



## Primary Phase Classroom Teacher 1 Year Fixed Term Contract

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### Provided as a separate document:

- Application Form

## School Information

### What sort of a school is Birkdale?

Birkdale is a very successful and friendly independent day school for children aged from 4 to 18, amounting altogether to 770+ pupils. The School has a strong Christian ethos. Birkdale is located on 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. Birkdale is the only HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) school in South Yorkshire and the Head Master is also a member of the Society of Heads. The Head of the Prep School is a member of IAPS (the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools).

### How has Birkdale developed over time?

Having been founded in 1904, Birkdale had by the 1950s become one of the largest boys' prep schools in the North of England. The age group was expanded to 4-16 in 1978, and the sixth form was launched in 1988. The original target figure of 180 sixth formers has now been attained, including about 60 girls. This rapid evolution of the school has been supported by an ambitious programme of physical development, including the acquisition both of the Prep School site and of the playing fields, the addition of two large properties to the senior school site, the building of a sports hall, the construction of a £2m sports pavilion and most recently the completion of a £2.5 million building project at the Prep School. From September 2020, we began the process of moving from being a school for boys with a co-educational sixth form to being a fully co-educational school.

We have welcomed admissions from boys and girls who joined the Prep School, in classes between Pre-Prep 1 and Prep 1 (Reception to Year 3), in the 2020/2021 academic year. These co-educational classes will continue through the Prep and Senior School.

### Why teach in Sheffield?

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

### Why teach 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. In common with most independent schools, Birkdale offers a fully accredited statutory NQT induction programme.

### **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. Most pupils start with four academic subjects in the lower sixth leading on to three or more A levels in the upper sixth. 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. All members of the teaching staff are expected to contribute to the wider life of the school beyond their academic commitment.

### **What makes Birkdale special?**

The Christian ethos of the school manifests itself in the particularly friendly and supportive atmosphere. A good proportion of the staff are committed Christians, although as a community Birkdale is open to all, whatever they believe. We are therefore strongly committed to the care of our pupils and of our staff.

## **Appointment of Class Teacher from September 2024 – 1 Year Fixed Term Contract**

We are looking to appoint a class teacher with experience of teaching in KS1 and KS2 (any experience of teaching within EYFS is also warmly welcomed) to work in our friendly and high achieving school. In this post you will deliver our curriculum via ambitious schemes of work, providing a stimulating and caring environment for the children.

### **Main areas of responsibility**

- To deliver our curriculum via appropriate schemes of work and within the framework of national and school policies
- To be fully conversant with appropriate levels of attainment for pupils in the range of subjects that make up our curriculum
- To plan all teaching thoroughly and effectively and to produce appropriately detailed schemes of work, and other documentation
- To ensure, in liaison with the SMT, that there are adequate, and appropriate, resources for the groups taught, that classroom displays are maintained in such a way as to stimulate the educational interests of the pupils, and that the classroom itself is kept orderly and presentable
- To ensure that work is marked regularly, constructively and in accordance with school policies, and that proper records of attainment are kept.
- To keep up to date with relevant changes through attending meetings (internal, local & national), reading applicable documents, discussions with colleagues etc.
- To liaise closely with all staff in order to ensure continuity and progression right through the Pre-Prep and Prep department
- To participate in meetings with colleagues, parents, or others to discuss matters that are pertinent to the welfare or progress of the children, or that are relevant to the school generally
- To engage fully in the school appraisal system and to be active in the improvement and development of both themselves and the school
- To assume responsibility for the coordination of pastoral care of pupils in his or her class, under the guidance and direction of the SMT

### **General Responsibilities (common to all teaching staff)**

- To provide a stimulating and caring environment
- To maintain an up-to-date knowledge of pedagogy, resources and developments in your subject area(s)

- To continually reflect on personal teaching practice to ensure that his or her teaching is effective, stimulating and in line with current outstanding practice
- To mark and assess pupils' work in line with school and departmental policy and record assessments in a clear and useful way
- To be ambitious for all pupils and ensure that they produce an appropriate quantity of work which is of a high standard
- To provide an attractive and interesting classroom with changing displays of children's work
- To ensure he or she is aware of any pupils in class who have learning difficulties and what their needs are, liaising regularly with the Learning Support Team in order to meet every child's needs in and out of the classroom
- To be aware of those pupils who have been identified as either requiring support, or additional challenge, and differentiate accordingly
- To take part in staff meetings and training as required
- To accept advice and instruction from SMT with regard to departmental policies and schemes of work, maintenance of records and care of resources, and the like

### **Service to the school**

To maintain, with the rest of the staff, acceptably high standards of professional behaviour both in and out of the classroom.

- To assist in supervision duties as requested by the SMT and maintain high personal standards of appearance, behaviour and punctuality
- To complete pupil reports and assessments as and when required
- To request approval from the Head of the Prep School for any absence from school and give notice to appropriate people in good time
- To complete any tasks or duties as reasonably requested by the Head of the Prep School or members of the Senior Management Team

### **General**

This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic, forward-thinking professional to join the existing Birkdale Prep School team. We want you to not only be able to teach to a very high standard but also to be innovative and creative in your approach, and to be committed to the Birkdale whole school ethos; committed Christian preferred.

## **Application Procedure/Interview arrangements**

**Applicants should provide all of the following:**

1. A typed letter of application **addressed to Mr Burch** of no more than 1 side of A4 - font size minimum 11 explaining why you would like this role and the skills and experiences you can bring to it
2. A completed Birkdale School application form
3. The names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of two referees

**Closing date for applications – Friday 10th May 2024 (12:00 noon)**

**Interviews – Thursday 16th May 2024**

**Email your application to: Mrs S Rooper, PA to Head of the Prep School**

**[srooper@birkdaleschool.org.uk](mailto:srooper@birkdaleschool.org.uk) by the closing date of Friday 10th May @ 12:00 noon.**

**Pre-employment checks:**

Current legislation applying to this post includes the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 and the Asylum & Immigration Act 1996. Therefore, shortlisted candidates will be required to prove their eligibility to work in the UK and the chosen candidate will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS clearance. Details of the documentation needed in connection with these requirements will be sent to shortlisted candidates when they are invited to interview. Prior to appointment, we would then request a declaration about medical fitness.