. Sidcot is a mixed ability school with a skew towards the upper end of the ability range. Sidcot has been growing over the last few years and student examination results have been excellent at both GCSE and A level. A typical class size is about 15 to 18.

The school is housed in an interesting range of buildings near Winscombe, North Somerset, the oldest of which date from about 1838. The facilities include a modern Junior School, a well stocked library, specialist areas such as a science block, Health Centre, Riding Stables, and a Sports Centre with indoor swimming pool. A large purpose built Arts Centre is our latest completed project. For further information on the school, please visit our website at www.sidcot.org.uk.

The Junior School

The Junior School educates children from the age of three through to eleven, in a beautiful building just across the road from the Senior School site. The Quaker ethos permeates every aspect of Junior School life enabling pupils to develop and grow into confident, accepting young people, with the desire to make the world a better place.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The journey for Junior pupils starts in our Nursery class, which provides a stimulating and enriching learning environment. Our experienced staff are passionate in nurturing the individual talents of the children within their care. The Reception class builds upon the foundations laid in Nursery and continues to enhance learning through exploring the interests of the class. This acts as a stimulus for a variety of educational experiences and helps the children to really engage in their learning.

Children in Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage programme. The Nursery Class is considered the first Educational Year of our School and is not a separate Nursery or Day Care Unit. Pupils and staff also have access to many of the senior school's marvelous facilities and specialist departments to provide an enriching and stimulating education.

Key Stage 1

When children move into Key Stage 1 they continue to develop and grow by combining their learning through play, with a more structured approach that enables them to grasp the fundamental building blocks of the core curriculum subjects. The majority of lessons in KS1 are taught by the form tutor in order to develop a nurturing rapport between the teacher and the children within their care. Specialist teaching is provided for French, PE and Music

Key Stage 2

In Key stage 2 education continues to focus around the development of the whole child and we take a holistic approach to planning the curriculum, in order to provide creative and inspirational learning experiences for our children. Specialist teachers enrich children's learning experience in Music, Art, PE and Modern Foreign languages and enable the children to benefit from the extensive Senior School facilities. Our aim is to develop well-balanced, well-educated children who understand the importance of honesty, courage, humility, respect and integrity. It is an aim that we achieve through first class pastoral care and exciting skills based curriculum, which encourages the children to develop enquiring minds and become independent and resourceful learners. The educational experience for all our children is further enhanced by an excellent and extensive programme of extra-curricular activities which vary according to the season, but typically encompass a range of physical, creative, musical and technological activities.

Forest School

Our stunning environment lends itself to an enriching Forest school and environmental science programme, which all year groups access. Sidcot's 160 acres are used as a resource to enable exciting learning opportunities that encourage an understanding of the world around them and how they fit within it. The Forest School leader ensures a flexible approach to learning and will adapt programmes to address the children's specific interests and ideas, always ensuring that educational learning goals are being appropriately met. As a result our Forest School sessions become child led, and the programme is ever-evolving.

The Post

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-qualified teacher to join our team as Head of Early Years.

The Early Years area of our school has a wonderful family feel and the Nursery and Reception classes work very closely together. The two EYFS teachers team plan to ensure continuity and progression for the children in their care. They offer a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure the fundamental building blocks for learning are firmly in place. The children have a fantastic experience and above all feel cared for, valued and have fun!

As part of a boarding and day school there is considerable emphasis on "extra-curricular" activities at Sidcot, and some 'day', evening and weekend duties are required from all main professional grade teachers. All staff are expected to offer at least one "after-school" club, society or activity, and to undertake, on a rota basis a share of the day and weekend duty responsibilities. These duties are included in the Sidcot salary scale and they are carried out pro rata by part time staff.

Remuneration

Remuneration is at the appropriate point of the Sidcot scale depending on qualifications and experience for general teaching. In addition the post holder will receive 6 responsibility allowance points, which equates to an additional £2,628. There is release time for all EYFS teachers, which is at least one afternoon a week – this is when the children go swimming and is used for team planning and maintaining records. The children of staff may be educated in Sidcot Junior School and Sidcot School at reduced rates, subject to satisfying our standard Admissions criteria.