



High Close School

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 **Barnardo's**
South East & Anglia



**High Close School
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Principal Candidate information

Welcome to High Close School

Dear Prospective Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Principal at High Close School.

The governors are seeking to appoint an outstanding Principal for September 2019 or sooner.

We are extremely proud of High Close with its OFSTED ratings of Outstanding for Care and Good for Education. The new Principal will be expected to further improve the school's performance within the ethos of catering for individuals' specific needs.

The role of Principal at High Close is a wide-ranging leadership role encompassing Education and Care, day and residential pupils, supporting young people with a variety of complex needs, enabling them to discover their strengths, grow confidence and prepare them for life as an adult in the real world, thus enabling our young people to become responsible members of the community. The role

requires flexibility in meeting changing needs and often requires innovative solutions.

The key to success at High Close has been a strong commitment on behalf of the school community to the school's values, working together for the well-being and growth of the students.

This pack gives a brief introduction to the post and the school. The website provides further insight into life at High Close. If you are interested in applying for this post, I strongly encourage you to visit High Close and experience the school for yourself. To book a school visit please call Michelle Mackie on 0118 978 5767. Email: michelle.mackie@barnardos.org.uk.

I look forward to receiving your completed application.

Yours sincerely

Peter Rayman
Chairman of Governors
High Close School

Our School

Bringing out the best

High Close is a non-maintained residential and day special school catering for children and young people between the ages of 7 and 18 years. It forms part of the educational provision offered by Barnardo's and our pupils come from a wide geographical area covering over 20 local authorities. The school has two SEN designations from the DfE, one for Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and the other, Speech, Language and Communication Needs. All our young people have a Statement of Special Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan for complex needs which may be to do with learning, behaviour, conforming to expectations or a range of other problems such as ADHD, Attachment, Autism, Specific Learning Difficulties, Tourette's syndrome, Speech and Language difficulties or a combination of one or more of these.

High Close is a tightly-knit and positive community catering for up to 90 children and young people. We create a caring and supportive environment to bring out the best in every student and prepare them for a successful future.

High Close School is located in Wokingham, Berkshire, between Reading and Bracknell. Our school building has excellent classroom and residential provision, with extensive attractive grounds.

Mission statement

High Close School, inspired by the unique worth of every individual, strives to create opportunities to achieve full potential through the pursuit of excellence in both academic and social education.



Aims

- To raise standards so that every pupil achieves to their highest level both academically and socially
- To offer a stimulating and differentiated curriculum which encompasses the national curriculum
- To provide a safe, caring environment in which pupils are encouraged to develop and share the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary for the transition into adult life
- To create a culture in which the unique worth and achievement of individuals can be celebrated by themselves and others
- To improve the pupils' awareness of moral, cultural, social and spiritual values
- To assist the pupils in becoming independent responsible citizens through governors, staff, parents and carers working together.

Working in partnership

Teamwork is a key element of the school ethos. Staff cannot work without the participation and cooperation of pupils, parents and carers, and the essential support of the Family Resource Team and governors.

Students

Through their time with us, students improve their behaviour and develop a desire to learn. We offer a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum from KS2, in our dedicated Primary school, through to KS4, where students work towards a variety of nationally recognised qualifications, including GCSEs. Students can also access vocational courses off site and access a work experience programme.

Students enjoy a range of extra-curricular activities, including music, sport and drama and we run numerous trips throughout the year so develop learning opportunities outside the classroom. Students in Year 10 have the opportunity to do community work through the ASDAN programme.

We actively encourage student participation. The School Council has 12 student members representing the residential and day units, where issues are raised and problems discussed. Our hope is that by the time they leave, our students have the educational skills and the self-confidence necessary to make a successful start to their adult life.

Staff

As well as ensuring students get a broad and stimulating curriculum with excellent levels of care, our fully-trained staff provide emotional and practical support to a number of pupils and their families. Staff work together as a cohesive and positive team. Turnover is low, and professional development is supported. Staff benefit from a broad range of CPD and training opportunities with all residential staff gaining a Level 3 Diploma in Residential Childcare.

Parents and carers

At High Close we work as a team and a vital part of this team are parents and carers. It is very important that we have their trust and confidence and in order to gain that trust we must work positively with them. Our staff are in regular contact with parents and build up mutually respectful relationships with them.

The Family Resource Team (FRT) are a unique resource attached to the school. They offer support to parents and pupils during term-time and holiday periods to help sustain pupils' educational placements. They help in the assessment period with identifying the pupil's needs, all the way through to enabling pupils with career options.

Governors

The governors are seen as the key force linking the school with the community. Their role is vital to the smooth running of the school.

Facilities

High Close is a purpose built school with three separate modern residential units, and accommodation for up to 9 boys and girls in each. In addition to the normal classrooms, pupils benefit from the use of an art room, design technology workshop, food technology

room, ICT suite, science laboratory, library, fitness suite and sports field.

All classrooms have interactive smartboards and PCs with the use of iPads in classrooms being developed.

High Close Primary is located in a separate building on site providing a creative curriculum for KS2. The school has a large sports hall and a purpose built therapy building providing OT and sensory room facilities.



Drive us forward

As our new Principal you will maintain our excellent standards and take us to 'outstanding.' A confident leader, you will thrive on responsibility and challenge, and communicate our good work to external partners. We are currently working with Barnardo's to make sure we market the school effectively. We have an excellent reputation and want to spread the word.

The school is self-funding and you will need sound financial and strategic management experience to review business practices and generate new streams of revenue.

As Principal at High Close you will have the opportunity to lead a motivated and dedicated team to 'outstanding' and make a difference to hundreds of students.

Key school facts and statistics

Type of school	Non-maintained SEN school
Age range	7 – 16 years
Location	Wokingham
Denomination	N/A
Co-educational	Yes
Budget	Circa £5.5 million
Number of students	90
Number of boarders	25
Average class size	6
Attainment 8	2017/18 20.4
Progress 8	2017/18 -0.18
Attendance	92.35%

	Healthy Schools
School awards	Investors in Careers
	International Schools
Number of staff	110
Number of teaching staff	26
Teacher turnover rate	Low
% of newly qualified teachers	None
Entry level attainment	Generally below age related expectations
% of children on free school meals	None - all pupils are given free school meals
% SEN in the school	All pupils are statemented
% English as additional language	1 pupil