

MURRAY PARK SCHOOL


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APPLICANT INFORMATION PACK

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT – HISTORY AND RS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2026

INTERVIEW DATE: W/B 18TH MAY 2026

START DATE: SEPTEMBER 2026

Murray Park School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and appointment to this post is subject to a criminal record and background check and references

Headteacher: Mrs N. Caley

Address: Murray Road, Mickleover, Derby, DE3 9LL

Telephone: 01332 515921

Web: www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk

Email: recruitment@murraypark.derby.sch.uk



OUR HEADTEACHER

I am delighted to introduce you to our wonderful school. Since my arrival in 2018, I have sought to create a thriving working environment which enables our wonderful students to succeed in all aspects of life at Murray Park and beyond. It was great for this to be recognised by Ofsted in September 2022 when we achieved our Good judgement.

We pride ourselves on giving teachers the conditions in which to teach without distraction and ensure that all staff are supported quickly with any concerns both in and outside the classroom.

We are fully committed to offering a top-class education - on-line or in school - which keeps abreast of national and international trends. We welcome applications from high-quality candidates who are looking to make a real difference to our students' lives.

We support all new staff with a supportive induction package. ECTs follow the Derby City new teacher programme as well as our in-house training. We endeavour to ensure your skills are developed so you can perform at your optimum.

Please take your time to consider the information in this pack and do not hesitate to make contact with us should you require any further information.

I wish you the best of luck with your application to our school.



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Nicola Caley - Headteacher

Rebecca Somes - Deputy Headteacher

George Hagen - Deputy Headteacher

Theresa Lucas - Assistant Headteacher

Nick Lynn - Assistant Headteacher

Leanne Dodd - Assistant Headteacher

Joe Hyndman - Assistant Headteacher

"Being a teacher at Murray Park is a privilege, providing me with the opportunity to be part of a community with shared values..."

Flavia Kupferberg - Teacher of English



AMBITION STATEMENT

At Murray Park School, our curriculum vision is to provide an ambitious and inspirational education for all of our pupils. Our strong set of values: Perseverance; Respect; Independence; Dreams and Excellence (PRIDE) underpins our ethos. Through our curriculum, our pupils develop the confidence to embrace the responsibilities that life has to offer and to become valued members of the local community, both now and in the future.

In all lessons the pupils are challenged and engaged in an education that prepares them for their futures. Our Learning Motto, OASIS, enables all of our pupils to develop life skills, such as, creativity, empathy and collaboration, resulting in resilient individuals with high aspirations.



We are passionate about our pupils' personal development and put this at the heart of everything we do. We provide cultural capital experiences to our students through the Murray Park Charter for Success, where students are supported and encouraged to try new activities and experiences such as visiting the theatre, volunteering, learning to

play a musical instrument as well as much more. As well as this, we produce an annual trip schedule which includes a number to international destinations, including outside of Europe. These are fully funded for students, where required.



Our health and wellbeing provision ensures that our pupils lead healthy and fulfilling lives and that every pupil has the knowledge and confidence to take care of their own physical and mental wellbeing.

As a result of our outstanding careers programme, all of our pupils are prepared for the next stage of their education, training and employment through our extensive network of business partners and dedicated careers' centre. Our wide range of extra-curricular activities include residential opportunities and international travel. These opportunities enrich the formal curriculum and deepen the pupils' knowledge and skills.

"The quality of provision and pastoral care for our students has an exceptional impact on their lives."

Emma Challand - Head of Year



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Murray Park is a dynamic and forward-looking 11-16 mixed comprehensive school on the western fringes of the city of Derby. It is a Foundation Status school but has a close working relationship with the local authority.

We cater for approximately 1200 students, situated on a spacious site surrounded by greenery. We serve students from the Derby City area, within reach of the Derbyshire countryside and our cohort sizes are growing each year.

Our students reflect the full academic ability range and there is a breadth to the socio-economic status of our families.



