

Welcome to Glossopdale School

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##### *Contents*

1. **Welcome letter ……………………………………….. Page 2**
2. **Our School ……..……..……..……..……..……..…….Page 3**
3. **Support and Development ……………………………Page 4**
4. **Living and Working in Glossop ……..……..……… Page 6**

## Dear Applicant

Thank you for your enquiry. Glossopdale School provides education to approximately 970 students aged 11-18 years old of whom some 170 are in the Sixth form.

Students, the vast majority of whom are delightful young people with considerable ability, are drawn from Glossop, Hadfield and the surrounding rural areas.

However, ours is a genuine comprehensive school and we attract students of all abilities, from the very able to those who face considerable disadvantage. We are committed to our comprehensive values and approaches, striving for all Glossopdale learners to become successful, based on the key strands of Learning, Experience and Support.

Although we are pleased with our overall progress, we have achieved our best GCSE results, we continuously search for further improvement. Staff and governors are determined that Glossopdale becomes an outstanding learning institution.

We have strong support from Derbyshire Local Authority to rapidly improve and are embracing many of the initiatives on offer. There is an overwhelming desire by students, staff, parents and governors for ours to become a learning institution of which everyone can be proud. As Principal, my focus is to build a community of successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens within which all students regardless of age, ability, or background are engaged, challenged, inspired and supported in their learning.

Glossopdale School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All members of staff and volunteers, were appropriate, must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Services (DBS).

We are looking for colleagues who have high aspirations and expectations, are ready to implement change, ready for the challenge and the reward.

I hope the enclosed information is sufficient to help you to make a decision about applying.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Best wishes



Steve Playford

Principal

***About our School***

This is an inspiring time to be part of Glossopdale School and we invite you to come and be part of our exciting future.

***Key features***

* 970 students- aged 11 - 18
* High Peak district of Derbyshire, within easy commuting distance of Manchester and Sheffield
* International Schools Award
* Sport Leader academy status

***Our School Community***

Our teaching staff of approximately 65 combines to provide a mixture of experience, energy, skill and creativity, supported by an excellent team of associate staff.

We involve all colleagues in the School’s overall development through weekly briefings, working groups and strong communications. The last period every Friday afternoon, when the students leave early, is devoted to staff development activities.

We are determined that the Glossopdale experience should be exciting and stimulating, embracing the new national curriculum dimensions, programme of studies and learning skills. We are also committed to developing a curriculum that ensures all students make excellent progress, following personalised pathways.

***The New School***

Everyone is very excited that the building work for the new school is well under way and when you view the building from around the area you get a real sense of the shape the school will take. It will enable us to realise the vision of having “an outstanding learning centre at the heart of the community”. This vision has been realised due to Derbyshire County Council willing to invest in the community by agreeing to build a brand new school fit for the 21st century costing £23 million.

Lots of consultation has taken place over the past few years to design the learning around an 11-18 school. The main focus has been on designing a school for all of the children of the Glossopdale area; providing facilities with a fantastic range of classrooms for academic subjects and vocational skill based learning; with the latest IT technology, traditional learning, superb sports facilities and a dedicated learning area for SEN. There is a dedicated sixth form centre located within the building offering a private study area, dedicated tutorial rooms and specialised classrooms set to rival any sixth form.

As part of the Peak 11, the School works collaboratively to develop curriculum links. The School has implemented an innovative competencies curriculum for Years 7 and 8 that is recognised nationally. We place particular emphasis on using our excellent tracking and target setting procedures to help raise levels of achievement for all students and this will be a key focus over the next few years as the School strives to become an outstanding learning institution.

Students have access to a rich programme of extended opportunities and there is a strong desire to strengthen this aspect of School life. Competitive sporting teams, mainly in soccer, rugby, basketball, netball and hockey, run alongside a range of more recreational sporting activities. The Arts provide a similar balance of performance and participation: major events include regular drama productions, musical evenings and dance shows. Students are increasingly involved in local and national arts activities.

