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Welcome

Dear candidate

I am delighted that you are interested in joining our amazing team at The Whitstable School. In recent years, the school has gone from strength to strength and is now oversubscribed. Our results have steadily improved over the last five years and parents and pupils are happy with the excellent education that the school provides. In 2024, we received 'Good' from Ofsted across all areas. [Click here](#) to view our prospectus.

Whitstable is a highly desirable seaside town which is popular with tourists in the summer and commuters from London all year round. Our children tend to walk to school and enjoy the beautiful views of the local coastline from many classrooms. There is a thriving community in Whitstable and the town is well known for its commitment to the arts, hosting a writing festival each year as well as the annual 'Oyster Festival' visited by thousands. Live music can be heard all year round and the school works with local groups to host events and workshops.

Our motto 'On TRACK to Excellence' relates to our school values. Behaviour and ethos is strong as we build towards Outstanding. Students in our successful sixth form choose from a range of A Levels and vocational courses. In recent years, pupils have visited a range of exciting international destinations.

We have created a 'knowledge curriculum with an oracy focus' and take every opportunity to encourage pupils to communicate and share ideas. Our exhibition programme is entirely pupil led - local people visit to hear students debate, perform and discuss the issues of the day. Our school has wonderful, purpose built facilities. Our Exhibition Hall showcases pupils' work from all subject areas.

At The Whitstable School, we know all of our pupils and take the time to support and guide them towards targets and goals that are realistic and personalised. Whilst grades are important, school is about so much more than academic achievement. We seek to celebrate our pupils' talents and skills at every opportunity and are proud of what we achieve together as a school community.

As a new colleague, we will make you feel welcome. You will have a buddy and a 'Menu of Learning Opportunities' including CPD for induction, the chance to talk to senior colleagues about the work they do in school and opportunities to participate in learning walks to capture examples of great practice. Our Schools Direct programme has record numbers of enthusiastic participants and there are programmes of CPD for staff at all stages of their careers. We have a nursery on-site for child care arrangements.

I look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to know more.



Alex Holmes
Headteacher



Simon Cox
School Improvement Executive

Job Description

Job Title: Classteacher (Secondary)
Grade: MPS/UPS
Responsible to: Headteacher

Purpose of the job

The current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document describes the general professional duties which teachers are expected to undertake in the course of their employment.

Teachers are also expected to perform particular duties as may reasonably be assigned to them by the Headteacher.

For the purpose of this general job description these particular duties are:

Curriculum

- To plan and prepare courses.
- To continuously review teaching methods, schemes of work and resources as necessary.
- To advise and co-operate with the line-manager, other teachers and the Senior Leadership Team on the preparation and development of courses of study, teaching materials and resources, teaching programmes, methods of teaching, assessment and pastoral arrangements.
- To participate in meetings of the school which relate to the curriculum for the school or the administration or organisation of the school, including pastoral arrangements.
- To take part as required in the review, development and management of activities relating to the curriculum, organisation and pastoral functions of the school.

Professional Development etc.

- To participate in any arrangement within an agreed national framework for the performance management of performance and that of other teachers.
- To participate in arrangements for further training and professional development as a teacher.
- To contribute as appropriate to the selection for appointment and professional development of other teachers and support staff, including the induction and assessment of new and newly qualified teachers.
- To co-ordinate or manage the work of other teachers as appropriate.
- To manage or supervise support staff as necessary.

Pupils:

- To plan and prepare lessons.
- To teach pupils assigned, including setting and prompt marking of work carried out by pupils in school or elsewhere.
- To set relevant and sufficient homework, according to the homework timetable, and to ensure prompt marking of the homework or coursework.
- To assess, record and report on the development, progress and attainment of pupils, according to departmental and whole-school policies.
- To participate in the arrangements for preparing pupils for public examinations. To assess pupils for the examinations and record and report these assessments.
- To promote the general progress and wellbeing of individual pupils and of any class or group assigned.
- To provide guidance and advice to pupils on educational and social matters and on their future education and careers, including information about the sources of more expert advice on specific questions.
- To make records of, and reports on, the personal and social needs of pupils.
- To provide or contribute to oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual pupils and/or groups of pupils.
- To maintain good order and discipline among pupils and to safeguard their health and safety both when they are authorised to be on the school premises and when they are engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere.

