



Head of Classroom Music – Job Share 0.3
September 2026

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A message from the Principal of King's Ely

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in coming to work at King's. I hope that what you read here will excite you and chime well with your ambitions so that you will want to apply for this position.

King's Ely is an extraordinary place to work: a family of schools educating around 1350 boys and girls aged 2-18 in our Nursery and Pre-Preparatory, Prep and Senior Schools in Ely in Cambridgeshire, and up to age 11 at Fairstead House School in Newmarket. Most of our pupils come from Ely, Cambridge and surrounding areas, while about 200 pupils are boarders from all over the world. King's employs about 540 people in diverse roles from teaching and pastoral care to administration, finance, IT, site services and maintenance and catering.

We often talk about 4 'P's which make King's special: our fundamental **purpose**, unchanged in over 1000 years, in providing the best education and foundation for life we can for the children in our care; our **practice**, ensuring the very highest standards of professionalism and excellence in every area of school life and our commitment to everyone's wellbeing, development and training to achieve this; as an exceptional **place** to grow up and work in with our beautiful 75-acre campus adjacent to Ely Cathedral and the wonderful historical, environmental, spiritual and technological resources available to us; and most of all our **people**, the outstanding and diverse community of pupils, staff and supporters whose commitment, experience and skills are the root of our success.

We welcome all types to join this wonderful mix, and I thank you in advance for the time and thought which I know goes into preparing each application; we really appreciate it and give every application the careful consideration it deserves. I look forward to hearing from you and, I hope, meeting you in due course.

With best wishes,
John Attwater

About the School

Purpose, Ethos and Values

King's Ely exists to make the most and best of childhood, and in particular to give the very best education, opportunities and pastoral care to as diverse a community of children as we can. In doing so we aim to prepare each one to live positive, productive, successful and fulfilled lives, for the betterment of themselves and the world around them. We achieve this through the operation of a family of schools centred around a 2-19 co-educational day and boarding school in Ely, aiming to draw fully on our exceptional environment, history, physical, cultural, spiritual and human resources in doing so.

History

King's Ely can trace its origins from at least 970AD, making it one of the oldest schools in Europe. The School was first established to educate the choristers of the worshipping community of Ely and throughout our history we have maintained strong links with Ely Cathedral.

In 1541, King Henry VIII founded a College of Canons at Ely Cathedral to replace the monks whose monastery has been dissolved in 1539 and the School received its Royal Charter, later becoming known as "The King's School".

King's Ely Today

In recent years King's has expanded rapidly, becoming co-educational in 1970, and today educating around 1100 children aged 2-18 at Ely, including 185 boarders.

The school is divided into three sections: King's Ely Senior (age 13-18) and King's Ely Prep (age 7-13), which occupy adjacent campuses and benefit from shared facilities, and King's Ely Acremont and Nursery (ages 2-6) which have their own self-contained campus about 400m from the main site. Additionally, Fairstead House School in Newmarket (for pupils aged 1-11) joined the King's Ely family of schools in 2022.

The main campus extends to around 75 acres and contains buildings spanning the thirteenth to twenty-first centuries, including many of the historic monastic buildings adjacent to Ely Cathedral as well as more recent, purpose-built facilities and almost 40 acres of playing fields.

King's Ely plays a key role in the local community. We are one of Ely's largest employers and contribute greatly to the local economy, and we also continue to educate the choristers of Ely Cathedral. King's Ely also offers a number of bursaries to enable pupils from all walks of life to benefit from the education it offers.

In its recent ISI Inspection (March 2025), King's Ely was found to meet or to exceed all regulatory standards. In addition, the Inspectors judged the School to have a *significant strength* in the way in which its high quality pastoral care is interwoven with a dynamic enrichment programme. This enables "pupils of all ages to develop their independence, intellectual curiosity, creativity and socialization particularly well".

The School is rightfully proud of the Inspection. It is testament to the community spirit of King's Ely and the commitment and respect shown each day by pupils, staff and their families.

