

# MURRAY PARK SCHOOL



## APPLICANT INFORMATION PACK

### HEAD OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

FRI 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 9AM

INTERVIEW DATE:

FRI 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

START DATE:

SEPTEMBER 2022

*Murray Park School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and appointment to this post is subject to a criminal record and background check and references*



**Head Teacher:** Mrs N. Caley

**Address:** Murray Road, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9LL

**Telephone:** 01332 515921

**Web:** [www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk](http://www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk)

**Recruitment Email:** [recruitment@murraypark.derby.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@murraypark.derby.sch.uk)

# OUR HEAD TEACHER



MRS N. CALEY

We are fully committed to offering a top-class education in school which keeps abreast of national and international trends. We welcome applications from high-quality candidates who are looking to make a real difference to our students' lives.

We support all new staff with a supportive induction package and in-house training. We endeavour to ensure your skills are developed so you can perform at your optimum.

I am delighted to introduce you to our wonderful school. Since my arrival in 2018, I have sought to create a thriving working environment which enables our wonderful students to succeed in all aspects of life at Murray Park and beyond.

Please take your time to consider the information in this pack and do not hesitate to make contact with us should you require any further information.

We pride ourselves on giving teachers the conditions in which to teach without distraction and ensure that all staff are supported quickly with any concerns both in and outside the classroom.



“As a new member of the Murray Park team I was warmly welcomed by the entire school community, students, colleagues and parents alike. We really are proud to be here”. (Mr Hagen - Assistant Headteacher)



# AMBITION STATEMENT

At Murray Park School, our curriculum vision is to provide an ambitious and inspirational education for all of our pupils. Our strong set of values: Perseverance; Respect; Independence; Dreams and Excellence (PRIDE) underpins our ethos. Through our curriculum, our pupils develop the confidence to embrace the responsibilities that life has to offer and to become valued members of the local community, both now and in the future.



In all lessons the pupils are challenged and engaged in an education that prepares them for their futures. Our curriculum enables all of our pupils to develop life skills, such as, creativity, empathy and collaboration, resulting in resilient individuals with high aspirations.

Our health and wellbeing provision ensures that our pupils lead healthy and fulfilling lives and that every pupil has the knowledge and confidence to take care of their own health and wellbeing.

As a result of our outstanding careers programme, all of our pupils are prepared for the next stage of their education, training and employment through our extensive network of business partners and dedicated careers' centre. Our wide range of extra-curricular activities include residential opportunities and international travel. These opportunities enrich the formal curriculum and deepen the pupils' knowledge and skills.



Every child at Murray Park School is equipped to become a well-qualified and successful young person.

*“The supportive atmosphere created by amazing, dedicated colleagues and students that genuinely appreciate what you do for them, gives me a reason to smile every day.” (Miss Dodd - Head of Mathematics)*





# SCHOOL INFORMATION

Murray Park is a dynamic and forward-looking 11-16 mixed comprehensive school on the western fringes of the city of Derby. It is a Foundation Status school, but has a close working relationship with the local authority.

We cater for approximately 1030 students, situated on a spacious site surrounded by greenery. We serve students from the Derby City area, within reach of the Derbyshire countryside and our cohort sizes are growing each year.

Our students reflect the full academic ability range and there is a huge breadth to the socio-economic status of our families.



## APPLICATION PROCESS

Informal visits to the school are available but not essential. You must complete the application form fully and give details of all employment, training and gaps in employment since leaving secondary school to the present day. Any additional information, which you wish to bring to the notice of the selection panel should be included in your letter of application.

Your letter of application should make reference to the job description and in particular how you meet the person specification. At least one of your references should be a current employer and you should indicate if you are happy for us to contact each reference. Please provide an email address for your referees so that we can contact them.

*Please email your completed application form and letter of application to [recruitment@murraypark.derby.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@murraypark.derby.sch.uk) or upload using the TES platform. The application letter should be no longer than 2 sides of A4, Arial font size 11. CVs on their own will not be accepted.*

*“The School has continuously supported me with my career development. If you wish to challenge yourself to develop as a leader then Murray Park School is the place for you.” (Mr Gregory - AHT KS4 Achievement)*



# STAFF WELL-BEING

Murray Park considers the well-being of staff to be important. Decisions in terms of staff support make well-being a priority. Anything that can be done to support staff in their role will be considered. In recent years we have raised the profile of staff well-being by establishing the following initiatives to ensure that our staff are happy in their workplace.