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- To attend assemblies and to supervise tutor groups while in assembly, unless the teacher wishes to opt out of any religious aspect of assembly where this is against their beliefs.
- To accurately register pupils at a.m. and p.m. registration and during lessons and at any other time necessary before, during or after school.
- To provide, as a Tutor, the individual contact, knowledge and support for pupils within the allocated tutor group and to liaise with parents and other staff accordingly, as appropriate.
- To contribute to the personal and social education of pupils generally and specifically through the teaching of the PSE programme to the tutor group.
- To support all colleagues in ensuring that high standards of uniform and behaviour are maintained within the school.
- To work with other colleagues to ensure that there is a consistent approach in ensuring pupils abide by the school's code of conduct and the same consistency in dealing with pupils who do not conform to school rules.
- To make relevant records and reports as necessary.

Parents and the wider community:

- To communicate and consult with the parents of pupils when required.
- To communicate and co-operate with other persons and outside agencies as required.
- To participate in meetings arranged for any of the purposes described above.
- To foster good relationships with parents.

Resources and Accommodation

- To take responsibility for the care of resources, accommodation and fabric of the school, particularly when pupils are present.
- To allocate, as appropriate, equipment and materials in connection with his/her teaching.

Policies and Staff Handbook

- To ensure that all departmental and school policies are understood and complied with.
- To ensure that they have read and understands the contents of the Staff handbook and complies with all the requirements detailed in the handbook.

Administration

- To participate in administrative and organisational tasks related to the above duties.

Health and Safety

- To accept responsibility for own safety – as well as that of the pupils and colleagues with whom you work.
- To undertake Health and Safety training offered.
- To be aware of Health and Safety issues and the hazards associated with manual handling tasks, including the cumulative effect of repeated manual handling operations.
- To follow any control measures and care plans required by the generic or individual risk assessments.
- To be familiar with and use available equipment safely.
- To be aware of your own limitations and inform your employer of any circumstances that may alter ability to perform manual handling tasks.
- To report accidents and hazards.
- To report deficiencies in the employer's Health and Safety protection arrangements.

Job Description

Working Time

The following is extracted from the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document.

- A teacher employed full-time shall be available for work for 195 days in any school year, of which 190 days shall be days which they may be required to teach pupils in addition to carrying out other duties; and those 195 days will be specified by the head teacher
- Such a teacher shall be available to perform duties at such times and such places as may be specified by the head teacher for 1265 hours in any school year, those hours to be allocated reasonably throughout those days in the school year on which they are required to be available for work.
- Such a teacher shall work such additional hours as may be needed to enable them to discharge effectively their professional duties, including, in particular, the marking of pupils' work, the writing of reports on pupils and the preparation of lessons, teaching materials and teaching programmes. The amount of time required for this purpose beyond the 1265 hours and the time outside the 1265 specified hours at which duties shall be performed shall not be defined by the governors but shall depend upon the work needed to discharge the teacher's duties.

A summary of the directed time for teachers as allocated by the Headteacher is detailed in the staff handbook.

The Working Time Regulations 1998

All teachers are subject to the EU Working Time Regulations which are described in paragraph 114 of DfEE Circular No. 12/99.

The duties / responsibilities of this post may vary from time to time according to the changing needs of the Trust services.

