25th January 2023

Dear Applicant,

I’m very pleased that you are interested in the vacancy we have here at St Peter’s. As you read more, I hope that you feel that this may be somewhere you would wish to teach and to develop your career, and decide to contact us to arrange a visit.

The vacancy has arisen because one of our KS2 teachers who returned from maternity leave this year, has decided that it would suit her better to reduce to just a couple of days a week. She will stay with us next year, teaching Spanish across the school during our Creative Thursday - which gives you one of your mornings of PPA - and, if you are an ECT, she will also teach your class on a Wednesday morning to provide your additional PPA time.

Whenever you recruit to a school, you obviously want to add to the strength of your teaching staff. We are aiming to have someone join who is an excellent classroom teacher. That is the prerequisite. We would obviously welcome any additional skills which you may have. We don’t currently have a musician on staff and would particularly love to have one join us. But it is your teaching skills which are the most important thing to us.

When I looked to join St Peter’s, it was described to me as ‘quirky’. It’s the ideal description. This is a wonderful little school and I fell in love with it when I first visited. Our school buildings are old. The KS1 building used to be a vicarage. The site is small and tucked away. It feels as if you are coming back in time when you are here. There is a magic at this little school which is fast disappearing from education and the large academy chains which are taking over.

The staff are genuinely amongst the nicest I have ever worked with, and if you join us, you will be coming into a very close knit, supportive and friendly team. You will need to fit in with our ethos and that means that we need someone who is very professional and prepared to work very hard for the benefit of our children and colleagues.

This is a committed group of people and just because the school is small and somewhat old fashioned, please don’t think that we aren’t very focussed on developing and improving our school to the highest standards possible for our children. But we also realise that there is far more to life than work, and far more to education than SATs.

We want our children and our staff to be happy. We all try to do everything we can for the children, but there is a balance to be struck. We are not aiming to be the top of a league table or to achieve a certain Ofsted grade. We want our school to be one where you would want to send your own child, as well as a place you are extremely happy to work.

Ideally, we would like to recruit an ECT, but we are also open to receiving applications from those of you in the first years of your career. Initially you will be teaching in Year 4. You will have an outstanding and extremely friendly and supportive key stage manager to help you settle into the school, as well as really lovely and able colleagues teaching in the years around you.

Can I ask that unless you live outside the area, you don’t apply without first visiting us? I want someone who genuinely wants to join our team here at St Peter’s. I promise that after 5 minutes here, you will be certain that either this is where you want to be, or certain that it isn’t. We all try to complete our roles here as if every child were our own. I need someone who can feel the same way and help to add another layer to the unique character of this school.

Read our website, particularly the pages relating to our values and then get in touch. I would love to show you around and to discuss the position further.

Best wishes

Jim Holditch