King's Ely is affiliated with the HMC, Society of Heads, IAPS, the Boarding Schools' Association and the Choir Schools' Association.

The Music Department

Music is an important part of life at King's throughout the school, which is home to both Ely Cathedral Boys' Choir (Ages 7-13) and Ely Cathedral Girls' Choir (Ages 11-16) and a centre of musical excellence regionally. We engender an appreciation of music in all forms as part of the holistic education we provide for pupils; the fulfilment and joy experienced as both an individual and within groups are features of our music-making. Our focus is on developing practical musicianship, theory and technical excellence, at whatever level; and to provide challenges and opportunities to enable musicians of all abilities to fulfil their potential.

As such, King's has a proud record of producing musicians of note among its alumni. Scholarships are offered at 13+ and 16+, and exceptionally at other ages, which may be augmented by means-tested bursaries. There is a specific programme for Music Scholars and Award holders.

Facilities for music are excellent. The school enjoys regular use of Ely Cathedral (The Ship of the Fens) for concerts, recitals and services, the Hayward Theatre provides a large auditorium which is in regular use for choral, instrumental and theatrical performances. Adjacent is the Recital Hall, within the purpose-built Gibson Music School, which is at the heart of the school's campus. Organists are encouraged to make use of the three organs the school has access to in its two chapels and Ely Cathedral. A dedicated wing of the King's Ely Prep building is devoted to class, ensemble and individual music teaching. The Morbey Hall in the Prep School building is in regular use as a venue for performances of all kinds. Prep assemblies and services all contain musical elements and these are held in both Ely Cathedral and The Morbey Hall each week.

At King's Ely Prep each class or form has a curriculum music lesson per week. Choristers receive additional music theory teaching as part of their weekly schedules. Musicians of all levels are encouraged to develop their interests through a series of instrument tasters and master classes which are provided for them as part of the schemes of work. The learning of instruments is encouraged within the school generally. 30 visiting music teachers deliver over 250 individual music lessons each week at King's Ely Prep and there are currently 27 ensembles and groups on offer each week to the pupils. Orchestra, Wind Band, King's Voices and the inclusive choirs for children in Years 3 to 6 add to the extensive range of opportunities pupils have access to.

Opportunities to tour, perform or contribute to the wider life of the surrounding community are welcomed. Recent tours have included visits to Belgium and France for choirs and the Junior band. The Junior choirs have sung Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral and the children have participated in a range of outreach and partnership concerts and workshops, including the high profile King's Choral Day. In addition both the Cathedral Choirs enjoy regular opportunities to tour internationally. Musical Theatre is a popular element of the school's provision and many Prep children have enjoyed combining their musical skills with their passion for performance through contributing to one of the spectacular productions. Recent musical theatre productions for the Prep pupils have included Lion King, Seussical the Musical, Cats and Oliver.

About the Role

We are seeking a Head of Classroom Music in a job share capacity. This role will be shared with the current Head of Classroom Music. Since this is a job share, your ability to provide clear handovers and work in sync with your counterpart is key to making this role a success. This is a 30% timetable and would ideally be over 1.5 days a week.

The postholder's duties will involve, but will not necessarily be limited to:

Lead

- Curriculum outreach to support music coordinators
- Day to day supporting of VMT team whilst in KEP – rooms, lesson allocations, parental communication etc.
- Teach KS2 lessons
- Teach some KS3 lessons & lead KS3 curriculum/teaching resources for other KES colleagues
- VMT's - Planning, evaluation & assessment (tracking of progress)
- Lead and oversee curriculum KS2 & KS3
- Work with KEA to ensure continuous provision from KS1 to KS2
- Work with KES to ensure continuous provision into KS4 from KS3
- Schedule and oversee ABRSM exams with Performing Arts administrator
- Work with Performing Arts administrator to organise and arrange tuition (in liaison with VMT team)
- Line manage & weekly meeting (pastoral & development)

