

Early Years/KS1 Teacher

Job description and person specification

Required as soon as possible from January 2024



Summary

This position is available for an immediate start and offers an exciting opportunity for a qualified teacher, preferably with solid Early Years and/or KS1 expertise and experience, who is passionate about working at the cutting edge of Early Childhood Education and Development in a highly friendly and supportive team environment in which everyone strives for excellence.

Although we would like to fill the vacancy as soon as possible, we would consider waiting for the right candidate to start from the summer term on 22 April 2024. For a summer term start time, we would also welcome applications for part-time (40-60%) appointment as there may be the possibility to create a teacher job-share arrangement.

School background

Herne Hill School is a well-established independent Pre-Preparatory and Pre-School in South London. It is the largest stand-alone independent school in the country focusing exclusively for two-year-olds through to Year 2. Its provision aspires to be at the cutting edge of Early Childhood Education and Development.

Since its foundation, it has had only one purpose: providing young children with the best possible start for a successful and balanced academic life. There are about 300 pupils on roll, split into the Kindergarten at our new, dedicated and state-of-the art site at 99 Herne Hill, which then feeds into Pre-Reception, Reception, Year 1 and ultimately Year 2 classes at our main site at 127 Herne Hill.

There are approximately 70 staff members (about 25 teachers and peripatetic instructors, 40 teaching assistants and five support staff), who are overseen by the Headteacher, Ngaire Telford, and the Director/Proprietor, Dominik Magyar, as well as, for staff at the Kindergarten at 99 Herne Hill, by the Head of Kindergarten, Natalie Sweilam. Everyone works towards fulfilling our common purpose:

“At Herne Hill School, we prepare young children for life ...
by providing the finest individual education ...
... based on a bedrock of love and care.”

The school's ethos of *Love · Care · Excellence* encapsulates our commitment to excellence and our belief that love and care are prerequisites for a top-quality education. The school's atmosphere lives this philosophy. It is a caring, friendly, fun, supportive and well-resourced environment conducive to optimal learning and development.

Our website and the latest ISI inspection report, which can also be found there, provide a good overview of our values, approach to teaching and learning and *modus operandi*. Candidates who would like to see more detailed information on the school's provision and daily life can email our Registrar Tilly Martin at enquiries@hernehillschool.co.uk to request access to the password-protected Prospective Parent Area on our website.

Job description

The main duties and responsibilities are those we expect from all of our class teachers, with a particular focus on a play-based learning approach for very young children:

- Planning for progression across the age and ability range, ensuring that appropriate curricular targets exist for each child within the group of children and that they experience a personalised educational programme
- Establishing fair, respectful, trusting, supportive and constructive relationships with children
- Promoting positive values, attitudes and behaviours
- Monitoring and assessing the progress of named 'key' children and taking appropriate action
- Communicating sensibly and effectively with parents/carers
- Leading and managing Teaching Assistants
- Supporting children and their learning by:
 - Safeguarding and promoting their welfare through all possible means, including the provision of a safe, secure and trusting environment
 - Having high developmental and behavioural expectations of all children and a commitment to help them achieve their full potential, giving them constructive feedback as appropriate
 - Motivating and encouraging pupils and promoting their independence and self-esteem

Other key duties and responsibilities include:

- Understanding and living out the HHS ethos of *Love · Care · Excellence* and its implications for day-to-day interactions with children and adults
- Getting along well with others on the team and demonstrating strong commitment to team culture, always placing overall team success above self
- Taking an active role in developing your own professional skills and expertise and helping the development of others
- Participating in appraisal reviews of yourself and others
- Participating in meetings and school events
- Contributing to the development, image and well-being of the whole school

Person specification

Although we can imagine a range of applicant profiles which could successfully fill this position, our "ideal" candidate will likely:

- Hold QTS and/or EYPS; a degree in Early Childhood Studies or Education would be a significant advantage
- Have at least some and preferably an extensive and deep knowledge of the EYFS and/or KS1
- Share our commitment to excellence, high standards and expectations as well as our belief that love and care are prerequisites for a top quality education
- Love young children and possess the gift of working with them, finding ways to engage their imagination and innate sense of fun, energy and enthusiasm for learning
- Be fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of children
- Have drive, energy and enthusiasm
- Be flexible, adaptive, innovative and creative
- Command a strong presence and have a positive, happy personality with a good sense of humour
- Be a constructive team player who will successfully work with fellow staff members
- Have excellent interpersonal skills with adults and children

- Be organised and efficient

Important note regarding safeguarding and child protection

- Herne Hill School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share that commitment. The School's safeguarding policy is available on our website.
- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children.
- The School will perform all required pre-employment checks on successful candidates, including with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and, where appropriate, a check of the Barred List maintained by the DBS. Any offer of employment will be conditional on obtaining satisfactory results for all checks.
- It is an offence to apply for the role if they are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

How to apply

Please download the application form from our website or other recruiting websites. Once completed, email it to enquiries@hernehillschool.co.uk, addressed to the Headteacher, Mrs Ngaire Telford.

Applications will be processed as soon as they are received.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!