**Registered Address: Mountdale Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 4AW**

**Chief Executive Officer: Mrs. J. Mullan**

**Telephone: (01702) 524193**

**Fax: (01702) 526761**

**Headteacher required -Academy special school- Kingsdown school**

Part of a co-operative multi- Academy trust in Southend

Group 5

ISR: £67,351- £91,67 Starting September 2024

A fantastic and challenging opportunity for an inspirational and committed individual to lead and develop this very special school into the future. The school is an integral part of the SEN Trust Southend. This is a unique MAT of four Academy special schools who work closely together. As such, partnership working is key to the school’s and MAT’s success.

The current Headteacher is taking her planned retirement after leading the school forwards for the past 7 years.

It has been a challenging but positive few years and we wish to be as open as possible about the needs of the school and the immediate future:

* Covid 19 and all the effects of this have meant that the school remained opened for as many pupils as was safe to do so throughout,
* Returning from Covid had its challenges and helping pupils and parents return to full time schooling required a lot of support from school staff for this vulnerable group of pupils
* Ofsted visited in 2022 and found the school may well be ‘Outstanding’ but because it was an ungraded inspection, they could not give this judgement at the time. They were due to come back fairly soon- however circumstances have overtaken this and Ofsted will not be in school this year.
* This is the only special school in England that was found to be majorly affected by RACC during the summer holidays of 2023 and two thirds of the building were closed off in the last few days of the summer holidays. However, all the children were in school full time only 1 week later.
* Although the DfE and outside agencies recognized the complexities of providing alternative accommodation this could not be found locally due to the oversubscription in all special schools locally. They did move quickly and sets of demountable classrooms began to arrive in early October to enable all pupils to be back on- site full time for just after October half term.
* However, all specialist areas, admin, swimming pool, therapy rooms, dining areas, admin block and offices are out of use and requiring major works. At the time of this information, we do not know yet whether the older part of the school will require demolition and all this entails.

Kingsdown school, is designated for pupils aged 3-14 with severe and profound learning difficulties and associated physical difficulties. There are increasing demands on places and currently there are 129 pupils on roll. Pupils mainly come from Southend, but also close areas of Essex which surround Southend.

All the special schools within the Trust are over-subscribed and we are working closely with the Local Authority to look at how we can manage the demands for places and forecast into the future the needs of the local community and how we can meet these needs locally. We are challenging ourselves as a Trust and continue to develop provision and capacity for a high proportion of SEND pupils in our area.

If YOU:

* Have the abilities to lead a very Good – probably - Outstanding special school and continue its journey,
* Have strong leadership and management skills, either as an existing Headteacher or someone who has extensive leadership experience and qualifications in a special school,
* Have the ability to further develop a clear vision of continued excellence with the current leadership team,
* Are committed to working as part of a team of other special schools in our MAT,

We can offer you:

* A warm, welcoming school.
* A supportive, enthusiastic, experienced and motivated senior leadership team.
* A school where all staff are valued, secure and have a strong sense of commitment and belonging.
* An interesting and changing group of pupils who have significant and varied SEND.
* The opportunity to work strategically to develop your leadership skills, within the school and across the MAT.

For further information about the school please visit the school website;

www.Kingsdown school.sch.uk

For further information about the MAT visit; sentrustsouthend.co.uk

As a Trust we are committed to ensuring the welfare and safeguarding of all our pupils. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

For further information about the position please contact Jackie Mullan- CEO of the MAT via email ([JMullan@tscs.southend.sch.uk](mailto:JMullan@tscs.southend.sch.uk)) or ring the MAT offices on 01702 524193 asking for Jackie Mullan.

Informal visits to the school are scheduled for: the week of 20th November-

Please ring the current Headteacher at Kingsdown school – Louise Robinson on -01702 527486 to arrange a visit.

Closing date for applications: 27th November

Formal interviews to take place between: 7/ 8th December