Support

- Promote and oversee inclusive Y5&6 Choir
- Support outreach opportunities
- Build connections with local primary music coordinators in meetings
- Support hymn practice – Y3&4, Y5&6, Y7&8

Equal responsibility

- Assist with house music, in cathedral and performances as necessary
- Accompany ABRSM exams (lower grades)
- Assist with Y3&4 tasters, Y5&6 Carousel, Y7 Carousel
- Liaising with KES Music Dept
- Weekly meetings with Graduate Musician

An expectation to be the public face of the department for outward facing parent events, ensembles, teatime concerts etc



Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Specialist skills and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidates will a qualified and experienced teacher of music at primary, Prep or Senior level. • Specialist music qualifications. • Competent keyboard skills. • Competent in leading singing • Competence and confidence in the use of ICT for teaching and administrative purposes. • Flexibility to accommodate variations in the make-up of the pupil body from year to year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high standard of personal musical achievement. • Prior experience in a school with a strong choral and instrumental tradition. • Knowledge of the standard of music required in a leading independent choir school.
Personal Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional integrity and high standards of personal presentation. • Ability to lead and inspire colleagues, including non-specialists who assist with music. • Ability to understand the needs, challenges and opportunities of an independent school community. • Outstanding personal relations and team working skills. • Commitment to and an understanding of the values and aims of the School. • Energy, charisma and dynamism with the vision and drive to relentlessly develop King's Ely Junior music to a higher level. • A desire to promote and actively 'market' King's Ely music both within the school and outside it. • Ability to think creatively. • Availability for a range of events outside the school day, including at weekends when required. • A fine sense of humour. • A commitment to pupil welfare and safeguarding 	

Teaching at King's Ely

King's Ely is committed to rewarding our employees who share our passion, vision, and values, and to investing in their wellbeing and continuous professional development.

King's Ely has its own, generous salary scale. The salary for the role will be commensurate with experience and will recognise the responsibility this post entails.

Almost all teachers benefit from their own dedicated & well-resourced classroom.

In addition to the above, teachers at Kings Ely benefit from:

- Generous fee-remission, subject to availability of places and successful admissions procedures. Staff currently enjoy a discretionary discount on fees for children in Reception year onwards, details of which will be provided upon request.
- The School operates a defined contribution scheme for teaching staff, with an employer contribution of up to 22.5%. This scheme is the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS) scheme. Further details about defined contribution scheme are available from the School's Chief Financial Officer.
- The school offers a private healthcare insurance scheme, which staff may opt to join shortly after the start of each academic year (the policy year starts on 1 November each year). The scheme can only be joined at the start of the policy year, not part-way through the year. P11D/BIK applicable.
- Use of school gym facilities and use of the swimming pool at specific times (during summer school holidays – small fee applies).
- Access to Salary Sacrifice Schemes such as: Cycle2Work, Home and Tech Scheme, and Local Gym Membership
- Limited free on-site car parking
- School lunch provided when at work over lunch time and tea and coffee throughout the day.
- Access to an Employee Assistance Programme, available to the employee and their dependents.
- Discounts at local businesses including Poets House, A Little Something Ely, The Almonry Tearooms, Ely Grazing Company, Sushi and Salad, Griddle Bar and Meathouse, and The Pantry (Newmarket).

Information for Candidates

Applications should be made via My New Term, you can do this by clicking the 'Apply Now' button at the top of the advert. The final closing date for applications will be **noon on 7th April 2026**.

Where Applicants have been successful in the shortlisting process they will be contacted for interview. Interviews will take place shortly after the closing date.

We reserve the right to invite candidates for interview prior to the closing date. Therefore, we encourage interested applicants to submit an application as soon as possible.

If you are selected for interview, you will need to provide proof of identity, birth certificate, documentation confirming your NI number or your right to work in the UK and certification of qualifications.

Shortlisted Applicants should be aware that references will be requested as part of the interview process.

King's Ely is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service.

Thank you for completing your application and your interest in King's Ely.



Website: www.kingsely.org Charity Number: 802427 Company Number: 2440509

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