



# **Peripatetic Teacher of Singing**

## **Part time, term time only**

Required from: September 2024

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### Provided as a separate document:

- Application Form (Please also refer to the application procedure – see above)

# The Appointment

## Appointment of a Peripatetic Singing Teacher - part time, term time only

We require a Singing teacher from September 2024 to join our existing team of peripatetic teachers.

Birkdale's music is bursting at the seams. There are many bands, choirs and other ensembles in both the Senior and Prep departments, and these are co-ordinated by the Senior School and Prep School Directors of Music. The standard of performance is high, and still improving further. The successful candidate will join a team of 4 full-time and 15 part-time staff.

The successful candidate will be a proficient singer, able to teach from beginner standard to Grade 8 and beyond, and able to communicate a sense of fun and enthusiasm for music across a range of musical styles.

There will be approximately 25 pupils to teach initially, with ages ranging from 6 – 18, which equates to around 3 days of teaching. However, as a number of new pupils often start taking lessons in September, we anticipate that this number could be higher; for example, our outgoing singing teacher currently has 34 pupils, some of whom will be leaving the school in July. Our current hourly rate is £38.00 and lessons last for either 30 minutes (Prep School pupils) or 35 minutes (Senior School pupils). These fees are reviewed yearly.

Music has a high profile within the School, and both Prep and Senior pupils take part in regular public performances. Whereas we seek to stretch the most talented to the full, we also aim to encourage every pupil in the School to enjoy music, and take its study to their own level. It is important that the person appointed is able to teach pupils who are of average ability with enthusiasm, as well as taking the high fliers.

**Part-time peripatetic teachers are regarded as self-employed, and the School gives them a contract for services. A copy of the current agreement is found at the end of this document, and we would ask you to read it carefully.**

# School Information

## What sort of a school is Birkdale?

Birkdale is a very successful and friendly day school of 750 pupils from 4-18. Birkdale became a co-educational school from PP1 (Reception) to P1 (Y3) from September 2020 with girls joining the Senior School from September 2024. Since its foundation in 1904 it has grown and flourished. The school is situated in the heart of Broomhill, Sheffield and attracts pupils from Sheffield, Rotherham, the Peak District and surrounding areas.

The school has three sites in south-west Sheffield: the 11-18 (Y7 to Y13) Senior School, the 4-11 (Reception to Y6) Prep School, and the playing fields at Castle Dyke. In September 2023, S.Anselm's Preparatory School, a 3-13 boarding and day school in Bakewell, joined the Birkdale Family of Schools.

Birkdale is the only HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) school in South Yorkshire and the Head is also a member of the Society of Heads. The Heads of the Preparatory Schools are members of IAPS (The Independent Association of Preparatory Schools).

## Birkdale's Values and Vision

At Birkdale our mission is to deliver a strong academic education through outstanding individualised teaching, inspiring all pupils to achieve their personal best. Our rounded education enables pupils to pursue a wide range of interests which will equip them with skills and values to live a successful, fruitful and fulfilling life. All of this is underpinned by a strong Christian ethos, where everyone is treated with care and respect.

## Academic Excellence

To provide the best academic education for each individual pupil, which will enable them to achieve their full potential and equip them for the rest of their life. At Birkdale there is a dedicated team of outstanding academic specialists that deliver high quality expert teaching in a wide range of subjects in an aspirational and supportive environment.

## Rounded Education

At Birkdale there is a strong emphasis on enabling pupils to develop their whole selves, with the help of a broad range of activities that extend far beyond the academic curriculum. Birkdale's vision is that each pupil is educated as an individual, including spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, enabling them to be well-equipped for life.

## Christian Ethos

Birkdale is a Christian school that warmly welcomes both Christian and non-Christian staff and pupils. The Governors and Senior Leadership of the school seek to lead under the authority and love of Jesus Christ. They actively promote and expect all staff and pupils to live by the School's values which are drawn from the Christian faith: Respect; Humility; Integrity; Courage and Compassion. The Christian ethos of the school manifests itself in the particularly friendly and supportive atmosphere.

### **Why work in Sheffield?**

Birkdale is in a pleasant suburb of south west Sheffield close to the universities, 1½ miles from the city centre and 4 miles from the Peak District National Park. Visitors to the city frequently comment on Sheffield's greenness: there are in fact more trees per person here than in any other English city. Indoor and outdoor leisure facilities of all kinds - from theatres and restaurants to climbing, sailing and hill walking - could hardly be closer at hand, making the quality of life very good indeed.

### **Why work in an independent school?**

There are undoubtedly particular advantages enjoyed by independent schools and their staff. A recent survey of newly qualified teachers revealed five main attractive features of teaching in an independent school. The survey found these factors to be the more disciplined environment, the opportunity to express their passion for their subjects, good resources, smaller class sizes and greater professional freedom.