APPLICATION PROCESS

Informal visits to the school are available but not essential. You must complete the application form fully and give details of all employment, training and gaps in employment since leaving secondary school to the present day. Any additional information, which you wish to bring to the notice of the selection panel should be included in your letter of application.

Your letter of application should make reference to the job description and in particular how you meet the person specification. At least one of your references should be a current employer and you should indicate if you are happy for us to contact each reference.

Please apply online via My New Term. The link to our online application form via My New Term can be found on our school website:

<https://www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk/key-information/vacancies>.

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If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us via hr@murraypark.derby.sch.uk.



“Murray Park is a fantastic school to work for, I've felt extremely welcome and supported by the school, first as a trainee and then as a new starter.”

James Murton - Teacher of English

Our School was inspected in September 2022 and gained a Good judgment from Ofsted. Here are just a few quotes from their highly positive report. To access our full report please use our website link:

[Ofsted Reports | Murray Park](#)

Quality of Education	<p>“Leaders have designed an ambitious curriculum that allows pupils to learn a broad range of knowledge.”</p> <p>“Leaders have planned assessments to check pupils' understanding.”</p>
Behaviour and Attitudes	<p>“Pupils are happy and safe at Murray Park. They know teachers care about them.”</p> <p>“Leaders have ensured that classrooms are places where pupils can learn.”</p>
Personal Development	<p>“The 'Charter for Success' encourages pupils to engage in activities such as theatre trips and cookery.”</p> <p>“Leaders ensure that all pupils have opportunities to gain different cultural experiences.”</p>
Leadership and Management	<p>“Leaders have prioritised reading.”</p> <p>“Leaders have created a culture of safeguarding.”</p>

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Murray Park School shares a commitment to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Our commitment is underpinned by robust processes and procedures that seek to maximise opportunity, minimise risk and continuously promote a culture that embraces the ethos of safeguarding amongst our workforce. This post is Exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020 and is subject to an enhanced DBS Disclosure check.

Recruitment Information

The application form must be completed in line with our Important Recruitment Information section on the school website. It is an offence to apply for the role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Recruitment of Ex Offenders
- The Equality and Diversity Form
- GDPR Privacy Notice

Recruitment Policy

These documents can be found using following the link:
<https://www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk/key-information/vacancies/>

“Since starting at Murray Park there has been no time for nerves, just excitement. I am delighted to continue my journey here, whilst inspiring others on my way”

Charlotte Bunting - Teacher of Science

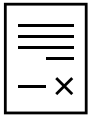


STAFF WELL-BEING

Murray Park considers the well-being of staff to be important. When we make strategic or operational decisions, we always consider the well-being and workload of staff. See below for some of the ways we support staff wellbeing and workload for all our team:



Opportunity for flexible working for all staff - teaching staff are no, typically, required to be on site for PPA.



A robust and centralised behaviour system, including an internal Alternative Provision.



A designated, trained, mental health leader.



A Leadership Team who fully consider staff workload and wellbeing when considering any changes to practice or systems.



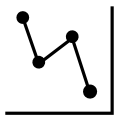
Paid lunch duties, including a free meal.



CPD for all staff, in all roles, including whole-school and opportunities for any bespoke courses.



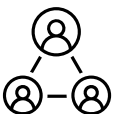
Latest technology, including new laptops for teachers.



A measured approach to data management, including meeting free weeks during data points.



An approach to pedagogy that ensures we deliver high-quality teaching in each and every lesson, whilst giving staff professional autonomy.



Staff social and sports events.



HISTORY AND RS DEPARTMENT

The History and RS department at Murray Park School consists of four full time teachers and one part time member of staff. Our staff boast a wealth of specific skills and experience, which we use to enthuse our students and develop inspirational schemes of work.

