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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



# Job Description

**Job Title:** Attendance Officer  
**Grade:** SAT C  
**Responsible to:** Line Manager

**Purpose of the Job:**

To undertake all administrative tasks associated with the recording, management and monitoring of attendance; working with individual pupils and their families to improve attendance.

**Key duties and responsibilities:**

- To ensure the electronic registration system is updated daily investigating any missing data with class teachers.
- To record student absences and late arrivals on BromCom, maintaining accurate attendance records.
- To act as the initial point of contact for parents regarding attendance issues - providing routine advice as required and explaining attendance expectations to parents in accordance with school policies.
- To make initial enquiries with parents / carers regarding unexplained absences / lateness – including first day calling / texting.
- To work with individual students and their families regarding strategies to improve attendance / punctuality – ensuring records are kept and feedback provided to the Headteacher and other staff as appropriate.
- To monitor the attendance of pupils referring concerns to the Headteacher.
- To support the Headteacher at formal meetings with parents to discuss attendance concerns – taking follow up actions as agreed.
- To promote incentives for improving attendance within the school – including attendance certificates and prizes.
- To process and action pupil holiday requests.
- To issue routine correspondence to parents regarding attendance / absence requests in accordance with school procedure.
- To assist the Headteacher with the administration of referrals to the education welfare service / issuing of penalty notices.
- To undertake routine liaison with external agencies regarding attendance – e.g. Education Welfare Officer (EWO) / Attendance Service.
- To collate attendance data producing routine reports and prepare statistical returns regarding attendance.

**In additional all members of the school community are expected to:**

- Display a commitment to child protection and safeguarding. Report to the headteacher any behaviour by colleagues, parents and children which raises concern.
- Comply with policies and procedures relating to child protection, health, safety and security, confidentiality and data protection, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person.

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

# Person Specification

Qualifications & Experience	Essential / Desirable
NVQ Level 2/3.	E
Good general education, including at least grade C GCSE English and Maths (or equivalent).	E
Willingness to undertake appropriate training and professional development.	E
Clean current driving licence and access to a vehicle.	E
Qualification related to working with children and young people.	D
First Aid training.	D
Experience of working in an educational environment.	D
Knowledge & Skills	
Understanding of confidentiality.	E
Good IT skills.	E
Knowledge of administration procedures.	E
Adaptable, pro-active, self-starter and ability to manage a large variety of situations.	E
An effective communicator with excellent interpersonal, persuasion and negotiation skills.	E
Able to identify work priorities and manage own workload within agreed parameters.	E
Able to maintain accurate work records.	E
An understanding of issues that may affect a student's ability to attend school.	D
Knowledge and practical experience of BromCom.	D
Knowledge of Schoolcomms and Google Suite.	D
Demonstrable knowledge of attendance regulations.	D
Knowledge of Child Protection / Safeguarding Procedures.	D
Personal Qualities	
Strong work ethic and capacity for hard work.	E
Able to deal appropriately and effectively with children, parents, staff and professionals from outside agencies at all levels.	E
Ability to cope with stressful / conflict situations and be resilient.	E
Ability to listen effectively.	E
Ability to use own initiative and work alone when necessary.	E
Ability to produce reports and analyse data.	D



# Working at The Whitstable School

## Benefits

- Local Government Pension Scheme – with a generous employer contribution
- Salary Sacrifice Shared Cost AVC (Additional Voluntary Contribution) Scheme
- Enhanced Maternity Pay
- Employee Referral Recruitment Incentive
- Discounts with local and national retailers, cinemas and restaurants
- Access to training and development

## Well-Being

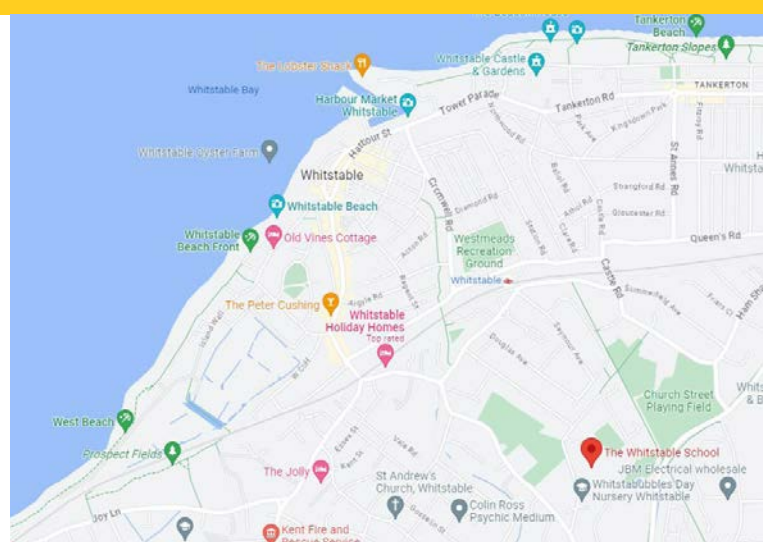
- Employee Assistance Programme – Wellbeing and advice
- Cycle to Work scheme

# 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](mailto: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.

Swale Academies Trust schools will conduct an online check of shortlisted candidates in line with the Keeping Children Safe In Education guidelines.

### **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.

# 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



