

BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES TEACHER

APPLICATION PACK

OCTOBER 2017



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Bury Grammar Schools

The Bury Grammar Schools are a family of independent, selective, day schools for girls and boys aged 3 to 18, which combines a strong tradition of academic excellence with the best of modern educational practice. The Schools are situated in the heart of Bury and are widely recognised as one of the top independent schools in the North West of England. In all, there are five Schools in the Bury Grammar Schools Foundation; a Senior Girls' School, a Senior Boys' School, a Junior Girls' School, a Junior Boys' School and a co-educational Infant School and Nursery. Currently there are over 1,300 girls and boys on roll, most living in the town of Bury, its suburbs and the surrounding area of North Manchester, including towns such as Bolton and Rochdale.

Exam results are very strong. In 2017 a truly impressive 65% of Bury Grammar School Girls GCSE grades were at the coveted A*/A level, and an astonishing 90% of grades were at A*-B. They also say a 100% pass at A Level examinations; 28% of grades were at the elite A/A* level, 64% of grades were at A* to B. In the Boys School they are also celebrating another successful year of GCSE results with a phenomenal 44% of grades at the coveted A/A* level. In A-levels they also excelled with a stunning 45% of grades at A*/A (set against a national average of 26%) and 71% of grades at A* - B

Both schools have been rated as Excellent by the Independent Schools Inspectorate and are proud of the outstanding standard of education provided.

As an employer we are focused on creating an outstanding place for all our staff to work so that we can attract, retain and engage talented individuals, who have a desire to transform the lives of others.

More information regarding the Schools and their history can be found on our website at <http://burygrammar.com>.

Our Facilities

The Bury Grammar Schools date back to 1570 but the current campus was established in 1903. The Schools later expanded in the 1950s and 1960s when a new Boys' School was constructed and since then several fantastic new buildings have been added across the campus, the most recent being a brand new joint Sixth Form centre which was opened in November 2014 and Boys Sports Complex which opened in September 2016. We continually strive to improve our facilities and give our staff and pupils the best possible environment to work and learn in.





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GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

The Post

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Religious Studies Teacher who will combine their professional experience and skills to teach a varied and stimulating religious studies curriculum to our enthusiastic and dedicated pupils. The individual must have a readiness to contribute to the pastoral and extra-curricular activities of the School and partake in wider School activities as this is an important part of our School ethos in creating an excellent all-round education for our pupils. The role will be a full time, fixed term position and will commence on the 1st January 2018 and last until the 31st August 2018.

Please note that although this post is currently based in the boys school at Bury Grammar Schools, you may be required to teach and work in either the boys' or the girls' school

The Department

Religious Studies is delivered in two specialist teaching rooms, both well equipped with brand new textbooks for KS3 and for the new GCSE and A Level specifications.

The department is staffed by subject specialists who are well experienced and knowledgeable in their field.

Results in the department are excellent and above the national average. There is healthy take up at both GCSE and A Level and the subject is popular and well regarded amongst the boys.

At GCSE, pupils study AQA Specification A, from the perspective of Christianity and Islam. For themes, boys study Relationships and Families, The Existence of God, Crime and Punishment and Peace and Conflict. At A Level, students study OCR Religious Studies, covering Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Christianity.



Salary and Benefits

The starting salary will be dependent on experience.

- Individuals who join Bury Grammar Schools will automatically become members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme unless they decide to opt out of the Scheme.
- Childcare voucher scheme
- Daily lunch allowance at the School canteen.
- Free parking on-site
- Training and Development Opportunities will be offered.

Guidance Notes for Applicants

We advise you to read carefully all available information for this job before you start completing the application form. This pack includes a job description and a person specification which details the skills, qualifications and experience which are required for the job.

All shortlisting decisions will be based initially on essential criteria. We interview those candidates who are the closest match to the identified criteria.

Rehabilitation of Offenders/ Disclosure and Barring Service

A criminal conviction will not necessarily be a bar to employment. The Bury Grammar Schools (BGS) comply with the Disclosure and Barring Service's Code of Practice and will consider the suitability of all applicants on merit and ability.

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 entitles people who have been convicted of a criminal offence carrying a sentence of up to 30 months' imprisonment and who have completed the appropriate period of rehabilitation to regard their conviction as 'spent'. 'Spent convictions' can then be regarded as never having occurred.

