

Teacher of PE

St Helen & St Katharine

Welcome to St Helen and St Katharine

St Helen and St Katharine is one of the UK's leading independent girls' schools – a place where students thrive, and our brilliant staff use their expertise and enthusiasm to go above and beyond.

Our students achieve significant academic success each year, much of which is due to our teachers' ambition and passion, but the students and their parents are very aware that it is the whole staff group that makes St Helen's 'tick', and all staff are valued for their contribution to the school community.

When people start working at St Helen's, they are joining a vibrant community of 700 students and 225 members of staff. Whether as one of those expert teachers or as one of our skilled support staff, there are many opportunities to become fully immersed in life at St Helen's – from coming along to watch one of the outstanding school productions to taking part in the range of activities we have to support staff well-being and our sense of community.

We are fortunate to be able to offer a range of training and professional development opportunities to support staff growth; our staff training budget is generous and allows for both departmental initiatives and individual development. We look to get outstanding speakers to address both the whole staff and specific groups; we have been delighted to welcome Tom Sherrington, David Didau and David Weston to talk to our teaching staff in recent years and all staff have benefitted from the work we have done with Executive Coach, Simon Scott, as we look to keep life and work and wellness in balance. There is an active Joint Staff Consultative Committee and a regular staff e-zine that shares ideas for things to do in the local area.

St Helen's is an outstanding place to start your teaching career, and we provide comprehensive support for teacher induction. We encourage talented graduates interested in teaching to join us directly and have plenty of experience of guiding them to gain their qualified teacher status through the school-based PGCE from the University of Buckingham.

We are also an excellent school for newly qualified teachers to complete their 2-year Early Careers induction, guided by experienced subject mentors and our Initial Teacher Training Coordinator.

We look to connect both trainee and early career teachers with their peers in our immediate network of both independent and maintained sector schools in Abingdon.

















The School

Recently named Independent Girls' School of the Year, ranked the top 5 girls' school in the Southeast (*The Times Parent Power 2026*) and among the top 20 schools for sport in the UK (*School Sport Magazine*), St Helen and St Katharine is one of the leading independent schools in the country. It is an exciting place to work, and appointing the very best staff is integral to our success.

St Helen's School was founded in 1903 and was then joined in 1938 by St Katharine's in Wantage. The School is located on a single campus-style site of beautiful Edwardian and modern buildings set in 22 acres of grounds, on the outskirts of Abingdon, some six miles from Oxford. An extensive school bus network facilitates a large student catchment area that includes Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Hampshire Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

Unapologetically focused on girls – their needs, their ambitions and their voices – St Helen's is where futures are shaped *on her terms*. Our students achieve excellent academic results, and our goal is to ensure that every girl achieves success as she defines it, so that she can believe in herself, her talents and abilities, and so that she will feel prepared and equipped for life beyond school.

The School is a thriving community of girls and young women aged 9 to 18, from our Junior Department (Year 5–6)through to Sixth Form. St Helen's offers students an outstanding academic education and a rich and varied life beyond the classroom including excellence in sport, the creative and performing arts and a superb range of co-curricular clubs and societies.

We enjoy collaboration with a range of local partner schools, including Radley College, Abingdon, Larkmead, John Mason and Fitzharrys, providing opportunities to enrich the developmental journeys of our students and build positive connections across genders and experiences.

In 2023, we opened the doors to our new Sixth Form centre, the Benedict Building. The Benedict Building is a physical articulation of the School's vision for Sixth Form – to create an environment for our students that will spark their intellectual spirit and imagination – and provides students with the space and opportunity to grow their academic and co-curricular interests in readiness for the future.

The staff

St Helen and St Katharine is a very special place to work.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do, we celebrate our powerful sense of community, and we take pride in our very high standards and the strength of our performance. We enjoy a working environment and a culture within the School which focuses on development, inclusion and the pleasure of working all together.

We are always looking at ways to develop our people – students and staff. We look to be progressive, imaginative and respectful; we combine the best of long tradition with a commitment to readying our people for the challenges of the 21st Century. We also firmly believe that a diverse workforce is a better workforce which will help us develop ideas, solve problems and ultimately grow St Helen's. Our campus is beautiful and an inspiring place to work. The young people we work with are remarkable and the staff community is welcoming, committed and compassionate.

Every day is different at St Helen's. It's fast-paced but never loses sight of the value of individualised conversations and the need for support. We take our commitment to the well-being of staff very seriously and we offer the resources and training to allow people to flourish professionally.