The department is well resourced, with subject specific textbooks for KS3 and KS4 students. We frequently collaborate when planning and creating resources and we are constantly using the latest pedagogical research to inform and improve teaching and learning.

Students have access to a host of extra-curricular provisions run through the History & RS department such as lunchtime and after school clubs, competitions and school trips. We are currently planning trips to local places of worship and run successful international trips.



Our department delivers Edexcel History, with GCSE study focusing on Crime and Punishment, Weimar and Nazi Germany, Elizabethan England, and Superpower Relations and the Cold War.

We also deliver AQA Religious Studies, with a focus on Christianity and Islam.

At Key Stage 3, both subjects follow a fully planned and well-resourced curriculum that provides a strong foundation for GCSE study.

As a team we are hugely collaborative and supportive, and we have had great success working with ECTs. Our History and Religious Studies Department has a long-standing tradition of successfully supporting teachers who are new to the profession. We understand that the early years of teaching can be both exhilarating and challenging, and we are dedicated to ensuring that all our new team members receive the guidance and mentorship they need to excel in their roles.



“Murray Park School is a great place to work. If you are passionate about making a difference to the lives of young people, this is the place to be”

Alfie Holland - Head of Year and Teacher of PE



JOB ADVERT

Head of Department - History and RS

Salary: MPS/UPS + TLR 2 (£7,042)

Responsible to: Senior Leadership Team Member

Contract: Full-time, permanent

Framework: To work within the framework of teachers' pay and conditions, current legislation and the policies of the school.

Murray Park School, an 11-16 foundation school, is a rewarding and professionally stimulating place to work. Over the past five years, we have undergone rapid and sustained improvement, moving from a Requires Improvement judgement to Good (September 2022), alongside significant improvements in Progress 8 outcomes. We are over-subscribed and will reach maximum capacity of 1400 students in September 2027, reflecting the confidence in the school from our community. We are now entering the next phase of our development and are seeking high-quality staff who share our ambition to continue improving outcomes for all students.

Our approach is underpinned by a warm-strict culture: we combine consistently high expectations with genuine care, ensuring every student feels a strong sense of belonging while being fully prepared for their future. This is realised through clear routines, shared practices, and a collective commitment to getting the small things right every day. Staff who thrive here are those who value consistency, clarity, and a culture of continual improvement.

The successful candidate will:

- Be committed to securing the best possible outcomes for all students, particularly those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable.
- Demonstrate strong subject expertise and a clear understanding of effective pedagogy using evidence informed practice.
- Maintain consistently high expectations and uphold our shared routines and practices.
- Value continual improvement, both personally and across a team, with a willingness to engage in coaching and professional dialogue.

For leadership posts, we are additionally looking for colleagues who:

- Can coach and develop others, fostering a culture where all staff continually improve.
- Are thoughtful curriculum leaders, able to apply evidence-informed practice and cognitive science principles to curriculum design and implementation.
- Contribute meaningfully to whole-school priorities as part of the wider leadership team.

Staff at Murray Park benefit from:

- A genuine commitment to staff wellbeing, with careful consideration given to workload when introducing new initiatives.
- Flexible working opportunities, including the ability to work off-site at points during the week.
- High levels of staff retention, with most vacancies arising through school growth rather than turnover.
- A centralised and robust behaviour system, including internal Alternative Provision, ensuring classrooms remain disruption-free.
- A comprehensive CPD programme rooted in evidence-informed practice and professional collaboration.
- A clear and consistent approach to teaching, balancing high-quality shared practice with professional autonomy.

How to Apply

Please apply online via My New Term. The link to our online application form via My New Term can be found on our school website: <https://www.murraypark.derby.sch.uk/key-information/vacancies>.

We reserve the right to close this vacancy early should a suitable number of applications be received. As such, an early application is encouraged.

"Murray Park is an extremely engaging place to work, but more than that it feels like a family and really integrates the 'community' aspect of the school's name.

