



School Receptionist

Candidate Pack

Opportunity through community

Dear candidate,

Thank you for expressing an interest in this position. The Reach Free School is an 11 to 18 year-old school in Rickmansworth that serves pupils of all backgrounds and abilities. It was opened in September 2013 by teachers and local parents and continues to go from strength to strength.

Academic achievement, our school community, and a love of learning are key to this school's ethos, and we take great pride in knowing all of our pupils and what makes them the individuals they are. Everywhere you turn in this school, pupils and staff work together to achieve the very best.

Our GCSE and A Level results are strong, we have a positive local reputation, and we remain innovative in our approach. All of this ensures that future generations of young people have access to an excellent, non-selective school right in the heart of their community.

Everyone involved in the school wants the very best for our pupils, and there are incredibly high expectations regarding their learning, behaviour, and the contribution they make to the school. We expect all pupils to:

- Commit their best efforts to all that they do
- Work with their teachers to exceed their goals
- Support each other to achieve their potential
- Demonstrate exemplary behaviour in all that they do
- Take pride in their school and its community within its walls and beyond
- Enjoy learning

The school plays an active role in the community, working with local businesses, supporting local events and providing a hub for local services. Pupils are involved in the school's wider responsibilities, developing leadership and decision-making skills, communication and collaboration and independent, self-led learning.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in October 2024, who confirmed that effective action had been taken to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection. As such, the school has elements that are outstanding and others that are firmly good. Attracting the very best staff is the most effective way to continue our development, which is important as we enter the school's second decade.

If you are passionate about contributing to the continued development of our unique school, then we look forward to receiving your application.

Richard Booth
Headteacher



The Ethos of the School

The Reach Free School's ethos and curriculum are designed, first and foremost, to meet the needs of the young people in the local area. The core of our ethos is to personalise the education of every pupil so that they can maximise their potential and realise their dreams and aspirations.

We believe in the following principles:

Achievement – Realised through recognising the individual needs of every learner

Community – Embracing, utilising and supporting the local community for the benefit of all learners and building partnerships to support teaching and learning

Enjoyment – A commitment to innovative practice and the application of technology to develop enthusiasm for learning

Features of The Reach Free School

A Smaller School – With 750 pupils, The Reach Free School is a close-knit environment, ensuring a strong sense of community.

Modern facilities - In September 2018, the school moved to its £19 million new home with first-class facilities throughout.

'Outstanding' Judgements - In October 2024, the school was inspected by Ofsted, confirming that effective action had been taken to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection. Here, the school received outstanding judgements for the 'Effectiveness of leadership and management' and 'Personal development, behaviour and welfare'. Many of the strengths identified in 2019, remain in place, including "Pupils' experiences at this school are exceptional" and "pupils' behaviour is exemplary".

Transition – From September 2023, we have reverted to four classes in Year 7, having taken an additional form of entry in 2022. Each Year 7 class benefits from their own Home Room and a dedicated Assistant Teacher for the first year. This Assistant Teacher is the form tutor for this class, and supports learning in a range of subjects for their pupils. Together, these help ease the transition from primary to secondary school for the children and help us understand each child as an individual.

Focus on English and Mathematics – The school focuses on English and Mathematics, the building blocks for success in other subjects. Literacy and mathematics pervade teaching and learning at the school, and all teachers play a role in developing pupils' skills in these areas.

Reach Beyond – This is the school's all-encompassing wider curriculum, which includes a reading programme for key stage 3, a targeted academic support programme from year 10, our REACH Time PSHE programme and community projects, where pupils work together on local projects. Reach Beyond helps develop our pupils into creative, confident, and proactive individuals. At Sixth Form, we have a Reach Out programme for students as they prepare for life beyond school.

Technology-Rich – All pupils are provided with a school device, and teachers are encouraged to use the latest technology to teach creatively

Expectations

At The Reach Free School, we expect our staff to:

- Approach their role with enthusiasm and dedication
- Be committed to securing the best outcomes for the school
- Have a passion for education and be open to innovative approaches in everyday aspects of school life
- Lead their areas of responsibility and support the admin and premises teams, as required
- Be well organised and have excellent communication skills
- Be flexible in their approach to work, adapting to new challenges

In return, we will offer you:

- A happy and supportive working environment with high expectations and standards
- Access to the latest technology to assist in developing your teaching and learning
- Competitive salaries based on skills and experience
- A staff committee that organises various social events
- A comprehensive employee assistance programme
- A £500 new employee referral scheme
- Free parking
- A Cycle to Work Salary Sacrifice Scheme
- Up to five days paid leave in compassionate, emergency or exceptional circumstances. For example, our staff can see their children perform in assemblies or shows.
- A network of outstanding practitioners to collaborate with and learn from, both in school and across the Watford Partnership for Teacher Training
- A comprehensive professional development programme together with opportunities to further develop your career



Job Description

Job Title:	School Receptionist
Reports to:	Admin and Finance Manager
Hours:	Part-time, Term Time only (10.30am until 4.30pm)
Salary Range:	Academy Trust Scale based on skills and experience (£21,306 to £26,176 FTE)
Start Date:	As soon as possible

Overall Responsibilities:

As the first point of contact for visitors, parents, staff and pupils, the school receptionist plays a key role in creating a professional impression of the school. This position is essential in ensuring a friendly and efficient reception service, while supporting a range of administrative tasks to support the smooth running of the school. Responsibilities include handling enquiries, coordinating meetings, maintaining records, and supporting safeguarding procedures, all carried out with discretion, reliability and a commitment to the school's values.