The School has a strong Leadership team and TLR post holders who reflect the dynamic approach to change that will ensure our students receive the best possible learning and experience, supported by an efficient School System.

***Our Community Partnerships***

We have a strong sense of our place in the wider community and attach great importance to our links with our family of 14 primary schools, local business and industry and other local groups, organisations and institutions and our full programme of primary liaison activities which run throughout the year.

Our unique position, in a relatively small town, makes for particular opportunities in the range of contacts we can forge. The School has an active Student Voice and has a Parent Voice, recognising the importance of listening to the community. Our successful extended educational opportunities programme is already offered to our students and to the wider community, and we are aiming to become an extended school with on-site provision for children and family services.

We have strong links with local community groups, including the youth service, police and children services. The school will have a newly built vocational centre from September will provide the construction skills for the students and local community.

***Support and Development***

### When you come and work at Glossopdale School you will be able to benefit from a structured and comprehensive professional development programme. As a valued member of staff we want to ensure that you have access to the benefits available to you whilst you work at the School.

Our approach to staff development is designed to both support the School’s Improvement Plan and to provide for the professional development and fulfilment of individual staff.

Your first year in post will be crucial to ensuring your success as a member of staff and to maintaining the ongoing success of our School. For this purpose a mentoring system is in place to ease you into the structures and systems of the School and give support in your first year with us.The School is a partner in Initial Teacher Training with both Manchester Metropolitan and Sheffield Hallam Universities and also has trainees on the Graduate Training Programme.

***Living and Working in Glossop***

As ‘the gateway to the Peak District National Park’, Glossop is a small market town in a unique setting, close to Manchester, but with the resource of the National Park very close by. The surrounding countryside is ruggedly beautiful with hills rising to 2000 feet and, situated between Manchester and Sheffield with Matlock only 30 miles away, there are the advantages of both city and rural living.

The Peak District forms the southern end of the Pennines, covers 555 square miles and is characterised by rounded hills and grit stone escarpments. The park provides some of the most spectacular scenery in the country and provides an endless list of outdoor activities, for example: walking, horse-riding, paragliding, mountain biking, caving, bird watching, fell running and orienteering to name a few. Some of the area’s large reservoirs have also become centres for water sports including: sailing, fishing and canoeing.

The town is well served by transport links to the surrounding areas. The main road through Glossop is the A57. To the west, this road leads to Manchester, while Sheffield lies to the east via Snake Pass, the name given to the higher reaches of the road, providing motorists with an exceptionally scenic route and spectacular views over Manchester, 10 miles away. The B6105 road leads north then east, along the [Woodhead Pass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longdendale) and eventually to the South Yorkshire town of [Barnsley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barnsley) and the [M1 motorway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M1_motorway). [Chapel-en-le-Frith](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapel-en-le-Frith) and [Buxton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buxton) lie to the south, along the A624. There are regular half hour train services from Glossop to Manchester and Hadfield. There are also regular bus services running to towns in [Tameside](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tameside), to [Buxton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buxton), [New Mills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Mills) and [Whaley Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whaley_Bridge), and an infrequent service to [Manchester](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester) via [Ashton-under-Lyne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashton-under-Lyne). There are Sunday bus services to local tourist attractions such as [Chatsworth House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatsworth_House) and nearby towns and villages.

Chatsworth House is the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, one of Britain's best loved historic estates and a cultural centre point of the Peak District National Park. With famous works of art, a working farmyard, spectacular fountains and the finest shopping and eating, Chatsworth House is a very popular tourist attraction.

Glossop has a strong sense of community and its residents are very proud of their home town. The annual Victorian Weekend is the biggest community event in Glossop and includes many activities such as a Grand Victorian Costume Competition and a Shop Window Competition. Glossop Carnival and Glossop Beer Festival are two other much celebrated events in the community calendar and more recently, Glossop has become well-known for staging jazz and world music festivals.

For more information on what Glossop has to offer, visit [www.glossop.com](http://www.glossop.com) or [www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)