Joe Potts - Teacher of Geography



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - HOD

Duties as a Classroom Teacher:

- Teaching in an agreed curriculum area.
- Planning structured lessons that meet the needs of individual students.
- Sharing plans and teaching resources with colleagues.
- Maintaining records, marking and assessment of pupils' work according to school and departmental policies, external examination and national curriculum requirements.
- Reporting on pupils as required by the school policy and national curriculum requirements.
- Using school procedures to maintain your teaching area/s to a standard that motivates pupils and meets health and safety requirements.
- Following safe working practices in all your teaching and duty situations.
- Supporting the tutorial and duty system as required.

Key Tasks as a Head of Department:

- To be accountable for leading, managing and developing the subject area.
- To raise standards of student attainment and achievement within the whole subject/curriculum area and to monitor and support student progress.
- To ensure the provision of an appropriately broad, ambitious, relevant and adapted curriculum for students studying in the department, in accordance with the aims of the school and the curricular policies determined by the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team.
- Conduct quality assurance on the department and act on findings.
- Stay up to date with the most recent literature and research in the relevant subject area.
- To facilitate and encourage a learning experience which provides students with the opportunity to achieve their individual potential.
- To effectively manage and deploy staff, financial and physical resources within the department.
- To ensure the department contributes towards the school's Personal Development programme in their curriculum, trips and clubs.
- To maintain records, marking and assessment of pupils' work according to the departmental assessment policy.
- To monitor progress of students and report to parents in line with school procedures for recording and reporting.
- To run all departmental meetings.
- Provide coaching to staff to embed our culture of continual improvement.
- To be responsible for and follow adopted safe working practice in accordance with the latest Health and Safety regulations.
- To participate in relevant INSET to enhance teaching effectiveness.
- Be a highly visible presence within the department and school site, including contributing to staff duties.

The post-holder will be expected to carry out other tasks/duties as directed by the Headteacher that are commensurate with the responsibilities of a teacher.

"Ever since I started at Murray Park I have felt supported by all staff and welcome by everyone here, including the students. I am proud to work at Murray Park..."
Elise West - Teacher of Maths



PERSON SPECIFICATION - HOD

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Relevant Degree.	X	
Qualified Teacher Status.	X	
Further evidence of continual professional development e.g. NPQ, MA, MEd, pedagogical or subject courses.		X
Knowledge		
Full working knowledge of the national curriculum for the subject area(s).	X	
Knowledge and experience of teaching at GCSE.	X	
A full understanding of the demands of the GCSE course in the subject area(s).	X	
Using ICT opportunities in within the classroom.		X
A range of pedagogical strategies to be able to successfully teach all types of learner.	X	
Understand what underpins, and how to implement and review, a broad and ambitious curriculum.	X	
Skills		
To motivate students of all abilities, needs and backgrounds	X	
To work and lead a team.	X	
To use own initiative.	X	
The ability to work under pressure.	X	
The willingness to promote your own subject.	X	
The ability to strategically intervene when students are underperforming.	X	
A keen interest in learning new technologies for use within the classroom.		X
Ability to give feedback to staff that helps them continually improve their practice	X	
Personal Qualities		
A positive outlook, well-motivated, enthusiastic & energetic.	X	
Commitment to continual improvement/staff development.	X	
The desire to succeed.	X	
Good attendance and punctuality record.	X	
Commitment to supporting the full life of the school.	X	
Professional appearance and manner.	X	
Enhanced Criminal Record check (School will apply for this on behalf of the successful candidate).	X	

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"No school day is ever the same. I love helping students achieve their best, in a positive environment working with staff and students who embrace challenges."

Lisa Clarke - Lead Cover Supervisor





MURRAY PARK SCHOOL

OUR MISSION: SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN GAINING A POSITIVE OUTLOOK,
SHAPING THEIR FUTURES AND REACHING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

“PROUD TO BE HERE”



Head Teacher: Mrs N. Caley

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