Main duties

The Receptionist will:

- Provide a warm, welcoming and courteous reception service to all visitors, staff, pupils and students
- Operate the school's main telephone switchboard, handling and directing enquiries appropriately
- Monitor and manage the school's admin email inbox, ensuring timely responses and distribution of messages
- Manage all incoming and outgoing post, including franking and posting
- Assist in preparing and updating room bookings for peripatetic music lessons, visitors, and interventions on Arbor
- Maintain the school's Inventory system for pupil, guest, and staff sign-in, ensuring visitors receive identification badges and that safeguarding procedures are followed
- Monitor the signing in and out of pupils, including all late arrivals and Sixth Form students
- Prepare and print relevant pupil passes (e.g. medical, time out), Sixth Form badges, and new staff ID badges as required
- Coordinate the receipt of parent-delivered items or medication and ensure prompt handover to Pupil Services
- Keep up-to-date manual fire evacuation registers
- Act as Fire Warden when required, following school protocols in the event of a fire, evacuation or lockdown
- Book meeting rooms and allocate appropriate spaces for school meetings and events, manage bookings for minibus use and update entries in the school calendar
- Monitor and record staff minibus key collections, ensuring the log is accurately maintained
- Place orders with suppliers, receive and check deliveries, reconcile delivery notes and distribute items as needed
- Produce named labels for exercise books, including ad hoc requests

- Assist with pupil filing as part of the wider Admin team, ensuring records are accurate, securely maintained and distributed as required
- Archive pupil records as required
- Provide general administrative and reprographics support to school staff as required
- Provide administrative support to other members of the Admin and Finance team during staff absences
- Ensure the telephone answerphone is switched on and night mode is activated at the end of the day
- Ensure the reception area is clear and tidy at the end of the day

Wider Responsibilities

- Take part in the school's performance management process
- Attend training sessions as necessary to support professional development
- Provide reception support for evening and weekend school events on a rota basis
- Carry out other tasks commensurate with their role, as directed by the Admin and Finance Manager or Senior Leadership Team

All staff are encouraged to contribute their skills, ideas, and enthusiasm for the benefit of the whole school community. They should be prepared to take on responsibilities beyond their core duties and support efforts to promote the school, such as open evenings and community events. All staff agree to undergo an enhanced DBS check.

Job context

The school welcomes individuals of a high professional standard and shares the responsibility with each member of staff for continual review and the development of expertise.

All members of staff make a valuable contribution to the school's development and, therefore, to the progress of all pupils.

The Academy Trust will endeavour to make any necessary and reasonable adjustments to the job and working environment to enable access to employment opportunities for disabled applicants or to support the continued employment of any employee who develops a disabling condition.

Review of Duties

The specific duties attached to any individual member of staff are subject to annual review and may be changed after discussion with the employee.

Salary

The Reach Free School operates its own pay scale, which currently exceeds those used by other schools in the fringe area. The salary range for this position is between £21,306 and £26,176 FTE and will be determined by the candidate's experience, skills, and suitability. This is based on daily working hours of 10.30am until 4.30pm, during term time only.

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and Training	GCSE Maths and English (grade A*-C/ 9-4) or equivalent	- Relevant qualifications in office administration - First Aid Qualified
Knowledge and Experience	- General clerical/administrative work - Using IT systems to compile reports, as well as analysing statistical data for monitoring purposes - Knowledge and understanding of school systems - Use of relevant equipment and resources in a school environment - Knowledge of relevant policies/ codes of practice and awareness of relevant legislation relating to schools	
Skills and Abilities	- Ability to relate well to children and adults - Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, especially with pupils, parents, guardians and carers, staff, external agencies and other professionals - Work constructively as part of a team, understanding school roles and responsibilities and your own position within these - Able to use own initiative and work alone when necessary - Ability to work collaboratively - Ability to overcome communication barriers with pupils - Ability to listen effectively - Ability to use own initiative and work alone when necessary - Demonstrate an ability to cope with stressful / conflict situations - Commitment to The Reach Free School's core values of achievement, community, and enjoyment (ACE) - Confident use of technology	- Ability to use IT systems effectively - Ability to identify own training and development needs and co-operate with the means to address these

	Essential	Desirable
Other qualities	• Awareness of health and safety requirements related to the role • A flexible approach to working patterns and expectations, understanding the evolving nature of the school and role • A desire to succeed in all aspects of the job • A commitment to the promotion of health, safety and safeguarding of children	• A flexible approach to working patterns and expectations, understanding the evolving nature of the role and school and a willingness to work additional hours, if required

How to apply

Completed application forms, along with recruitment monitoring forms, should be submitted via My New Term. Once your application has been received, it will be acknowledged by email.

In compliance with Safer Recruitment guidelines, CVs will not be accepted.

Potential candidates may contact The Reach Free School with any questions on 01923 711517 or via email at kmckay@reachfree.co.uk.

Safer Recruitment

The Reach Free School is dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff to share this commitment. To ensure we fulfil this responsibility, all candidates will undergo a thorough selection process designed to deter and identify unsuitable applicants. Details of this process are outlined below. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Disclosure

This role involves significant access to children, and any appointment will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for previous criminal convictions. Candidates must disclose any convictions, cautions, or bind-overs, including 'spent convictions' as defined under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (2013 and 2020), prior to appointment. Failure to disclose relevant information may result in termination of employment. However, a criminal background will not automatically exclude individuals from employment; each case will be considered based on the nature and timing of the offence(s).

Online searches

Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) requires schools to conduct online searches on shortlisted candidates as part of the suitability assessment process. The school will also carry out a prohibition-from-teaching check. Non-disclosure may lead to termination of your employment.



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