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975, however, exempts certain types of employment such as working in a school from the provisions of the Act. In addition, the Police Act 1997 requires Police checks for all posts that come into contact with under 18s and vulnerable adults on a regular basis. Appointment to this post will require the post holder to undergo checks by the Disclosure and Barring Service before commencing any duties which could bring them into contact with children.

Any information disclosed will be kept in strict confidence and used only in consideration of your suitability for the job for which you are applying. If you fail to disclose relevant information requested at any stage of the recruitment process, then your employment could be subject to withdrawal of contract, dismissal or disciplinary action in accordance with Bury Grammar Schools policies.

Application Form

Please complete all sections of the application form. If a section does not apply to you, please just write 'not applicable' in the box.

Incomplete forms and CVs sent without an accompanying completed form will not be accepted.

Applications for the role will only be accepted from those who complete application forms. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed application forms.



BURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

If you need to attach a continuation sheet to any section, please ensure that your full name is included at the top of the page. NB: If you are planning to submit your application electronically, all documents, including any attachments, must be sent in Microsoft Word format.

Evidence of permission to work in UK

Prior to being permitted to commence employment with BGS, you will be required to produce documentary evidence of permission to work in the United Kingdom. You could provide, for example, either a British passport or a passport or National Identity Card from an EEA Country or Switzerland; alternatively, a document showing your permanent UK National Insurance Number and your full UK Birth Certificate.

A full list of acceptable documentary evidence is available on request. Original documents must be seen before you start working for BGS.

For further information, please refer to the Home Office website www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk.

Useful information on living and working in the UK can be found at www.britishcouncil.org/eumobility

Employment

Please give us details of your complete work history since leaving school/tertiary education. This should include information on your current and past employers, job title, dates employed and salary. please explain any breaks in employment when detailing your full work history.

In your accompanying letter, you need to demonstrate clearly how your experience, knowledge, skills and abilities match those required in the job, as detailed in the Person Specification. Where possible you should give examples of when you have used specific skills and abilities or needed to develop competencies in the relevant areas. You can draw on elements from any aspect of your life, such as education, work, home or community life, as long as you focus on its relevance in comparison to the needs of this job.

References

Please give details of 2 referees who can comment on your suitability to do this job. At least one reference must be from your current or latest employer. It is BGS policy to request references prior to interview. If you do not wish for your current or latest employer to be contacted before the interview, then please make this clear on the application form. BGS reserves the right to contact your current or latest employer following the interview and prior to offering a contract of employment.

In providing the names of referees, you are agreeing that the Bury Grammar Schools may ask their opinions on your character in relation to this application. These opinions, given in trust, will remain confidential.

General

If you do not receive an invitation to interview within four weeks of the closing date, then you may assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

By signing and returning our application form you consent to Bury Grammar Schools using and keeping information about you provided by you, or by third parties such as referees, relating to your application or future employment. In the case of unsuccessful candidates this information will be retained for six months from the closing date. Information provided by successful candidates will be transferred to their personnel file.

How will we keep your information secure?

Personal and Monitoring information is treated as strictly confidential and will be dealt with in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998) and our Data Protection Policy.



BURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

Whom can I contact if I need help in completing the form?

Please contact us on 0161 696 8600 or email vacancies@burygrammar.com

Please submit your completed application forms to vacancies@burygrammar.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 10th November 2017 at Noon

Safer Recruitment

The Bury Grammar Schools operate an equal opportunities policy, and are committed to safer recruitment and safeguarding pupils. Any appointment will be subject to successful DBS clearance, satisfactory references and confirmation of medical fitness for the post.

Thank you for your interest in a role at Bury Grammar Schools.



Job Description: Teacher of Religious Studies

Reporting to: Head of Religious Studies

JOB PURPOSE

To teach Religious Studies and to ensure outstanding academic outcomes for all students at Bury Grammar Schools.

The following duties shall be deemed to be included in the professional responsibilities which you may be required to perform:

1. Teaching

- Planning and preparing courses and lessons;
- Teaching, according to the pupils' educational needs, the pupils assigned, the setting and marking of work (including examinations) to be carried out by the pupils in School and elsewhere;
- Assessing, recording and reporting on the development, progress and attainment of pupils.
- Providing additional support as may be needed to best meet the educational needs of pupils.