The contribution of every member of the staff team is valued at St Helen's, and teaching and support staff work closely together, appreciative of the positive difference everyone can make in their varied roles.













The role

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented and committed teacher to join a vibrant and successful department on a full-time basis from April 2027 (or January 2027 if available). This post would suit early career teachers (ECT). The School has outstanding sports facilities, having opened a Sports Centre in 2016.

The successful applicant must have the ability to coach one of the School's major winter and one of the summer sports. A strength in Cricket would be beneficial. They will also be able to motivate students of all abilities and be thoroughly committed to a full and inclusive extracurricular programme. The post involves teaching across the age range from Year 3 to Year 13, as well as pastoral responsibilities within their allocated year group. The department offers GCSE and A Level PE.

All teaching staff are expected to contribute to the pastoral and enrichment programmes of the School. All staff share the responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of the students, in accordance with the School's safeguarding policies.

The department

There is a Director of Sport and five specialist PE Teachers in the department, whose mixture of experience and strengths complement each other well. In addition, the department includes a Head of Performance and Athletic Wellbeing, a Dance Teacher, numerous visiting sports coaches and a Sports Administrator. Co-curricular sport is supported extensively by the department and the external sports coaches. We provide an extensive fixtures and events programme across the range of sports with fixtures taking place after school and at the weekends. All members of the Department work together effectively as a team, supporting each other in achieving common goals and sharing expertise, resources and skills.

Facilities

The PE Department is based in our impressive Sports Centre, housing a six badminton court sports hall and indoor cricket net facility, fully equipped fitness suite, gymnasium, dance studio, ergo suite and group cycle studio. Outdoor space is extensive, including newly refurbished netball/tennis courts, football pitches and six lacrosse pitches.

Subject details/curriculum

PE and sport are integral to School life at St Helen's. The department is busy, happy and vibrant, with large numbers of students participating daily. We strive to ensure that every student has the opportunity to find an activity that inspires her to achieve her potential, at whatever level that may be, developing a lifelong passion for sport and physical activity.

The core PE curriculum includes a range of options from traditional team games, gymnastics, swimming, dance, tennis, athletics, cricket, football, rugby and fitness, to climbing, bouncercise, yoga and group cycle. Students in Key Stages 2 and 3 follow a set curriculum in the major sports; in Key Stages 4 and 5, students access a broader curriculum via elective pathways. Events, courses, sports tours and other opportunities to develop leadership, friendship, resilience and wellbeing are extremely popular.

GCSE (AQA) and A Level PE (OCR) are both established subjects, taught by a range of staff within the Department.

All students have opportunities to compete in House competitions, inter-school fixtures and events, and in county and national events. In addition, students are encouraged to compete for county and national teams. Over 140 students compete at county level or above.

The Department has been ranked in the top 20 schools for sport in the country in 2026.

Key responsibilities

St Helen and St Katharine values the highest level of professionalism in its teachers. It is expected that all teachers will display a high level of knowledge and understanding of their subject area and communicate this enthusiastically to students. Teachers should have high expectations of their students and be able to display evidence of planning, preparation and monitoring of progress. It is the responsibility of all teachers to create a stimulating and positive learning environment, and to employ a range of teaching strategies, thus enabling all students to fulfil their academic potential. They should inspire trust and confidence.

Specific responsibilities include:

Curriculum delivery

- Planning, preparing and teaching the classes assigned to him/her, using a range of strategies for teaching and classroom management to ensure that individual learning needs are met.
- Ensuring that marking of students' work is both regular and thorough and that full records are kept.
- To regularly monitor the progress of all students in their teaching groups, taking account of individual learning needs to have a positive impact on student progress.
- Liaising with the Learning Support Coordinator on strategies to support the progress of students on the Learning Support register.
- Keeping abreast of current thinking and development in the subject area(s).
- Assisting the Director of Sport with the development of appropriate syllabuses, schemes of work and teaching styles.
- Sharing resources and training materials with colleagues.
- Contributing to departmental activities, e.g. enrichment work, clubs, societies and trips.
- Taking responsibility for professional development and using the outcomes to improve teaching and learning.
- Attending whole school INSET sessions.

Physical resources and safety

- Meeting the health and safety requirements of the school.
- Working with the other members of the department to ensure that all resources are well looked after and that departmental areas provide a stimulating environment for teaching.