### **What are Birkdale's academic standards?**

The expectation is that nearly all pupils, having entered the school at various ages, will progress through to A level. The GCSE pass (9-4) rate is consistently around 99%, with the proportion of 9-7 grades around 60%. Twenty-eight A level subjects are offered. At A level pupils are able to study up to four subjects. A level pupils can also take a wide range of unexamined enrichment courses or the Extended Project Qualification. The A level results are very good with around 85% of entries resulting in A\*-C grades

### **What happens outside the classroom?**

The school's academic emphasis, although important, is not exclusive. The extracurricular activities programme caters for most interests; sports, music, drama and outdoor pursuits flourish, with many activities occurring in the evenings and at weekends. All members of the teaching staff are expected to contribute to the wider life of the school beyond their academic commitment, and non-teaching staff are welcome to become more involved in school life if they so choose.

**Please see the school website for additional information.**

# Terms and Conditions

## INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS TEACHER/SCHOOL AGREEMENT

An Agreement between BIRKDALE SCHOOL

and:

(The Teacher)

- 1 Birkdale School will provide premises for the Teacher to give specialist instrumental lessons to pupils. The School will make a nominal charge to the Teacher to cover heating, lighting, secretarial assistance and meals.
- 2 The Teacher is self-employed, and will have a standard written agreement with parents of pupils whom he or she teaches in common with all other peripatetic teachers.
- 3 Birkdale School will keep a list of approved teachers. No teacher who does not appear on the list will be permitted to teach instrumental lessons on the premises.
- 4 Birkdale School will pass on requests for instrumental tuition from parents to a suitable teacher. The Teacher agrees to write to the parents confirming details of these lessons, including their cost. Parents will pay for a course of lessons in advance. Either the Parent or the Teacher may cancel their agreement by giving the other six weeks' written notice.
- 5 Birkdale School will provide the Teacher with some Guidelines as to teaching pupils on the premises. Birkdale School recognises that the Teacher is a free agent and will teach in his or her own style, following his or her own course of study. Teachers will meet together to set their own rate of pay for each academic year, and keep the School informed.
- 6 Birkdale School will reserve the right whether or not to enter its pupils for music examinations, having listened to the Teacher's expert advice.
- 7 The Teacher agrees to write a short report for each pupil at the end of the Summer Term; and to attend a Parents' Evening in the Easter Term.
- 8 Birkdale School will give the Teacher six weeks' notice if for any reason the Teacher's name is to be removed from the list of approved teachers.
- 9 The Teacher agrees to give Birkdale School six weeks' notice if he or she wishes to discontinue teaching on the premises.

Signed:

(Teacher)

(for Birkdale School)

Date:

# Application Procedure

1. A cover letter **addressed to Peter Harris, Head** of no more than one side of A4 explaining why you would like this role and the skills and experiences you can bring to it (minimum font size of 11)
2. A completed Birkdale School application form which includes the names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of two referees

**Closing date for applications – Friday 19th April 2024 - noon**

**Interviews – w/c 29th April 2024**

**Email your application to: Peter Harris, Head at [Recruit@birkdalschool.org.uk](mailto:Recruit@birkdalschool.org.uk) by the closing date of (12:00 noon).**

For an informal discussion regarding the role please do not hesitate to contact Alicia Webster, HR Manager on 01142 66 8408 on ext 646.

Applicants who do not provide a Covering Letter and Application Form, as stipulated, will unfortunately not be considered. If you have any difficulties in providing this, please do not hesitate to contact the HR team at [Recruit@birkdalschool.org.uk](mailto:Recruit@birkdalschool.org.uk)

## **Pre-employment checks:**

The Birkdale Family of Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people. All applicants must be willing to undergo the relevant pre-employment checks relevant to the role.

Current legislation applying to this post includes the The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2008 and the Asylum & Immigration Act 1996. Therefore, the successful candidate will be required to prove their eligibility to work in the UK and undergo appropriate criminal record checks, including an application for an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service. Details of the documentation etc needed in connection with all the above requirements will be sent to the shortlisted candidates. Prior to taking up appointment, we will then request a declaration about medical fitness, and proof of qualifications from the successful candidate.

Under the guidance set by KCSIE Birkdale School will conduct an online search for all shortlisted candidates.

## **Equal Opportunities Statement:**

At the Birkdale Family of Schools, we strive to create a supportive and nurturing environment for all individuals. We are dedicated to promoting equality and diversity, providing a level playing field for all of our staff and pupils. We aim to foster an inclusive culture, where diversity is celebrated and where everyone feels empowered, and encouraged to reach their full potential. We are *stronger together*.