

ROEHAMPTON CHURCH FOREST SCHOOL

Headteacher Information Pack

From the Chair of Governors

Thank you for your interest in the position of Headteacher at Roehampton Church Forest School. On behalf of the whole school community, I am delighted that you are considering joining our community at an exciting and pivotal moment in our development.

Roehampton Church Forest School is a vibrant, inclusive Church of England primary school in the heart of Roehampton. We serve a richly diverse community and are deeply committed to offering all children the highest quality education, rooted in Christian values and strengthened by our thriving forest school provision.

As Headteacher, you will play a central role in shaping the future of our school, building on our strong foundations and leading us into the next chapter with vision, compassion, and ambition. We are seeking a leader with warmth, integrity, and a genuine passion for helping every child flourish.

We warmly invite you to visit the school, meet our wonderful pupils and staff, and see for yourself what makes Roehampton such a special place.

We look forward to receiving your application.

With best wishes,

Paul Nicholls
Chair of Governors



From the Vicar of Roehampton

Thank you so much for your interest in being our new Headteacher at Roehampton Church Forest School.

As vicar of the parish I take a keen interest in the school and the individual pupils and staff who make up the school family. I am a governor of the school and take collective worship weekly. And the school shares a site with the parish church and the vicarage so I meet pupils and staff every day, seeing the school as it really is. I can report that it really is a wonderful community to be part of.

It is also a vital institution for Roehampton. The Alton Estate, where most of our children live, is one of the largest in London. We are surrounded by the glorious green spaces of Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park, but this makes Roehampton quite isolated from the rest of Inner London. The parish is the most economically deprived in the borough. Although so many parents and carers bring up their children well despite these challenges, some of our children do not always have the role models or family back-up we would want for them.

But when they get to RCFS, no matter where they have come from, each of them is known and valued as an individual. Teachers want the best for them and consistently help them to become their best selves. There is a great sense of school spirit. The children are articulate and funny.

They also work hard and are well educated. We are consistently in the upper quartile of Wandsworth primary schools measured by KS2 outcomes, well ahead of all other schools with whom we share a catchment area.

We have recently added Forest School provision to give our children the added advantage of outdoor learning, helping them grow in confidence and love of nature, build relationships, and learn to manage risk. Some other primary schools in Inner London are trying to get Forest School going: ours, though, is probably the only one situated right next to an actual forest! Forest School is a key part of the vision for the school. We see it as enhancing already strong learning, and also as an antidote to many of the negative influences children receive through their screens.

Above all, we are here to educate children of all faiths and none, and to help them become their best selves, as an expression of the Christian faith in which the school was founded almost two hundred years ago, the values of which it lives out day by day. Personally I find it a joy to be involved with RCFS. I hope you will too.

With my prayers and best wishes

Joshua Rey

Vicar of Holy Trinity
Roehampton



Where we are

Roehampton is in Wandsworth, at the South West edge of Inner London, amongst some of the most glorious green space in any major city of the world. The parish is demographically varied with extremes of wealth and poverty; the large majority live on the Alton Estate and on average Roehampton is one of the most deprived areas in South West London.



