



The Blue Coat School

Founded by the Church of England in 1722



Information Booklet for Job Applicants
Key Stage 1 Teacher



THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL'S VISION:
LIMITLESS LEARNING
FOR TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS



LIMITLESS LEARNING FOR TOMORROW'S ACHIEVERS



The Blue Coat School is an Independent Day Preparatory School offering an outstanding educational experience to over 600 boys and girls, aged 3 to 11 years. Occupying a beautiful site in Edgbaston, in 15 acres of playing fields and gardens, it is a thriving community where children achieve great things, not just academically but in all areas. Our extensive Co-Curricular programme offers opportunities beyond the classroom and nurtures well-rounded children, preparing them for life beyond Blue Coat.

Originally set up as a charity school 'for the purpose of maintaining poor children' in the centre of Birmingham, BCS relocated to Harborne in 1930 and has since become one of the largest IAPS Prep Schools in the country. A generous Bursary scheme continues to offer the opportunity of a Blue Coat education to all.

Founded by the Church of England, Chapel life remains a big part of the weekly school routine and Prep parents and staff join Chaplain for a weekly service. Meanwhile in Pre-Prep, Chaplain leads a weekly assembly for the children. Our diverse school community is representative of the local area and welcomes pupils of all faiths and none. Respect and multicultural understanding are fostered through our BCS Values which promote patience, respect and kindness. The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. It has excellent resources, which are used to provide enjoyable and imaginative learning.

Pupils consistently achieve outstanding results and they are well prepared for senior school entrance examinations. Many progress with the top scholarship offers to the region's most renowned senior schools including the Independent and Grammar Schools of the King Edward VI Foundation, Solihull School, Edgbaston High School for Girls and Bromsgrove School.

The Blue Coat School is a stimulating and rewarding place to work, in the company of enthusiastic and dedicated staff. Our community ethos is very strong, and we maintain the highest expectations of the interpersonal relationships between all stakeholders. The successful applicant will be expected to ensure that the excellent standards of the School are maintained.

PRE-PREP

Our Pre-Prep department begins in the Nursery with children aged 3-4 years. Unlike many schools, we begin with a traditional classroom setting. Children are taught in classes of up to 22, by a qualified teacher who is supported by an Early Years Teaching Assistant.

Learning is primarily through play and exploration but our children make fast progress with their letters, sounds and numbers and are often working well ahead of national expectations. Nursery children have the opportunity to visit our Forest School for two half terms and Reception visit weekly. Nursery also use the Pre-Prep Gym and are taught music by a specialist music teacher.

In Reception, children begin to use other areas in the School such as the swimming pool and music room. Moving to KS1 the school day becomes more structured. In addition to daily maths and English, other subjects are taught such as computer science, humanities and creative arts. The majority are taught by the class Teacher, supported by a Teaching Assistant, but specialist teachers will lead PE, games, swimming and music lessons.



PREP



The Prep School covers Years 3 to 6. Each year group is led by a Year Group Leader and there are also subject leaders who support the curriculum development. The Head of Prep and the Deputy Head Prep are responsible for the day-to-day running of Prep.

In Prep, the children are taught by a number of specialists teachers in dedicated rooms such as the Creative Arts Studio, Computing Centre, Music Centre and newly upgraded Science Laboratories. They become familiar with moving around School and are well prepared for senior school.

Children use individual iPads in all lessons, as well as practical and written resources.

A House system is introduced in Year 3 and children join one of six houses. House Leads meet weekly with their House which spans the whole of Prep and includes members of staff. House competitions ensure that the children work as a team to earn house points or compete for their House in sport, general knowledge quizzes and a House Shout.



FACILITIES



- 1 Year 3 and Year 4 Hubs
- 2 Year 5 and Year 6 Hubs
- 3 The Year 6 Centre
- 4 All Saints
- 5 St Martin's
- 6 Chapel
- 7 Viney Building
- 8 Sports Centre
- 9 The Annexe
- 10 Branson Building
- 11 William Higgs Building
- 12 Centenary Building
- 13 Bissell Building
- 14 Saville Music Centre
- 15 School Hall
- 16 Forest School



The Blue Coat School enjoys an expansive 15-acre campus just three miles from the city centre. With a rich diversity of green spaces, classrooms, specialist facilities, playgrounds, sports pitches and after school social spaces, a big campus soon feels like home to pupils.