2. Supporting learning

- Promoting the general progress and well-being of individual pupils and of any class or group or pupils assigned;
- Providing guidance and advice to pupils on educational and social matters; making relevant records and reports;
- Being a Form Tutor, if required, and carrying out the duties expected to fully meet the requirements of such a role;
- Making records and reports on the personal and social needs of pupils;
- Communicating and consulting with the parents of pupils;
- Communicating and co-operating with persons or bodies outside the School;
- Participating in meetings arranged for any of the purposes described above;
- Accompanying pupils on trips away from the School;
- Contributing to the extra-curricular life of the School;
- Attending School functions;
- Participating in assemblies;
- Contributing to the maintenance of a stimulating working environment in School;
- Upholding the ethos and high standards of the School and abiding by the rules laid down by the School from time to time.

3. Assessments and Reports

- Providing or contributing to oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual pupils and groups of pupils.

4. Appraisal

- Participating in any arrangements that may be made for teacher appraisal.

5. Review: further training and development

- Reviewing from time to time methods of teaching and programmes of work;
- Participating in arrangements for professional development.

6. Contributing to academic provision

- Advising and co-operating with the Headmaster/mistress, Head of Department and other teachers on the preparation and development of courses of study, schemes of work, teaching materials, teaching programmes, methods of teaching and assessment or pastoral arrangements.

7. Syllabus

- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that they teach the correct public examination syllabus offered at BGS in their subject in accordance with School policy. Teachers should be aware of any subject area developments outside the School and where appropriate bring them to the attention of colleagues.

8. Discipline, health and safety

- Maintaining good order and discipline among the pupils and safeguarding their health and safety both when they are on the School premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere.

9. Staff Meetings

- Participating in meetings at the School which relate to the curriculum for the school or the administration or organisation of the School, including pastoral arrangements.

10. Public Examinations

- Participating in arrangements for preparing pupils for public examinations and in assessing pupils for the purposes of such examinations, recording and reporting such assessments; and participating in arrangements for pupils' presentation for and supervision during such examinations.

11. Administration

- Participating in administrative and organisational tasks related to such duties as are described above, including the management or supervision of persons providing support for the teachers in the School and the ordering and allocation of equipment and materials;
- Registering the attendance of pupils and supervising pupils, whether these duties are to be performed before, during or after school session or lunch times, evenings, weekends or cover for absent colleagues.

12. Duties

- Undertaking supervisory duties as assigned according to the custom of the School.

13. Time table

- The School may alter the weekly time table from time to time depending on amongst other things the School roll.

General Duties

- Work flexibly to meet the Schools requirements including on occasions working in other departments as directed by your manager. This requirement is likely to be particularly relevant where you may be expected to work evenings or weekends.
- Comply with all School policies and procedures. Within these boundaries, staff are expected to use initiative to resolve problems and address issues.
- Ensure the quality standards and performance measures applying to your area of work are met and facilitate continuous improvements in all aspects of the post.
- Maintain a safe environment by working within Health & Safety guidelines and being aware of your responsibilities for health and safety.
- Value diversity and promote equal opportunities
- Participate in appraisal activities as required. Undertake further training as needed to ensure up to date knowledge and implementation of best practice.
- All Bury Grammar Schools' employees are expected to act as ambassadors for the Schools and promote the Schools and its services positively as well as behave in a manner consistent with the Schools' Values at all times.
- Undertake any other duties and tasks appropriate to the grade and character of work as may reasonably be required.

The details contained in this job description reflect the content of the job at the date the job description was prepared. However, over time, the nature of individual jobs inevitably change; existing duties may be lost and other duties gained without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibility entailed. Consequently, the Schools will expect to revise this job description from time to time and will consult with the job holder in so doing.



Person Specification: Religious Studies Teacher

Qualifications	Desirable	Essential
A good degree in religious studies or a related subject		A
PGCE qualified or equivalent.		A
A commitment to continued professional development.		I
Experience		
Experience of teaching GCSE Religious studies	A/I	
Participation within the pastoral and broader curriculum programme.		A/I
Experience of pupil specific tracking and coordination of effective intervention strategies.		A/I
Evidence of raising student achievement		I
Strong track record of high success rates and positive value added in teaching at all Key Stages		I
Knowledge		
Excellent subject knowledge.		I
To be in alignment with the ethos of Bury Grammar School		I/A
Demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to safeguarding responsibilities		I
Skills		
A passion for innovative student learning and the ability to stretch our brightest students		I/A
Ability to be self-motivated, and a team player.		I/A
Confidence in using ICT to enhance learning within the classroom.		A/I
Interpersonal and communications skills of the highest order.		I
Commitment to the ambitious visions and values of Bury Grammar Schools		I