Communication

- Providing or contributing to oral and written assessments, reports and references relating to individual students.
- Attending Parents' Meetings.
- Attending regular departmental meetings and full staff meetings.
- Attending Open Day.

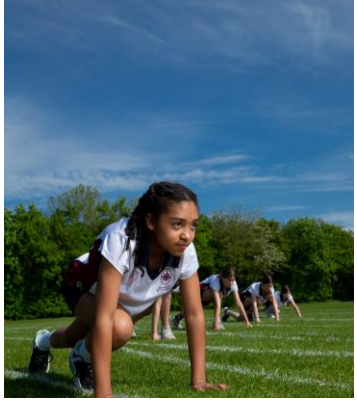
Pastoral and whole school support

- Being a form tutor if required.
- Contributing to the pastoral care and personal development of students.
- Carrying out a share of supervisory duties in accordance with published schedules.
- Ensuring that a register of attendance in lessons is kept and taking appropriate action in cases of student absence.
- Supporting the ethos of the School through maintaining the highest standards of professionalism.
- Attending assembly or chapel and whole school services.
- Contributing to whole school activities, e.g. clubs, trips and tours.









The person

Skills/abilities

- Ability to motivate and inspire students across the age and ability range.
- Ability to coach a major winter sport to a high level (Netball, Lacrosse, Football, Hockey).
- Ability to coach a major summer sport to a high level (Athletics, Cricket or Tennis).
- Ability to relate well to young people.
- Ability to work well on a day to day basis in a supportive and collaborative manner as part of a departmental team.
- Ability to contribute to the development and implementation of departmental policies and goals
- Effective communication skills – oral and written.
- Strong organisational skills.
- Excellent teaching and classroom management skills.
- Effective IT skills.

Experience, knowledge and qualifications

- Excellent subject and curriculum knowledge up to and ideally including A level.
- An awareness and understanding of the issues and current developments in teaching PE and Sport in schools.
- An awareness and understanding of the issues and current developments in PE public examinations.

Qualifications and experience

- A good honours or higher degree in a relevant discipline.
- Ideally, qualified teaching status (QTS) or working towards QTS.

Personal attributes

- Enthusiasm and passion for PE and Sport and the ability to convey this to students.
- A willingness to take an appropriate share of departmental responsibilities and participate in trips and tours.
- High levels of personal and professional integrity.
- High degree of self-confidence, dynamism and personal warmth, to develop a good rapport with students, colleagues and parents.
- High expectations for student attainment, personal development and conduct.
- A full commitment to involvement in a co-curricular programme which meets the needs of all students, including Saturday fixtures.
- A reflective practitioner; ability to self-appraise and manage continuous professional self-development.
- A commitment to safeguarding our students in line with the School's Safeguarding policies.

Salary and benefits

- Teachers are paid a salary that reflects their knowledge and experience. St Helen's offers competitive salary levels and has its own salary scale which offers scope for pay progression.
- This is a permanent, full-time Teacher of PE position to start in April 2027 (or January 2027 if available).
- St Helen's offers fee remission of up to 50% on tuition fees for children of staff members at the School from September 2026 (pro-rated for part-time staff).
- Teachers may join a staff Pension Scheme with an employer contribution of 23.6% and default employee contribution of 7% of gross pensionable pay. Salary sacrifice is also available for pension contributions. Members of the Scheme will also receive Income Protection cover should they be unable to work due to long-term sickness or injury.
- All staff are covered by a life assurance scheme, paying out three times annual salary in the event of their death whilst employed by the School.
- A range of other staff benefits are available via external providers such as an Employee Assistance Programme, access to GP and dental advice lines amongst other services.
- Teachers are entitled to take the normal School holidays.
- The School currently operates a cycle to work scheme.
- Employees are entitled to free lunches when the kitchens are operating.
- There is free car parking on site.
- Employees may use the fully equipped gymnasium/sports facility on site.

St Helen and St Katharine 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, the Disclosure and Barring Service and overseas Police checks, if applicable. Employment is subject to these checks.






The process

These job details should be read in conjunction with our Safeguarding policies, available within the vacancies section of our website and within the vacancy page on My New Term.

Please then submit an application via the My New Term portal including within this a personal statement in support of your application.

The closing date for this post is **Monday 23 November 2026 at 12.00pm**.
Interviews will take place on **Monday 30 November 2026**.

Please note that due to the volume of applications we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback.

We look forward to receiving your completed application.









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ST HELEN &
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Independent day school for girls aged 9–18
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