The Blue Coat School has a 25-metre indoor swimming pool, AstroTurf pitch and cricket nets, Forest School, IT Suite with recording booth and green screen technology, Music Centre, a Creative Arts Studio, Science Laboratories, Auditorium, School Chapel and extensive playing fields, to name just a few!

Our beautiful and well resourced campus enables us to offer over 120 clubs and activities a week, including activities outside of the curriculum such as chess, Spanish and coding. In addition, senior pupils experience subjects such as cooking, debating, gardening and STEM as part of our Friday afternoon Thinking, Exploring and Doing Programme (TED).

MUSIC

There is a very long and established tradition of excellence in Music at The Blue Coat School, with many children learning one or more musical instruments and many achieving Grade 8 before their final year here.

From Year 2, children can begin to take part in choirs, including the prestigious Chapel Choir from Year 5, orchestras, chamber groups and bands.

The Blue Coat School is fortunate to have a diverse community of pupils from many different cultures, ethnicities, races and religions and we advocate for that diversity to be reflected and celebrated in the music curriculum.





SPORT



With a keen sportsman as Headmaster, it is no wonder that BCS Sport has gone from strength to strength! An extensive fixtures calendar, as well as intra-school competitions offer all children the chance to play competitive sport. We enter many national competitions and have achieved notable success including setting records at the England Schools Swimming Association Finals. BCS have also successfully hosted the IAPS Regional Swimming Qualifiers for the past two years.

The Blue Coat School is proud to have forged close links with local sports clubs and activity providers to enhance opportunities for our children in sport. These partnerships include Diamond Swim Academy, Aston Villa Football Club, Moseley Rugby Club, Edgbaston Golf Club and Edgbaston Priory Club.



PASTORAL

Here at The Blue Coat School, we pride ourselves on providing the best possible pastoral care for children. Our provision is defined by the quality of our relationships with pupils, staff and parents, our strong partnerships and how staff respond to the needs of each and every child.

Every member of staff has responsibility for the children's wellbeing. Everyone works in the best interests of every child to safeguard their welfare and promote their development, and our children are confident in knowing who they can reach out to if they have any concerns or worries.

There is also a dedicated Pastoral Team whose sole purpose at School is to support children in either a 1:1 or in a small group. The Pastoral Team meet every week to discuss pupils' wellbeing. The School's Special Educational Needs Coordinators, Designated Safeguarding Leads, the School Matron and the Chaplain also attend this meeting to ensure there is a holistic approach to pastoral care at The Blue Coat School.





JOB DESCRIPTION

KEY STAGE I TEACHER



Core Purpose of Post

To promote and safeguard the welfare of all children and young persons for whom the post holder has responsibility and with whom the post holder comes into contact.

General Duties and Responsibilities

The following duties and responsibilities will be undertaken:

Professional

- Exercise loyalty to the Headmaster and to the School, upholding and maintaining its traditions and ethos
- Support and assist the Head of Pre-Prep in providing a happy, secure, safe and stimulating environment in which the children can develop to their full potential
- Support the Headmaster in fostering parental involvement and in keeping parents informed of school policy, the curriculum and other matters of importance
- Set and maintain high standards of work and teaching, as well as of personal and professional conduct, as guided by the Department for Education: Teachers' Standards
- Comply with all regulatory requirements including those of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)
- Comply fully with the requirements as set out in the DfE document 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' and in the HM Government document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' and any relevant supplementary guidance.
- Abide by the School's current systems and structures as outlined in policy documents including the First Aid and Health, Health and Safety and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies, and take appropriate action in accordance with all such documents as and when necessary.
- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues and parents.
- Participate as required in meetings with colleagues and parents in respect of the duties and responsibilities of the post.
- Take responsibility for one's own professional development, attending INSET courses and other relevant courses whenever required.
- Be punctual and adaptable, and dress in a smart but practical manner.
- Ensure that the principles for the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of the children and the principles of the fundamental British Values are actively promoted.

