



JOHN F KENNEDY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Subject Leader of Physical Education Information for applicants



Diocese of Westminster

Headteacher Mr Paul Neves BSc (Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH
Hollybush Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2PH
Telephone: 01442 266150
Website: www.jfk.herts.sch.uk
Email: admin@jfk.herts.sch.uk



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Subject Leader of Physical Education

Start date: January 2020

Salary: MPS/UPS plus TLR 2c plus London Fringe

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in this post at John F Kennedy Catholic School (JFK).

The Governors and I are seeking to appoint an experienced Teacher of Physical Education to take up this important leadership post, building upon the current high standards. The successful candidate will be an inspiring, dynamic teacher with a passion for learning and have the vision to develop further in this popular and successful department.

You will have a good track record of excellent classroom practice, be committed to high standards of learning and student progress, with the energy and vision to build on current progress and have ambitions for yourself and our school.

We welcome applications from candidates of all faiths and none, though support for our Catholic ethos is expected.

I hope that you find the following details useful and informative. They are intended to help you to decide whether or not JFK is the school in which you would be happy, be able to make a positive contribution and prepare yourself for the next stage of your career.

John F Kennedy Catholic School

JFK is a mixed 11-18 comprehensive school located in the suburban environment of Hemel Hempstead. It is a voluntary aided school with approximately 1100 students on roll. The school enjoys an excellent reputation and is always over-subscribed; for the 2019-20 intake of 180 places there were 615 applicants, with 210 putting JFK as first choice. The intake has, in recent years, been almost entirely Catholic - currently 93% of students. JFK serves the Catholic communities of Hemel Hempstead and a very wide surrounding area, including parts of Hertfordshire, Luton and Bedfordshire; in addition to seven main feeder primary schools, it regularly takes children from over twenty other schools. Unsurprisingly, its students come from a diverse socio-economic background, ranging from a very affluent commuter town to an area with high social deprivation. Overall, however, the school deprivation factor is just below the national average. Currently 14% of students are eligible for Free School Meals. The number of students from minority ethnic backgrounds has increased over the past ten years and is now above the national average. The prior attainment of students is significantly higher than the national average. Additionally the profile of current cohorts is generally skewed towards the 'middle' and 'high' prior attainment categories. The local parish church, St Mark's, is on the school site and the Parish Priest is a Foundation Governor.

For many years the school has enjoyed an excellent reputation, with successive pleasing Ofsted judgements. In March 2017 the school underwent its most recent inspection and was judged to be 'good'. This inspection was followed a term later by a Section 48 Inspection which judged the school to be 'good' in terms of classroom RE and the Catholic life of the school. We were delighted to receive the SSAT Educational Outcomes Award 2018 in recognition for being in the top 20% of non-selective schools nationally for student attainment in the 2018 end of KS4 exams. JFK was also invited to be included in the 2019/20 Secondary Education edition of The Parliamentary Review, hard copies of which are available to view in school.

The school's Progress 8 score has been as follows:

2016: 0.1 2017: 0.09 2018: 0.26

Visitors to the school frequently comment on the ethos and atmosphere they sense as they come to the school for the first time. This friendliness and sense of community is part of something wider; it is rooted in the fact that we are a Catholic school. As such everything that we do is based on our Mission Statement, summarised by words: Inspire • Achieve • Serve. We are an inclusive school that values the uniqueness of each member of our community. In this way we uphold the Gospel values and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Outside the formal curriculum there are numerous opportunities for students to take part in a very wide range of activities. These include drama, sport, music, retreats, trips at home and abroad and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The Physical Education Department

The PE Department consists of three full time and two part time teachers. The department is very well resourced and runs an extensive extra curricular programme every lunchtime, where the students train in their teams and prepare for the fixtures which take place after school. We enter District, County and National competitions in a number of activities. We are particularly successful in netball, football, Gaelic football, rugby, handball, hockey, athletics and gym and dance. The PE Department pride themselves on offering a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum and extra-curricular programme.

We welcome applicants who are hard working, enthusiastic, committed and dedicated to teaching a variety of activities, coaching teams, taking fixtures and getting involved in organising big events.