About the school: data

Number of children in school: 125

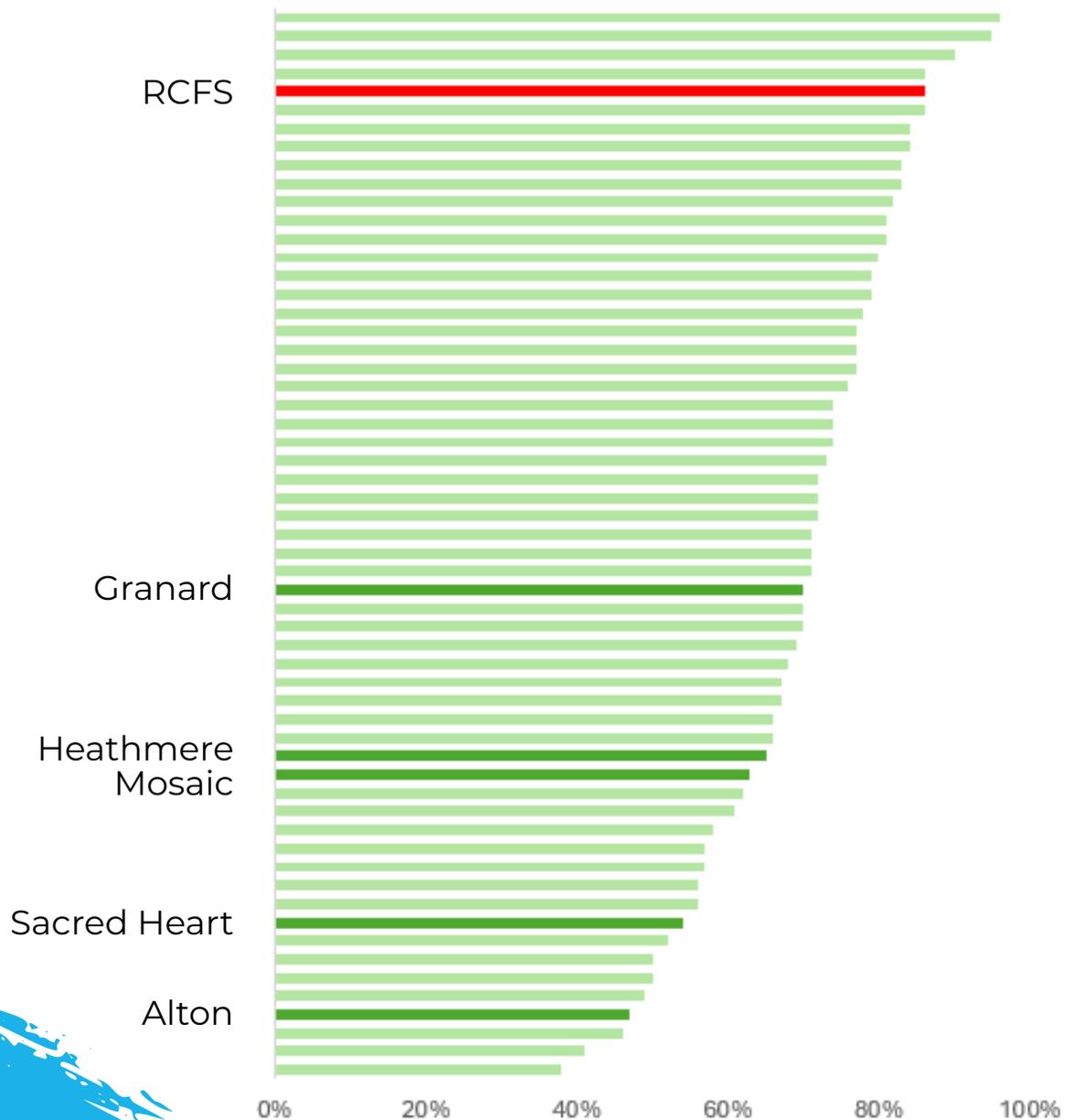
Those with English as an alternative language: 53

SEND: 27%

PPG : 60 children

Most recent OFSTED: "Good" 2023

KS2 pupils achieving at expected standard 2025 – all Wandsworth schools, Roehampton schools highlighted:



About the school: vision

'Nurturing Individuality, Growing Together, Embracing Community'

Roehampton Church Forest School (RCFS) is a proudly Christian school, where our Christian vision is underpinned by the verse, 'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity'. Psalm 133:1

RCFS is a community where everyone is welcomed and respected and where every person commits to our school values of being responsible, caring, fearless and secure. These values sit alongside our Christian values of Respect, Service, Courage, Generosity, Friendship, