



Wisdom Service Hope

St Mary's and St John's CE School

"With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26)

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Executive Principal: Mr Gavin Smith

Dear Colleague

Thank you for your interest in applying for this position which will have a significant impact on the successful development of St Mary's and St John's CE School (SMSJ).

St Mary's and St John's CE School is an all-through school in Hendon, North London, successfully providing high quality education and academic achievement for children and young people from Nursery to Sixth Form. We are proud to be a diverse, multi-faith, school, with a Christian ethos, resolute in the belief that "With God, all things are possible". In a changing world our values; Wisdom, Service and Hope, define us, strengthen relationships with our parents and children, and provide guiding principles that enable us to deliver academic excellence and promote self-discipline and resilience. These strengths will be further enhanced by the growing relationship between SMSJ and the Wren Academies Trust which I also lead. Collaboration between all three schools will result in improved pupil outcomes and exciting career development opportunities for the successful candidate.

If you decide to apply, please follow this guidance carefully. Your completed application form, together with a supporting statement of not more than two sides of A4 using 12-point Calibri font, must be submitted by email to recruitment@smsj.london.

Finally, thank you for taking on the demanding and time-consuming task of preparing your application. I look forward to meeting you if you are selected for interview.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Smith
Executive Principal

School Information 2022/23

Our Executive Principal

Gavin Smith was appointed Executive Principal of SMSJ in February 2023 in addition to being the Executive Principal of the Wren Academies Trust. He was part of the team which opened Wren Academy Finchley in 2008. He has previously taken a lead in opening Wren Academy Finchley in 2008 before guiding the whole school to three outstanding Ofsted reports and excellent GCSE outcomes. This was achieved through the creation of a happy and well-ordered learning community where pupils were able to thrive and reach their full academic and social potential. Gavin then went on to open a highly successful Sixth Form in 2013 and Primary Phase in 2015 which both went on to attain excellent academic results and develop strong reputations in the local community. More recently he opened Wren Academy Enfield in 2022 and has led it through its formative years. This second Wren school has prospered, and is set to match the achievements of Wren Academy Finchley.

Gavin is now focused on ensuring that SMSJ excels so that it meets its full potential and attains the very best outcomes for all pupils. He is excited by the active collaboration between SMSJ and the Wren Academies Trust which will lead to a range of career development opportunities for the successful candidate and improved outcomes for all pupils.

Our Foundations

SMSJ has its roots as far back as 1707, when a parochial school was established at the Sunningfields Road site. Almost 300 years later, St John's Infants and St Mary's Juniors successfully amalgamated, to become a primary school. Our Nursery school then opened in April 2007. Supported by the London Diocesan Board for Schools (LDBS), the school flourished and expanded to a three-form entry in the primary phase.

As a result of the success of the primary school, the LDBS in partnership with Barnet Local Authority, expanded into the secondary phase in 2014. The success of this development along with the school's popularity and subsequent over subscription, resulted in further expansion to six forms of entry in September 2017.

September 2017 saw the opening of our Stamford Raffles Campus, housing students from years 9 to 13. This includes new facilities such as our stunning Sixth Form Centre.

Our Curriculum

We aim to enhance the future life-chances and opportunities of our learners, irrespective of their starting point, by providing an influential education and delivering a powerful curriculum capable of creating young people who can contribute positively to the economic, cultural and social flourishing of their communities. Students will be exposed to a curriculum that is dynamic, ambitious, mindful of spiritual and ethical development and reflects the context and needs of the students it is delivered to.

We strive to ensure our curriculum offer is powerful insofar as our curriculum:

- equips students to engage in intellectual dialogue and debate; to become articulate individuals able to converse effectively in different contexts
- is tailored to our context and bespoke to our students' skills, abilities, strengths and weaknesses. In addition, we seek to meet the demands of living and thriving in the 21st century
- is intentionally and carefully planned to cover core concepts which are vital building blocks necessary for the journey of study and learning that for everyone, irrespective of career, is lifelong
- educates the whole person including their moral and spiritual needs and takes seriously the need for character refinement and development
- is future oriented. Our curriculum has an eye on the big picture; the needs of 21st century communities including the demands of today's workplaces and the careers of the future
- is dynamic. It is always changing, being improved and refined by drawing on new resources and subject expertise.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is embedded within our curriculum and is explored thoroughly through our focus on our vision and values. Our Christian vision and values, with an emphasis on Wisdom, Service and Hope, are embedded in our curriculum and are explored daily through Pause for Thought, our Collective Worship programme, Religious Studies & PSHCEE. The impact of this is a school that is deeply Christian and inclusive. We pride ourselves on developing students who are compassionate, community focused and prepared to serve their community now and in the future.

We have an extensive super-curricular offer across the school, including Fresh Arts, Gardening Club, Duke of Edinburgh, Young Enterprise, Peripatetic music lessons, Jack Petchey speak out challenge, UKMT challenge, Dance, Orchestra, music groups, sporting clubs and teams, large whole school drama productions and visits within and outside of the school day.

Continuing Professional Development:

We are relentlessly focused on self-evaluation and improvement and use methods such as coaching to create a high trust, low stakes culture in which all teachers can flourish. Our CPD offer is research led, bespoke to individuals and departments and focuses on opportunities for high quality input followed by time for colleagues to implement their learning.

Our approach to Teaching and Learning:

We recognise the professional integrity of teachers and that each subject is a distinct academic discipline. Therefore, we strive to develop a culture of collaboration and sharing best practice within high performing subject teams. We focus on precision, backwards planning that embeds explicit instruction. One of our current foci is oracy and we are working to embed opportunities for learning through talk in every lesson. We think carefully about the wellbeing of our staff and therefore have a robust secondary phase feedback policy which eliminates the need for hours of unnecessary marking.

Outcomes:

Since its inception SMSJ has been oversubscribed and a popular school of choice for families in the local community and surrounding areas. High demand for places continues with our many successes including:

- SIAMS outstanding (2017)
- Ofsted good (2017)
- consistently strong Progress 8 measures above national average (0.38 in 2022)
- strong Attainment 8 performance (54.5 in 2022) and in the highest 20% of schools nationally for low prior attainers in 2022
- the subjects of the EBacc forming a strong and successful academic foundation for the key stage 4 curriculum
- GCSE 2022: 30% of grades awarded 7-9 with 16% at grade 8/9
- A Level 2022: 24% of grades awarded at A or A*
- excellent higher education destinations for students including Russell Group universities and Oxbridge