Person Specification

Qualifications	Essential / Desirable
Qualified Teacher Status or willingness to work towards this.	E
A Degree	E
Experience	
Teaching of specialist subject across all three key stages.	E
Skills and Abilities	
Ability to communicate positively with children.	E
Ability to work supportively and collaboratively within a team.	E
Ability to reflect upon and improve your teaching practice.	E
Knowledge	
Knowledge of the National Curriculum.	E
Understanding of the issues surrounding the safeguarding of children and commitment to child welfare and safety.	E
A good understanding of the importance of literacy and numeracy across the curriculum.	E
A good understanding of how to assess pupil progress.	E
A good understanding of how to plan and assess work for vulnerable groups, such as SEN pupils, pupil premium pupils and gifted and talented pupils.	D
Personal Qualities	
Enthusiasm for your specialist subject.	E
Ability to manage own workload.	E
A commitment to own continuing professional development.	E



Working at The Whitstable School

Benefits

- Discounts with local and national retailers, cinemas and restaurants
- Teachers Pension Scheme – with a generous employer contribution
- Enhanced Maternity Pay
- Employee Referral Recruitment Incentive
- Access to training and development
- On-site Parking

Well-Being

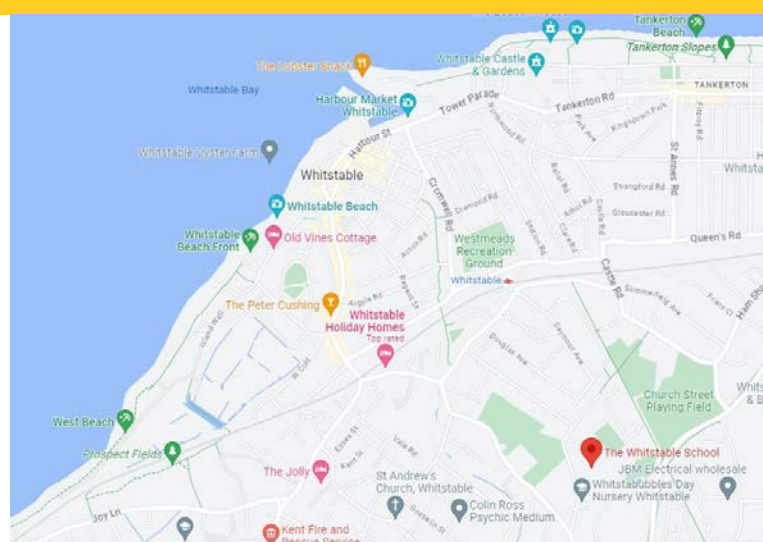
- Employee Assistance Programme – Wellbeing and advice
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Well-being Day

Finding Us

The Whitstable School
Bellevue Rd, Whitstable CT5 1PX

01795 905989
recruitment@swale.at

Closest Train Station: Whitstable Station
Approx. 15 minute walk





Headteacher's Vision

The Whitstable School, under the stewardship of its Headteacher Mr Alex Holmes, is charting an ambitious course towards excellence while ensuring inclusivity every step of the way. As a new era unfolds, the school stands ready to redefine its role in the community – not merely as an educational institution but as a hub of innovation, opportunity and personal growth.

Situated in the heart of Whitstable, Kent, the secondary school's fresh vision aims to cater to the needs of its current students, as well as inspire future generations of prospective students.

At the heart of Mr Holmes' vision is a commitment to provide a holistic educational experience – one that recognises the diverse talents and aspirations of every student. Central to this ethos is the belief that academic achievement should be complemented by a robust creative and vocational pathway. Thus, the school is expanding its GCSE offerings to include construction and bolstering its investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics enrichment.

The Whitstable School is also broadening its A-level curriculum, introducing a suite of exciting new qualifications to accommodate the evolving needs of its student body, while a partnership agreement with Football Futures underscores the school's dedication to nurturing regional football talent.

Acknowledging the impact of extracurricular activities, Mr Holmes has introduced new roles such as Enrichment Coordinator, aimed at diversifying the range of trips and rewards available to students. This commitment to broadening horizons and celebrating success extends to the very fabric of the school's culture, with an emphasis on fostering a supportive environment where every student can thrive.

Through a redesigned curriculum model, The Whitstable School is prioritising the development of leadership skills, ensuring that students across all year groups have the opportunity to lead, inspire and make a tangible impact within their community.

Headteacher Mr Alex Holmes said: "It has been a real pleasure to become the new Headteacher of The Whitstable School and to be welcomed so warmly by the pupils, parents and local community. The school is now fully embarking on its next phase of school improvement to ensure it enhances its position as the district's best performing non-selective school.

"I am very much looking forward to welcoming the community into the school and working closely with local primary schools, businesses and charities to share resources and celebrate the work and successes of our brilliant young people."



The Application Process

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the appropriate application form. All sections of the form which are applicable to you must be completed as clearly and fully as possible.

Please note CVs will not be accepted in place of a completed application form.

Application forms can be found on the Kent-Teach website and applications should be made via this route. Alternatively, completed [SAT Application Forms](#) can be sent by email to natasha.kingsford@swale.at or by post to the following address:

Ms N Kingsford
The Whitstable School
Bellevue Road
Whitstable
Kent
CT5 1PX

The Shortlisting and Interview Process

After the closing date for this post a panel will conduct the shortlisting process. You will be selected for interview based entirely on the contents of your application form, it is therefore important that you fully read the Job Description and Person Specification prior to completing your form.

After the shortlisting process has been completed candidates who have been selected for interview will be informed, and provided with full details of the interview programme. If you have not heard from us within 10 working days of the closing date for this post, you have, on this occasion, unfortunately been unsuccessful.

All candidates who are invited to interview must bring the following original documents:

- Documentary evidence of right to work in the UK
- Visual identification which includes a photograph, usually a passport or driving licence
- Documentary proof of current name and address
- Where appropriate any documentation evidencing change of name
- Certificates of educational or professional qualifications that are necessary or relevant for the post

Conditional Offer

Any offer of employment will be conditional upon a number of formalities, including, but not restricted to the following:

- Verification of right to work in the UK
- Receipt of two satisfactory references
- Verification of identity checks and qualifications
- Satisfactory enhanced DBS check, as well as additional checks that may be appropriate if you have worked or been resident overseas in the previous five years
- Satisfactory pre-employment health clearance
- A check against the Teacher Service Register for any teaching prohibition or restriction orders where you are applying for a teaching role or if you have previously held a teaching role in past employment.



Safeguarding

Our Trust has robust safer recruitment procedures to help prevent unsuitable people from working with children.

All individuals working in any capacity at our Trust will be subjected to safeguarding checks in line with the statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education.

Retention of information

All information is stored securely and any information supplied by unsuccessful candidates will be destroyed through the confidential waste system after six months from the date of the interview, in accordance with our retention of records procedure.

Privacy Notice

Please refer to the Trust's Privacy Notice for job applicants for information about how we use any personal data about them we hold.

This can be downloaded here: <https://www.swale.at/page/?title=Privacy+Notice&pid=33>

Overview of Swale Academies Trust

Since its creation in September 2010, Swale Academies Trust has developed into one of the South East's leading Multi-Academy Trusts.

Our purpose is to develop good and outstanding schools and ensure the rapid improvement of schools with challenges.

As the Trust has grown and developed, we continue to ensure that effective school support and leadership is maintained. The Trust's approach to school improvement is based on a combination of CPD, capacity building and collaboration, with a relentless focus on teaching and pupil progress, in order to effect rapid and sustained improvements in outcomes for young people.

The Trust is an organisation which is driven by the belief that all children deserve a good quality education where they are seen as individuals and above all are exceptionally well cared for.

Swale Academies Trust - Schools

Primary

- Beaver Green Primary School, Ashford
- Istead Rise Primary School, Istead Rise
- James Dixon Primary School, Bromley
- Langney Primary Academy, Eastbourne
- Parkland Infant School, Eastbourne
- Parkland Junior School, Eastbourne
- Regis Manor Primary School, Sittingbourne
- Shinewater Primary School, Eastbourne
- South Borough Primary School, Maidstone
- Westlands Primary School, Sittingbourne

Secondary

- Meopham Secondary School, Meopham
- Peacehaven Community School, Peacehaven
- The Eastbourne Academy, Eastbourne
- The Holmesdale School, Snodland
- The North School, Ashford
- The Sittingbourne School, Sittingbourne
- The Turing School, Eastbourne
- The Whitstable School, Whitstable
- Westlands Secondary School, Sittingbourne

Central Support Services

- Human Resource Team
- Finance Team
- ICT Team
- Estate Management
- Governance and Communications