- Opportunity to work from home where possible.
- Latest laptops issued to all staff.
- Live marking policy.
- Designated, trained mental health leader.
- Staff social events.
- Staff sports events.
- Meal allowance for lunch duty staff.
- Meeting free weeks throughout the year.
- Bespoke CPD opportunities.
- Opportunity for all staff to complete mental health awareness course.
- Duty timetable to reflect teacher workload.
- Robust behaviour system to support staff.
- Alternative provision.

## DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

The Religious Studies and Personal Development Department is a thriving department at Murray Park School. The successful candidate will have responsibility for Religious Studies, Relationships, Sex and Health Education, PSHE and Citizenship. The students are taught all of these subjects at Key Stage 3 and at Key Stage 4. All of the students study core Religious Studies as part of the Personal Development curriculum at Key Stage 4. The students also have the opportunity to take Religious Studies as an options subject. We ensure that we adhere to the statutory guidance on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education.

Our lessons are taught using a range of teaching and learning styles and we encourage our students to develop their independent learning skills. The study of these subjects enables the students to understand better the society in which they live and the wider world of which they are a part. Furthermore, they develop strong reasoning, writing and critical thinking skills.

For further information please contact Suzanne Whiston, Deputy Headteacher:

[suzanne.whiston@murraypark.derby.sch.uk](mailto:suzanne.whiston@murraypark.derby.sch.uk)

“Since starting at Murray Park there has been no time for nerves, just excitement. I am delighted to continue my journey here, whilst inspiring others on my way” (Miss Bunting - NQT Science)



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Religious Studies and Personal Development Department at Murray Park School delivers high quality lessons to students in both key stages. The students receive lessons in Religious Studies, Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), PSHE and Citizenship. The students also receive careers lessons and we benefit from having both a Head of Careers and an Aspirations, Careers and Employability Coordinator who support our students with their transition from Key Stage 3 to 4 and to Post-16 learning.

As a school we recognise that our students are growing up in a complex world both on and off-line. Our personal development programme focusses on ensuring that our students know how to stay safe and healthy and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way. Our programme ensures that our content is age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. It is taught sensitively and inclusively and provides students with the knowledge that they need of the law.



RSHE, PSHE and Citizenship are taught by tutors at Key Stage 3 and we have a dedicated team of teachers who teach personal development at Key Stage 4. Members of staff are supported with the teaching of RSHE through half-termly meetings which ensure that the students are provided with high quality and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects.



The students in Key Stage 3 receive Religious Studies lessons from specialist teachers. Students who opt to study Religious Studies at Key Stage 4 follow the GCSE AQA Religious Studies A course. This course consists of two components: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices and thematic studies.



# SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Murray Park School shares a commitment to safeguard and to promote the welfare of children and young people. Our commitment is underpinned by robust processes and procedures that seek to maximise opportunity, minimise risk and continuously promote a culture that embraces the ethos of safeguarding amongst our workforce.

This post is Exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020 and is subject to an enhanced DBS Disclosure check.

## Recruitment Information

The application form must be completed in line with our Important Recruitment Information section on the school website. It is an offence to apply for the role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Recruitment of Ex Offenders
- The Equality and Diversity Form
- GDPR Privacy Notice
- Recruitment Policy

These documents can be found using following the link:  
<https://www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk/key-information/vacancies/>

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



- Mrs Nicola Caley - Headteacher
- Miss Rebecca Somes - Deputy Headteacher
- Ms Suzanne Whiston - Deputy Headteacher
- Mr Philip Gregory - Assistant Headteacher
- Mr George Hagen - Assistant Headteacher
- Mr Nick Lynn - Assistant Headteacher
- Mrs Theresa Lucas - Assistant Headteacher

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# JOB ADVERT

## **Head of Religious Studies and Personal Development** **Full-Time/Permanent**

**Salary/Grade:** MPS/UPS plus TLR 2 £5,739

**Responsible to:** Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

**Framework:** To work within the framework of teachers' pay and conditions, current legislation and the policies of the school.