JOB DESCRIPTION

KEY STAGE I TEACHER



Teaching and Learning

- Plan and deliver the teaching programme for all pupils within the classes allocated, liaising with the Teaching Assistants as appropriate and having regard for the School's statement of aims, policies and schemes of work.
- Provide clear planning for lessons and for sequences of lessons that maintains pace, motivation and Challenge.
- Use a variety of teaching styles, including differentiation by intent, and provide constructive feedback verbally and in marking to ensure the effective learning of whole classes, groups and individuals, establishing high expectations of behaviour and attainment.
- Integrate Assessment for Learning (AfL) to inform planning and provide next steps targets for the children.
- Complete the BCS Blue for the relevant subject areas and ensure that children are supported in meeting their individual targets.
- Select and make good use of ICT skills for classroom and management support.
- Contribute to the identification, assessment and support of pupils with learning support or special educational needs, liaising with the SENCOs, and contribute to the writing and implementation of Individual Pupil Profile Sheets where appropriate.
- Provide reports on individual progress to colleagues, the Headmaster and parents as required.
- Create a bright classroom environment in which children's work is displayed to promote and enhance learning.
- Contribute to the maintenance and general orderliness of the Pre-Prep environment and its resources.





JOB DESCRIPTION

KEY STAGE I TEACHER

Other Responsibilities including Children's Wellbeing

- Supervise children as required at break and lunch times, eating with the children and encouraging good manners and sensible eating habits.
- Assist in ensuring that the children's dietary and medical requirements are adhered to.
- Assist with, and take responsibility for, class/year group outings as required.
- Take an active part in year group events such as productions, Chapel Services and theme days as required.
- Assist with any reasonable request in connection with the day-to-day organisation of the classroom or School.
- Lead assemblies when required, attend assemblies and Chapel Services, Open Mornings, Parents' Evenings and other whole school events as required.

This job description is indicative of the nature and level of responsibilities associated with the post. It is not intended to be exhaustive; other tasks may be allocated as necessary from time to time. It may be amended at any appropriate time, following consultation between the post holder and a senior colleague.





PERSON SPECIFICATION

KEY STAGE I TEACHER



Qualifications/Professional Development

- QTS or equivalent.
- Graduate of a recognised British University or international equivalent. A postgraduate qualification in education would be desirable.
- Commitment to develop as a classroom practitioner. Evidence of recent involvement in relevant professional development would be desirable.

Experience and skills

- Excellent communication skills.
- Outstanding classroom practitioner with proven experience of working successfully as a Key Stage 1 Class Teacher.
- Experience of working in Key Stage 2 or in the Early Years Foundation Stage would be desirable.
- Ability to complete administrative tasks accurately and to deliver to a deadline.
- Integrated and innovative approach to the use of technology in teaching and administration.

Knowledge

- Sound knowledge of the Key Stage 1 curriculum and national expectations. Knowledge of the Key Stage 2 and EYFS curricula would be desirable.
- Sound knowledge of differentiating activities to meet the needs of children in a Key Stage 1 class.
- Good understanding of a variety of learning styles.

Personal attributes

- Infectious enthusiasm and passion for teaching.
- A professional manner and appearance.
- Friendly, warm personality with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work cooperatively.
- Clear communication skills, both oral and written.
- Ability to work independently and as a member of a year group team.
- Sympathy with the Christian ethos and activities of the school.
- Wholehearted commitment to the life of a vibrant school.



Original certificates will be required as proof of qualification. All other attributes will be assessed using the contents of the application form, at interview and with the professional references.

All members of staff are required to promote and safeguard the welfare of children they are responsible for, or come into contact with, and to adhere to, and ensure compliance with, the School's child protection procedures and staff guidance at all times.



The Blue Coat School

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The Blue Coat School Birmingham is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

