

Freegrounds
Junior
School

Applicant
Information
Pack

NOR: 355





Hobb Lane
Hedge End, Southampton
Hampshire, SO30 0GG

Telephone: (01489) 782295
E-mail: admin@freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk
Website: www.freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Ryan O'Hearn (BA Hons)

March 2021

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in the post of Class Teacher (suitable for a NQT).

Our aim is to be a friendly community where the pupils are happy and successful, developing a life-long love of learning, building high self-esteem and the strong determination to do their very best. We work closely with the Wildern Primary Partnership and in particular with Freegrounds Infant School.

Our curriculum is designed to engage and inspire our pupils to increase their knowledge and skills as well as developing a curiosity and understanding of the world around them. We concentrate on developing an attitude of life-long learning for all our pupils through the teaching of our learning behaviours which are Resilience, Teamwork, Curiosity, Independence, Critical Thinking and Reflection. We recognise the individuality of all our pupils and provide opportunities for them all to develop as mature and responsible young citizens.

There are three classes in each year group from Year 3 to Year 6 giving a total of twelve classes across the school. Our current number on roll is 355.

We are seeking a person to join our highly committed and successful school team as KS2 Teacher. Details of the post can be found in the person specification and role profile in this pack.

Visits to our school are warmly welcomed. If you would like to arrange a visit, please contact the school office on 01489 782295 or email admin@freegrounds-jun.hants.sch.uk

Applications forms should be returned in hard copy to the school or electronically to the above email address. We are looking for the appointed person to start in September 2021.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R O'Hearn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan O'Hearn
Headteacher

Our school

The school has twelve classes (3 classes per year group) and there are currently 355 children on roll.

Our school building is newly refurbished and is an impressive, well organised space for teaching and learning. It boasts a well resourced and managed library as well as focus areas for additional learning opportunities.

We are extremely fortunate to have generous school grounds which include hard playing spaces and a large grassed area comprising of two football pitches and other general play zones. The grounds include extensive mature planted areas which contain many species of shrubs and trees and give ample scope for environmental and conservation studies.

The Freegrounds Junior School site is shared with Freegrounds Infant School which is our feeder school and who we work closely with.

Meals are cooked in the school kitchen and the food is served in a cafeteria style service.



Staff and children

All staff strive to provide the best education possible for children at Freegrounds Junior school. They are welcoming, hard-working and a great team to be part of. We recognise that there are things that we still want to improve and together we are committed to do this.

As a result of the staff's positive attitude, the children are keen to learn and want to do well. They are engaged in their topics and respond well to the exciting learning opportunities which they are provided with.

Children are valued above all else within the school and we aim to ensure they are happy and have positive self-esteem. We want them to leave the school knowing that they have achieved their best, progressed well and have had a happy and enjoyable time, being well prepared for their next steps.

We believe in giving children ownership of their school and as such they have many responsibilities throughout the school and play a key role in the decision making.



School Improvement Aims 2020 - 2021

To improve the use of assessment to target and increase progress made by key groups of children

- To improve the accuracy of assessment in order to effectively pitch children's next steps in their learning
- To improve and refine how assessments are used so that they are meaningful and responsive
- To ensure that children who need additional support (due to limited home learning) are identified and targeted effectively to make accelerated progress
- To implement the consistent use of Dedicated Improvement and Response Time (DIRT) so that feedback is highly effective and manageable

To improve the provision for positive mental health and wellbeing by creating a shared ethos and understanding across the school which effectively supports personal development

- To ensure that the school's curriculum teaches and promotes the importance of mental health and wellbeing
- To develop the use of the outside space in providing opportunities to support positive mental health and wellbeing
- To ensure there is a shared understanding of the school's targeted approach in identifying and supporting individual children
- To continue to improve staff knowledge and understanding of a positive universal approach to whole school mental health and wellbeing

To continue to improve middle leadership across the school so that the school's curriculum intent and implementation lead to effective impact

- To ensure that the planned progression of knowledge and skills is effectively implemented
- To continue to develop leaders' understanding of their role and responsibility
- To develop the use of coaching across the school to raise standards of teaching and learning

To continue to embed the Positive Behaviour policy and school learning behaviours to improve children's resilience and attitudes to their learning

- Continue to develop the profile of the school's learning behaviours to support children in understanding how they learn
- To continue to refine the use of language outlined in the behaviour policy to ensure it is consistently delivered across the school and has the desired impact
- To develop the reward system across the school to improve pupil motivation and attitudes to learning

Application procedure

Candidates should complete the application form and return it to the school.

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You should provide a full statement in support of your application, which should not exceed two sides of A4 paper. Please do not restate the factual details already included elsewhere on the application form.

Selection Procedure

The shortlist will be drawn up on the afternoon of the closing date and information will be sent to those candidates called for interview.

Failure to send your application form to the above address may invalidate your application.

Equality Monitoring

All applications will be required to complete an Equality Monitoring form.

Receipt of Application

Applications are acknowledged (by email whenever possible) within three working days of receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within this time please contact the school office on the number above.

Postage

Insufficient postage occasionally leads to application forms being received after the closing date, for application, has passed. To avoid this, please ensure that you attach the correct postage to your application.

Please be aware we are unable to receive hand-delivered mail outside normal office hours 8:30am -5:00pm Monday – Thursday, 8:30am - 4.30pm Friday.

Safer recruitment

Freegrounds Junior School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Disclosure & Barring checks along with other relevant employment checks.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

You should be aware that the information you have provided will be stored on Hampshire County Council's secure database and will only be used to process your application. It will not be passed to any other organisation.