

TEACHER OF RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS maternity cover

REQUIRED SEPTEMBER 2023

Thank you for showing an interest in this post. We hope that the following information about St Helen's School and description of the responsibilities of the post will help you to decide that this is an application which you wish to pursue. If you have the right mix of skills, experience and enthusiasm we would very much welcome your application.



WELCOME TO ST HELEN'S

St Helen's is a large, thriving all-through school and many of the girls who leave us at the end of Year 13 have been with us since Nursery or Reception. We are ambitious for every single girl: that she achieves her potential; that she leaves us to embark upon an exciting and fulfilling future, able to deal with whatever life throws at her with a calm, inner resolve, and a sense of fun; that she is ready to go out into the world and make a difference. St Helen's has a long tradition of academic excellence which encourages girls to pursue intellectual curiosity beyond the curriculum. Our GCSE results put us very securely into the top 50 independent schools in the country each year (28th in 2022), and we are ranked 30th for A Level's in the Telegraph League Table of UK Independent schools 2022. Sixth Formers go on to established, high-ranking universities including Oxford and Cambridge, with more than a third studying STEM subjects. However, we give our girls much more than just academic success; our Co-Curricular programme is rich and varied, and our pastoral care ensures that every girl is valued and cared for.

Within easy reach of central London, our school is set in 21 acres of lovely grounds and, just as we are proud of our students' academic achievements and their personal development, we are also proud of our facilities and buildings. We have invested over £20 million in a building programme over the last five years and have plans to do more.

St Helen's has a warm and lively atmosphere that makes it a really exciting place to work. Our staff and our girls look out for each other and encourage each other to be the best possible version of themselves. As such, you will play a vital role in supporting the school in the next stage of its journey and I look forward to receiving your application.

Alice Lucas, Headmistress

THE SCHOOL

St Helen's is an academically selective independent girls' day school of more than 1200 students aged 3-18, set in beautiful green space in Northwood, Middlesex.

It draws pupils from a wide area of north-west London, Buckinghamshire, and Hertfordshire with easy access by Underground from central London.

We want our students to be brave and true, ever intellectually curious. They will believe they can do anything. They will want to explore how they can best interact with the world around them and make a difference for the better in their own way. They will be ready for whatever the future brings.

Our aims are:

- To provide each and every girl with the opportunity and means to achieve academic excellence.
- To provide our students with the personal skills, emotional resilience, and the confidence to achieve their full potential through a varied, rich and challenging Co-Curricular programme.
- To know, value and respect all girls as individuals so as to best support them on their journey through the school.
- To ensure that the girls are ready to play a full and active part in their communities and in an interconnected digital world.

Our students achieve high academic standards, and we encourage them to develop lifelong skills in a diverse range of areas, both within and outside the curriculum, and to pursue their individual ambitions. The school is proud of its tradition of providing a balanced and forward-looking education through which its pupils can become confident, independent learners and leaders in their fields, their professions, and their communities. Attention to the individual child is at the heart of everything we do and shapes the pastoral care, teaching and learning and the co-curricular opportunities on offer at St Helen's.

THE RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

DEPARTMENT

The Department currently has four full-time specialists. We follow a programme broadly based on non-statutory guidance for the subject but developed with the specific needs in mind of St Helen's students, who come from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds. Academic standards are high, and results are excellent. Colleagues use a range of teaching methods, with an emphasis on encouraging reflection, discussion, and valuation of different philosophical and ethical approaches to religious issues.

Currently, in Years 7, 8 & 9 (Middle School), students begin with a study of creation stories from around the world, their meanings, and related lifestyles. They then study the lives of 'founders' and 'messengers' from several major religions before beginning a study of belief and practice in Judaism and Islam.

For GCSE, a large number of girls in Years 10 & 11 (Upper School) opt for GCSE (AQA) Religious Studies in Christianity and Hinduism (Paper 1) and a variety of philosophical and ethical themes (Paper 2). At St Helen's we cover the following themes: Religion and Life, Existence of God, Relationships and Human Rights. There are three groups in each year with 15-20 girls in each group.

