



*Excellence in Education*  
The Independent Association  
of Prep Schools

## Candidate brief for the position of Head Teacher

### **The School**

Parsons Green Prep School is a non-selective, independent, co-educational school, offering a high quality, unique education and continuity for up to 200 boys and girls from 4 to 11 years of age. The Head is expected to be a member of IAPS and ISA.

### **Background**

Parsons Green Prep School was founded by Mrs Lucinda Waring in September 2001. Mrs Lucinda Waring is the Managing Director and Proprietor of Parsons Green Prep School.

The school buildings consist of a generously proportioned, detached Victorian house, standing in its own spacious grounds and a modern extension, with classrooms, science, art and Mac suites, a library and large school hall. The school is conveniently situated in the centre of Fulham, with easy access by both bus and underground.

### **Mission Statement**

Parsons Green Prep School's mission is to be recognised as a leading day prep school that offers both a challenging and rich curriculum and a broad range of opportunity experienced within the context of a happy childhood.

### **Our Aims**

PGP recognises that: 'How a child learns is as important as what a child learns' and is therefore committed to offering all its pupils an excellent education, inspiring them to achieve their best within a rich, happy, safe and fulfilling school experience upon which will be built future success.

Our aims and values are:

1. Promote high standards of academic achievement and give support and challenge to pupils appropriate to their abilities.
2. Ensure a breadth of educational opportunity, nurturing both enthusiasm and talent.
3. Prepare and give children the skills (academic, social, creative and technological) that will enable them to make a positive contribution to society and engage in life-long learning.
4. Promote values of kindness, respect, tolerance and diversity, developing a sense of service to the community as well as promoting a sense of social responsibility.
5. Foster healthy physical and emotional well-being in an atmosphere that allows children to be children.

6. Enable the pupils to acquire and develop the skills, according to their ability, that they will need to be self-confident and successful.

Parsons Green Prep School is firmly committed to providing a holistic education offering each pupil every opportunity to develop their own special talents, meeting individual needs is our number one priority. Parsons Green Prep School sets high expectations of personal achievement; it successfully creates a culture of friendliness and respect for all members of the community.

We ensure the best possible standards of behaviour, performance and interpersonal skills are met. We want pupils to be lifelong learners, be passionate in what they do, take calculated risks, and look at things differently, to be problem solvers and critical thinkers, to be able to work independently and with others and most importantly enjoy their life and work.

We believe that education is about creating a life-long love and commitment to learning. Through personalised learning, we foster the attributes of curiosity, enquiry and problem solving in all. We aim to instil in each pupil the perseverance, determination and commitment that will make them successful at any endeavour. We actively promote a nurturing culture that safely allows children to take risks and learn in creative and enjoyable ways. We celebrate the different approaches to learning each child brings to enhance the learning of all.

Parsons Green Prep School is committed to excellence in all its activities: academic, sporting and cultural. The school's aim is to develop skills, knowledge, attitudes, relationships and values that enable children to be caring, creative, innovative and responsible citizens in an increasingly competitive and international environment.

We aim to provide a positive and challenging environment, where each child can be supported, extended and nurtured towards personal excellence. Our small classes enable us to cater for the individual needs of our pupils. Our goal is to ensure that all children strive to do their best within a setting that encourages and fosters a high level of self-confidence.

We have high quality teaching staff who, in addition to teaching the prescribed curriculum, observe and respond to every child's unique interests and developmental needs. The way we teach is based on the whole child and aims primarily to develop social skills, intellectual independence, emotional security, spiritual and physical growth and well-being. We believe that a child's self-esteem is of paramount importance for future success and we encourage children's perception of themselves as competent, confident, all round learners.

We prioritise making learning vivid, real, enjoyable, challenging and enriching throughout the school, by ensuring that we provide:

- Active, child-initiated learning that ensures academic progress
- planned and free access play activities
- an integrated, whole curriculum style
- independent and exploratory learning
- access to learning outside as well as inside
- a recognition that boys and girls learn differently
- flexibility to accommodate individual needs, events and interests

- extended periods of time for children to become absorbed in activities
- a good balance of individual, small group and larger group activities
- adult intervention and assessment based on close observation of children's learning.

We prepare our children to take the 11+ admissions test for a wide range of London day schools including those which are academically highly selective and those which accept a broader ability range. A small minority of pupils move on to other prep schools for preparation for 13+ common entrance.

### **What do we teach and enrich?**

Alongside the Core Curriculum of English, maths and science, Parsons Green Prep School's curriculum has two main elements: the Creative Curriculum and our STEM initiative (science, technology, engineering and maths). We aim to teach children to be resilient, learn from their mistakes, problem solve and think creatively. As a school we are developing a Growth Mindset culture.

### **Creative Curriculum**

Our Creative Curriculum aims to give children a rich and varied experience that develops their key skills and knowledge and broadens their interests. We encourage a cross-curricular approach to strengthen and consolidate learning, positively impacting on children's understanding of topics. Themed learning with cross-curricular links enables children to have a deeper understanding of the topic. At the start of the topic the children are asked two key questions: what do you already know about the topic and what would you like to find out?

### **STEM**

Ask a child to solve a maths problem, and you have supported them through their next assessment. Ask a child to explore the universe with you, build a rocket and see how maths is an integral part of this process, and you have captured their curiosity. This is what our STEM initiative is all about. It brings science, technology, engineering and maths to life and gives purpose and real meaning to learning in the classroom. STEM is designed to capture the enthusiasm young children have for science and empirical discovery and develop this into a lasting interest in STEM subjects.

### **The Role**

The Head will provide effective, dynamic and inspirational leadership. He or she will set the vision and values to ensure high academic standards within a broad curriculum and a culture of kindness to enable each child to fulfil his or her potential. Please see the job description and personal specification for further information on the role.

Remuneration: Competitive

*Parsons Green Preparatory School is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This post is subject to Enhanced DBS Disclosure and satisfactory references.*