

Teacher of Religious Studies

Thank you for your interest in this post and we look forward to receiving your application.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone to join our school. We are looking for someone who is

- passionate about high quality teaching and learning
- offers inspirational and caring guidance for young people and works collaboratively, asks questions and is keen to learn

The RS department have created a supportive climate in which there is much cooperation. There are detailed and imaginative schemes of work and excellent resources. RS is popular across the school with both short-course and full course GCSE and A-Level Philosophy and Ethics taught. We have excellent take up at GCSE.

The successful candidate will be given full support and will be encouraged to engage in further **professional development**, which we believe will benefit both the individual and the school. The successful applicant is likely to be a form tutor. As the school transitioned from being a Local Authority Community School to forming a MAT, a key element was maintaining the full benefit and protection of the **National Pay & Conditions**. Similarly, staff appointed from other academies are not disadvantaged, e.g. by counting service towards sick pay and maternity leave. The school takes a constructive approach towards Performance Management & Appraisal and Pay Progression and offers many opportunities for career development through paid responsibilities.

This document contains information about the department and the person specification.

Applicants should submit the Application Form and a letter of application, which should not exceed two sides. Curriculum vitae is not necessary as all relevant information should be included on the application form or in the letter.

The closing date for applications is 8am Friday 10th December 2021, however, early applications are recommended as we reserve the right to interview before the closing date.

Chris Panting (Head Teacher) will be giving a talk via Zoom to give further information about the school and position. This will take place on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 6pm. If you would like to attend this talk please email hr@ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk for an invite.

Visit our website www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk for information about the school and in particular, “Working Here” on the home page for further details.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure check by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

Candidates selected for interview will be informed by telephone. We do not generally contact candidates who are not shortlisted.

Thank you for taking the time to complete your application.

Current information on the Religious Studies Department

Introduction

Religious Studies is an expanding and successful department within the school. We work closely with other departments, particularly in Years 7 and 8 where we contribute towards Humanities which is delivered by the History, R.S. and Geography departments.

Staffing

The RS department has two full-time members of staff. Both staff teach the full age and ability range and can teach up to A-level.

Head of Department	Felicity Ross
Full-time teachers	Sabrina Jackson

Curriculum Arrangements Years 7 & 8

Students are taught Humanities in Years 7 and 8. Students follow units in History, Geography and R.S which last for half a term. They then rotate onto their next subject. Students have three seventy minute lessons per week in Humanities making it a very significant part of their curriculum. Humanities groups are mixed ability. The following topics are taught:

In Year 7 RS includes:

☐ Nature of Religion ☐

Who is Jesus?

- Judaism
- Spirituality

In Year 8 RS includes

- Martyrs
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Sikhism

Year 9

All pupils in Year 9 study RS for one double period (70 minutes) per week.

In Year 9 RS includes:

- Philosophy
- Ethics
- Religion and Science
- Islam
- Equality

GCSE

At present we have 1 Full Course GCSE group and 2 Short Course GCSE groups in Year 11 and 2 Full Course and 4 Short Course groups in Year 10. We are following the OCR syllabus which includes the following topics:

- Beliefs and teachings – Christianity
- Beliefs and teachings - Islam
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics in the modern world from a Christian Perspective
- Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

A-Level

A level RS (Philosophy and Ethics) is taught in the sixth form with one group in each of Lower 6th and Upper Sixth. We are following an OCR syllabus which includes:

- Ethics
- Philosophy
- Developments in Christian Thought

Teacher of Religious Studies (MPS) – Person Specification

In selecting candidates for interview and eventual selection, the Governors will be looking for teachers with relevant education, experience, job related knowledge, aptitudes and skills, and many of the personal qualities listed below. The Governors welcome applications from teachers who consider that they could meet most if not all of the requirements listed.

EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualified teacher status
- First degree or equivalent in RS or related subject
- Evidence of continuing professional development either formally (qualification) or informally (reading, podcasts etc.)

EXPERIENCE

- Either successful progress on a PGCE course (or equiv. training scheme) or in a teaching post
- An excellent record of attendance and punctuality

JOB RELATED KNOWLEDGE, APTITUDE AND SKILLS

Curriculum:

- Commitment to the comprehensive ideal and to equal opportunities
- The knowledge and vision to put these into practice in order to meet current and future challenges within RS
- A keen interest in children as individuals, in how they learn

Contribution to the Department

- An ability to teach the full age range 11-18 in the subject
- An ability to contribute to the coherence, effective planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the RS development plans within the school development plan
- A commitment to the development of a collaborative approach to decision-making, implementation and evaluation of the work in the department
- A commitment to using a wide range of teaching and learning styles to suit the needs of a comprehensive intake
- An ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
- A willingness to use or acquire relevant I.T. skills for administration purposes

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Confidence, imagination and drive; flexibility and adaptability
- A sense of humour and perspective
 - A desire to continually improve as a teacher
- A capacity for hard work, the ability to manage its pressures and the ability to be self-critical
- An ability to establish good working relationships with a wide range of people including students, parents, governors and colleagues