



Teacher of French/French Language Asst  
*September 2026*

# Teacher of French & French Language Assistant

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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 MFL Department

King's Ely is comprised of three distinct sections: King's Ely Acremont (KEA Nursery, reception, Years 1 and 2), King's Ely Prep (KEP: Years 3-8) and King's Ely Senior (KES: Years 9-13).

The MFL Department is a cross-phase department and most of our staff teach in two sections of the school. The leadership of the French department includes the Head of French (also Head of MFL) and the Head of Key Stage 3, who liaise closely.

Within the senior section, there is another member of staff who works currently as both a classroom teacher and Foreign Language Assistant. We are recruiting to replace this role. The exact ratio between whole class teaching and offering one-to-one/ small group support as a French Language Assistant will be confirmed in the Summer term, but it is likely to be around 2:1.

Some staff within the MFL team teach more than one language, and the ability to teach either Spanish or German up to Key Stage Three (Years 7-9) in addition to French, would be helpful, but not essential.

## About the Role

The successful applicant's key duties will be to:

- Plan lessons thoroughly and regularly mark work to the departmental policy.
- Attend regular departmental meetings and assist in the setting and marking of internal examinations
- Undertake regular reviews of students' academic progress and acknowledge student success, and endeavour to provide extra-curricular language learning opportunities and accompany trips when required.
- Stretch the more able and support the less able, in and outside the classroom.
- Take charge of the AS and A-level oral preparation and exam conduct under the guidance of the Head of French.
- Mark work in preparation for oral examinations.
- They will be expected to attend examination board meetings when relevant.
- Teach one-to-one lessons for AS and A-level students.
- Assist (As part of the French Language Assistant role) the French teachers by supporting individual AS and A Level students as well as GCSE classes.
- Improve students' confidence in communicating in French and help them to prepare for the oral public examinations (A-Level and GCSE).
- Discuss, in an interactive and fun manner, contemporary aspects of youth culture, current affairs, education, sport, fashion, films, TV, and lifestyles in accordance with the AS and A Level syllabus.
- Conduct the speaking exams and mark work in preparation for oral examinations.
- Support other French teachers with preparation of authentic materials.
- To run support sessions once a week
- To help run departmental trips
- To keep departmental displays up-to-date

The successful applicant will be expected to contribute to extracurricular activities and play a full part in the vibrant life of the school.



## Person Specification

Qualifications	
Degree or equivalent	<i>Essential</i>
Teaching qualification	<i>Desirable</i>
Experience, Knowledge, and Skills	
A thorough understanding of Safeguarding and Child Protection Issues	<i>Essential</i>
A proven ability to empathise and relate positively to young people	<i>Essential</i>
French native speaker	<i>Essential</i>
Be able to teach French to GCSE level, and potentially A-level	<i>Essential</i>
Have good classroom discipline and be a creative teacher who has high expectations of pupils.	<i>Essential</i>
Be an excellent linguist and a dynamic teacher who will foster a love of language learning.	<i>Essential</i>
Personal and Professional Qualities	
A good team player	<i>Essential</i>
A passion for your subject and for teaching	<i>Essential</i>
A sense of fun and a willingness to share ideas and inspire young people	<i>Essential</i>
Ability to work in a fast moving environment	<i>Essential</i>
High expectation of self and others	<i>Essential</i>

## *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 at King's Ely Senior Pay Scale, point 1 at £35,000 per annum.

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 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

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

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.





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[www.kingsely.org](http://www.kingsely.org)