The PE Department regularly organise Inter House competitions, an annual Gym and Dance Display, Sports Presentation Evening and Sports Day as well as giving the students as many opportunities as possible to perform and compete in a variety of competitions and activities. Therefore the candidate will be expected to take on responsibilities in the organisation of these school events.

We offer GCSE PE and GCSE Dance at KS4 and A Level PE and Sports Leadership for KS5 students. The department work hard to constantly improve the teaching and learning in these exam subjects and achieve very successful exam results. We have good numbers of students taking these courses, due to their positive experiences in KS3 PE.

JFK and the future

I believe there are many features that make JFK a great school but I also recognise there are areas needing development. We must never be complacent and we must embrace new ideas that will benefit the educational opportunities of the students in our care.

Next steps

I hope that having read this letter and the information about the school that you will choose to apply. To do so, you are asked to complete the application form in full but instead of a supporting statement please write a letter of application which relates your experience to the job description and person specification. In your letter you should also outline your personal educational philosophy, your vision and the contribution that you can make to John F Kennedy Catholic School.

Please post your application or submit it to Ms Eva Final by email to: efinal@jfk.herts.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: 9.00am, Monday 30th September 2019

Interviews are scheduled for w/c 7th October 2019

I am always happy to welcome visitors to the school and I would strongly encourage you to come and visit us to see the school for yourself. If you would like more information about the school please visit our website www.jfk.herts.sch.uk where you will find our online prospectus and other information. If you would like to know more about the post itself or to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact my PA, Ms Eva Final (email: efinal@jfk.herts.sch.uk), who will be very happy to help you.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Paul Neves
Headteacher



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Person Specification – Subject Leader of Physical Education

Qualifications:

- A Honours graduate
- Qualified Teacher Status

Professional Experience:

- Ability to teach PE at KS3
- Ability to teach PE at KS4 and KS5
- High expectations of students
- Effective communication skills
- High standards of classroom management
- Knowledge and use of ICT in teaching and learning
- Commitment to continuing professional development
- Knowledge of current curriculum developments
- Knowledge of safeguarding requirements

Personal Qualities:

- Commitment to support the Catholic ethos
- Commitment to team working
- Commitment to equal opportunities and the equal value of all members of the school community
- High personal standards – dress, conduct and presentation

Note:

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. An enhanced DBS check is required for this post.

Job Description – Subject Leader

Reporting to: Headteacher through SLT link

It is expected that the Subject Leader will work in such a way that is totally compatible with the aims and objectives of the school. The responsibilities outlined below are intended to be a summary of, and do not change, the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions as written in the STPCB. They are in addition to the responsibilities outlined in the teachers' job description and the Teachers' Standards.

As senior post holders in the school, Subject Leaders occupy a pivotal role in securing its effectiveness and are expected to contribute to whole-school thinking and development. With a clear understanding and focus on how students learn, the subject leader is expected:

- to give full support to the school's distinctive Catholic ethos and act as an appropriate role model
- to look for opportunities for the department to be actively involved in the Catholic life of the school
- to support the strategic vision of the school and the School Development Plan
- to lead on the Quality Assurance system within the department in order to improve the quality of student learning and to raise standards of student attainment and achievement
- to monitor student progress within the department, organising intervention strategies when necessary
- to ensure all staff take a measure of responsibility for department teaching rooms to create an environment which stimulates learning
- to support the development of the House system
- to manage behaviour within the department
- to liaise with the INCo and SENDCo as and when necessary
- to be accountable for leading, managing and developing the curriculum, ensuring that it is appropriately broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated
- to seek and promote activities that enhance and extend the curriculum
- to attend all meetings relevant to your post
- to attend regular line management meetings and work collaboratively with the SLT Link
- to support and develop school links with home, parish and the wider community as appropriate
- to oversee the Performance Appraisal system offering encouragement and support to all members of the department in their professional development
- to develop and enhance the pedagogy and practice of others
- to efficiently and effectively manage and deploy staff, financial and physical resources within the department
- to support the organisation of school events: meetings, performances, examinations etc
- to take responsibility for the day to day management of Health and Safety within the department, including updating Risk Assessments where necessary
- to be a presence around the school and be supportive of the leadership of the school
- to set work for absent colleagues when necessary
- to support and contribute to staff training as and when required
- to support the recruitment, induction, training and development of new staff