

Job Description

Job Title: Sports Turf Technician
Reports to: Sports Turf Manager

Job context

Uppingham School is an independent co-educational boarding and day school for 11 to 18-year-olds, located in the beautiful market town of Uppingham in Rutland.

Uppingham School employs around 600 full-time and part-time staff in both teaching and support roles.

The School offers a vibrant, supportive and stimulating environment for any teaching professional. In addition, the diversity of support roles available provides a wealth of opportunities for a whole range of specialists and professions – from finance, marketing and IT to buildings maintenance, catering and healthcare. Our 800 pupils are accommodated in 16 houses, taught by 24 academic departments. They participate in a multitude of extra-curricular activities throughout the year, from sports and music to drama and expeditions. In term-time the School operates seven days a week.

Uppingham is a vibrant, stimulating, energetic and forward-looking school. Our community is made up of talented people offering a diverse range of experiences. We welcome applications from candidates who are both experienced and new to working within the independent education sector.

Uppingham is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and welcomes applications from anyone who feels they could fulfil the role.

Job purpose

Games and a full sporting curriculum form an integral part of school life at Uppingham. The playing fields and sports facilities, covering approximately 56 acres over three sites, cater for multiple sporting activities throughout the year, such as rugby, football, cricket and athletics.

We are looking for a committed, experienced, and passionate grounds operative with strong knowledge of machinery and sports pitch maintenance. This role will play a key part in ensuring that the grounds and school pitches are maintained to an excellent standard.

Your accountabilities

To ensure the maintenance and upkeep of sports fields, ensuring they are safe, functional, and visually appealing for use in sporting activities. This role involves a variety of tasks such as mowing, fertilising, aerating, irrigating, repairing turf surfaces, and maintaining artificial pitches/courts. The goal is to provide high-quality playing surfaces that meets the needs of the school while adhering to safety standards and regulations. Additionally, be responsible for managing equipment, completing scheduled maintenance activities, and liaising with other staff or stakeholders to support field usage.

Qualifications, skills and experience, personal qualities required.

Qualifications:

- PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates (desirable).
- NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf qualification or similar (desirable)

Skills and experience:

- Experience of sports grounds maintenance and associated work.
- Experience in mowing, aeration, fertilising and weed control.
- Ability to use a range of machinery and equipment.
- Experience in initial setting out and marking pitches.
- Full driving licence* (essential)

Personal qualities:

- Excellent communication skills at all levels of the organisation
- Positive, 'can-do' and forward-looking attitude, striving for improvement.

- Diplomatic problem-solver who understands the requirements of stakeholders and colleagues
- Good eye for attention and details
- Ability to
 - Be decisive and confident in own skills and ability.
 - Self-motivate, self-evaluate and show initiative.
 - Work alone, with minimum supervision or as part of a team.
 - Work at a commercial pace and in a clean, efficient and logical manner.
 - Solve unexpected problems within the normal working day in a calm and logical manner.
 - Operate outside in all weather conditions.

* A full clean driving licence is essential. This position involves driving vehicles around the School's estate. Any offer of employment will therefore be conditional upon the successful candidate being accepted for insurance cover by the School's insurance provider. Whilst every application will be considered on its own merits, successful applicants should note that if they have six or more penalty points on their driving licence, or a previous drink-driving conviction, they may not be accepted for cover by the School's insurers, in which case any offer of employment would be withdrawn.

Key relationships

- Sports Turf Manager
- Head of Estates Services
- Director of Sport
- Sports Staff
- Events Manager

Membership of wider teams:

- Estates

Terms and conditions

Working hours 39 per week, 52 weeks per year.

Normal hours are 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday, 8am to 3.30pm on a Friday, with two 30 min breaks (30 minutes paid, 30 minutes unpaid)

Salary £27.810 per annum

Probation period 6 months

Benefits

Holidays The annual holiday entitlement is 25 working days, of which up to 5 days must be taken over the Christmas period. Public holidays in term time are normal working days; a day off in lieu is given at another time.

Pension scheme Defined contribution scheme: employee contribution matched by School by factor of two, up to 10% maximum.

Benefits

- 50% contribution to premiums for the School's private health scheme
- Free Westfield Healthcare
- Free membership of dual-use Sports Centre (£25 annual joining fee)
- Free staff lunches in term-time
- School fee discount for children of Uppingham staff (pro-rated for part-time staff)
- Retail, gym, supermarket, cinema and restaurant discounts
- Cycle to work scheme
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Occupational Health Services
- Free annual flu jabs

- Recognised as a “Disability Confident” employer
- Recognised as a “Mindful” employer
- Favourable rates and terms with local nursery
- Complimentary staff ticket to selected School performances
- Discount at local coffee shop for Uppingham staff.

Safeguarding

The post-holder’s responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact, will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with the School’s Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy at all times. If in the course of carrying out the duties of the post the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children in the School s/he must report any concerns to the School’s Designated Safeguarding Lead or to the Headmaster.

Note

Please note this job description outlines the main duties and responsibilities of the position and is designed for the benefit of both the post holder and Uppingham School in understanding the prime functions of the post. It should not be regarded as exclusive nor exhaustive as there may be other duties and requirements associated with and covered by the post.

Colleagues are required to comply with all of Uppingham School’s Health, Safety and Environmental policies.

