

January 2023



Dear Applicant

Thank you for showing an interest in the post of Deputy Headteacher at Cranbourne. The vacancy has arisen due to the growth in popularity of the school and an increase in student numbers.

Cranbourne is a diverse and genuinely 11-16 comprehensive school. The profile of students at the school is a delightful mix of traditional local families, and an increasingly large number of students from all over the world, many of whom have English as an additional language, including refugees. We emphasise inclusion and have a growing number of students with special needs, including dyslexia (in our Resourced Provision) and autism. These students are an asset to the school.

We have a particularly strong cluster group of feeder primary schools and work very closely together, running joint inset, a Cluster Conference and half termly Heads' meetings. In summer 2022 we were successful in a joint "SEND Support" bid, which means we have 18 months' worth of funding to work together on developing cross phase literacy and good emotional health. All this positively impacts on the training opportunities open to staff, as well as making secondary transition smooth.

I joined the school as Headteacher in 2016; the school has gone from strength to strength, and is now on the threshold of being outstanding. Ethos and the House System, including the vertical tutoring, student leadership and enriching curriculum have been a focus for us. We recruit and retain high quality teachers, who work in subject teams with a high degree of autonomy. We have an accelerated learning programme (Cranbourne Plus) for able children in academic subjects, with added opportunities beyond the classroom. The first cohort will sit GCSE in 2024 and we expect a significant uptick in Progress 8 for our higher attainers.

The pastoral system is well staffed with Heads of House, an Inclusion Manager, three Mental Health workers and non-teaching Cranbourne Parent Partners. We will add an attendance officer at Easter. This large team is reflective of the multiple needs of our learners and results in a very calm and pleasant school environment. We are far from complacent and know that attendance and the behaviour of a small minority of students needs strong support to improve.

A genuine commitment to each child and their family is at the core of what we strive for at Cranbourne. I love coming to school every day; we have a happy and well-motivated staff team and a wonderful blend of amazing children from a variety of backgrounds. Cranbourne is exactly the school I wanted to lead when I stepped over the threshold of my first teaching job.

I do hope that having read the information about our school you will want to apply for the post of Deputy Headteacher. This is an exciting opportunity to build on what we have already achieved and to bring new ideas to a unique pastoral system.

**Cranbourne:** Wessex Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 3NP

**Telephone:** 01256 868600 **Email:** [gen.enquiries@Cranbourne.hants.sch.uk](mailto:gen.enquiries@Cranbourne.hants.sch.uk)

**Website:** [www.cranbourne.hants.sch.uk](http://www.cranbourne.hants.sch.uk) **Headteacher:** Mrs J Aplin, BA(Hons) PGCE, PGDES



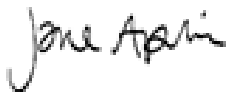
In your application form please make sure your response for question 6 includes details of your relevant experience and addresses the following issues:

1. Describe what you believe are the important features of an effective pastoral support system. What has influenced this vision? How do you turn this vision into reality?
2. Describe an initiative you have led in your team which has had a positive impact on student wellbeing.
3. Tell us about your philosophy of teaching, in your own practice, what are you most proud of?

The interview days are scheduled for Thursday 2 February and Friday 3 February 2023.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Aplin'.

Jane Aplin  
Headteacher