Murray Park School is seeking to appoint a Head of Religious Studies and Personal Development to lead our thriving department. The successful candidate will be joining a dedicated and highly skilled team with a depth of both subject knowledge and teaching and learning expertise. The individual we are looking to appoint will be committed and energetic, with the creative skills to provide high quality learning experiences that are engaging and accessible yet serve to challenge our students to excel. Applications are welcomed from teachers of Religious Studies and PSHE/Personal Development who can boast strong teaching and leadership skills. The candidate needs to have robust subject knowledge of:

- Religious Studies
- Citizenship
- PSHE

A detailed understanding of the Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education is essential.

The post is suitable for middle leaders and teachers with a desire to aspire to a middle leadership role. The school is fully committed to supporting staff with CPD. The person appointed will have:

- A passion for pupil progress.
- High standards and expectations.
- Highly developed interpersonal skills and the ability to work with members of staff across the school.
- A commitment to team work.
- A commitment to extra-curricular learning and the ability to liaise with stakeholders to enhance our personal development provision.
- A positive outlook.

### **How to Apply**

An application pack can be downloaded from the school website at

<http://murraypark.derby.sch.uk/key-information/vacancies> or apply via TES Online.





# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Duties as a Head of Department

- To lead a team of teachers in implementing and delivering an appropriately broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum for students in the Religious Studies and Personal Development department
- To facilitate and encourage a learning experience which provides students with the opportunity to achieve their individual potential
- To maintain records, marking and assessment of students' work according to school and departmental policies, external examination and national curriculum requirements
- To report on pupils as required by the school policy and national curriculum requirements
- To follow safe working practices in all your teaching areas and across the school

## Key Tasks

- To always demonstrate good/outstanding teaching so that others in your department can learn from you
- To teach Religious Studies, PSHE, RSHE and Citizenship to students in Key Stages 3 and 4
- To ensure a high-quality learning experience for all students which meets internal and external quality standards
- To lead the development of appropriate specifications, resources, schemes of work, marking policies, assessment and teaching strategies in the department
- To monitor actively and follow up student progress in order to continually raise standards
- To be accountable for the development and delivery of Religious Studies, PSHE, RSHE and Citizenship
- To provide high quality extra-curricular provision, including trips, visits and clubs to motivate and inspire young people to be interested in issues in our world
- To ensure that staff development needs are identified and that appropriate programmes are designed to meet such needs
- To undertake Performance Management Reviews with your team
- To ensure the effective operation of Quality Assurance systems
- To monitor the progress of students and to report to parents/carers in line with school procedures for recording and reporting
- To identify and take appropriate action in issues arising from data, systems and reports, setting deadlines and reviewing progress on the action taken
- To ensure that homework is set by your team in accordance with the school and departmental homework policy
- To participate in relevant INSET to enhance teaching effectiveness
- To share good practice and fully participate in meetings, including Middle Leaders' meetings and Teach Meet sessions

The post-holder will be expected to carry out other tasks/duties as directed by the Headteacher that are commensurate with the responsibilities of a teacher.



# PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>		
Relevant Degree and Qualified Teacher Status Evidence of continued CPD over the last three years	✓	
<b>Knowledge</b>		
Full working knowledge of the Religious Studies, PSHE and Citizenship curricula at Key Stages 3 and 4	✓	
Detailed understanding of the Statutory Guidance for Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education	✓	
Detailed knowledge and experience of teaching GCSE Religious Studies	✓	
Knowledge and experience of teaching the GCSE AQA Religious Studies A exam specification		✓
<b>Skills and abilities</b>		
To lead and motivate a team of teachers	✓	
To be able to lead the development of appropriate specifications, resources, schemes of work, marking policies, assessment and teaching strategies in the department.	✓	
To be able to work under pressure	✓	
To be able to promote the importance of personal development across the school and to engage with external providers to enhance the Religious Studies and Personal Development curriculum.	✓	
Strong ICT skills for teaching and learning	✓	
<b>Personal Qualities</b>		
Motivated, enthusiastic and energetic	✓	
Good attendance and punctuality record	✓	
Committed to supporting the full life of the school	✓	
Professional appearance and manner.	✓	
Enhanced Criminal Record check (The school will apply for this on behalf of the successful candidate.)	✓	





# MURRAY PARK SCHOOL

OUR MISSION: SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN GAINING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK,  
SHAPING THEIR FUTURES AND REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

"PROUD TO BE HERE"



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