Sixth Form students who choose Religious Studies for (OCR) AS and A2 study Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and Development in Christian Thought. Typically, 5-10 girls will study this course in Years 12 & 13. In addition, the department offers Philosophy A level (AQA), focusing on Epistemology and Moral Philosophy in YR12. In YR13, the students study Metaphysics of the Mind and Metaphysics of God. We currently have 17 girls studying Philosophy A level.

THE POST

St Helen's is looking to appoint a Full Time RPE maternity cover Teacher from September 2023 with the possibility of a permanent position for the right candidate. Early Career Teacher (ECT) applications are welcomed.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

All teachers are expected to ensure the highest standards of teaching and learning by:

- Preparing and delivering challenging and differentiated lessons
- Setting homework in accordance with the school's homework policy
- Marking work in accordance with the school's marking policy
- Using all available data and information to ensure that each student is provided with an appropriate programme of study
- Having a good understanding of the schemes of work they are following and how these fit into the overall scheme of work for the subject they are teaching
- Keeping up to date with developments in the teaching of their subject
- Take a full and active role in the School's Co-Curricular programme.

Other Duties:

- Carry out such duties as may reasonably be required by the Head of Department
- Support and promote the school's ethos, aims and objectives.
- Work towards and support the school vision and the current school objectives outlined in the School Strategic Plan
- Promote and safeguard the welfare of pupils and adhere to and ensure compliance with the School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Work within the School's health and safety policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff, pupils and visitors.
- Promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff
- Help sustain a school culture and curriculum which promotes an ethical education for all including promoting positive strategies for challenging discrimination of any kind.
- Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance, conduct and positive, courteous relations with pupils, parents, and colleagues.
- Engage actively in the performance review process.
- Undertake other reasonable duties related to the job purpose required from time to time.

THE PERSON

It is essential for the successful candidate to have the following qualifications, experience, and personal attributes:

- A good honours degree in a relevant or associated subject.
- A love of teaching and learning and a commitment to further professional development
- Be able to work well with others and develop the curriculum through collaborative planning.
- Excellent classroom practice with experience of teaching RPE across the secondary age range including KS5.
- Detailed understanding of current developments in the secondary curriculum and assessment
- Be able to lead learning in their classroom, develop each child and demonstrable passion for the subject.

It is desirable for the successful candidate to have the following qualifications, experience, and personal attributes:

- A teaching qualification such as PGCE or equivalent
- Ability to teach AQA A Level Philosophy
- Evidence of further professional development
- Knowledge and experience of how technology can be used to support learning.

BENEFITS

- Membership of the Teachers' Pensions Scheme
- Competitive pay structure with opportunities for progression up the scale
- 50% fee remission for staff children subject to spaces and entry examinations (pro rata for part time staff)
- A strong culture of professional development
- Well behaved pupils who are a pleasure to teach
- Access to the School's swimming pool and fitness suite
- Free on-site parking and excellent public transport links

- Free lunch and refreshments
- Generous occupational sick pay
- A beautiful working environment – the school is set in a conservation site in excess of 20 acres.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Closing date: **8.00am, Monday 20th March 2023**

Please apply as soon as possible as shortlisting/interviews will progress up until the closing date. Should a suitable candidate be appointed, we reserve the right to close the advert early.

Due to the volume of applicants, we receive, if you do not hear from us within 4 weeks of the closing date, please assume we will not be progressing your application further on this occasion.

The SELECTION PROCESS

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to the school where they will be interviewed by members of the Senior Leadership team, be observed teaching a lesson, have a tour of the school and meet other members of the RPE Department and wider Faculty.

St Helen's school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, as detailed in Part 3 (Safer Recruitment) of the KCSIE 2022 guidance document. Applicants will be asked for proof of right to work in the UK and undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the disclosure and barring service.

If you have any queries about this position, please contact the school at recruitment@sthelens.london

