

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for taking the time to explore the role of Headteacher at Gloucester Nursery School. This is a school with a big heart and a long history, and we're genuinely excited to welcome someone who feels they can help shape its next chapter.

Gloucester has been part of the Northampton community since 1950, and you can feel that history the moment you walk through the door. Generations of families have trusted us with their children, and that sense of belonging still runs through everything we do. Our ethos, *every child and family matters* isn't a slogan. It's the way the staff greet children each morning, the way we build relationships with families, and the way we create a space where children feel safe, confident and ready to explore.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection recognised the school as a warm, nurturing and aspirational environment where children thrive. Inspectors highlighted the strength of our safeguarding culture, the quality of our SEND provision, and the commitment and skill of our staff team. They also noted the positive role governors play in supporting and challenging the school's work. We are proud of these strengths and are committed to building on them.

We're looking for a headteacher who shares our belief in the power of early years education, someone who values strong relationships, understands the importance of communication and wellbeing, and can lead with both clarity and compassion. You'll be joining a dedicated and highly qualified staff team, a governing board that is supportive and involved, and a community that holds the nursery in high regard.

If you're considering applying, I'd really encourage you to come and visit. Gloucester Nursery School is one of those places that makes sense when you see it first-hand how the ethos, relationships and learning environment makes it a special place for children and families.

Yours sincerely,

Colin MacDonald

Chair of Governors

Gloucester Nursery School

Information about the school

Gloucester Nursery School is a maintained nursery school. This means we are funded by the local authority and inspected under the same framework as primary and secondary schools. There are just under 400 maintained nursery schools in England and they are seen as beacons of best practice and specialists in early years education. We are very proud of our long history and our status as a maintained nursery school.

The head teacher works alongside the teacher, senior family worker and business manager as a senior leadership team. The head teacher also has the role of Senco. The rest of the staff team consists of nursery practitioners, nursery assistants, nursery workers and admin staff. The staff team are well qualified, have lots of experience and are fully committed to the school's ethos.

The school takes 2-4 year olds. We are open from 8.00 - 4.00, term time only. We currently have 25 two year olds and up to 62 three year olds. We have a very inclusive ethos and we have created specialist provision for children with complex special needs. We currently have 10 children who access this.

The school is located in an urban area in Northampton. The school consists of the original building and a newer building that is the base for our 2 year olds. The nursery has exceptional grounds, which includes a wildlife area with a large pond. Our grounds provide the children will access to challenging physical play, and so many opportunities to explore nature. We also have a sensory room, undercover area and dining room. The school is well maintained and well equipped. The school has a strong and well-established pedagogy based on child-led play supported by strong adult interactions. We have written sequential learning documents that outline the progression of learning across the school, and use these to plan alongside children's interests. We place great importance on developing independence skills, and feeder schools always comment on how ready for school our children are!

The role is full-time. The current head teacher is leaving at the end of April, so we ideally would like the role to start on May 1st. We would consider a later start date of September 1st for the right candidate.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (2013 and 2020). We are committed to safeguarding children and the successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, and will be assessed against the Childcare Disqualification Regulations. Any offer of employment made will be subject to all checks made being satisfactory. References will be requested and online activity searches will be undertaken for all shortlisted applicants. Shortlisted applicants must also complete a declaration of criminal convictions.

Closing date for applications – 6th Feb at 11.59pm

Shortlisting from 9th Feb

Planned interview date 24th Feb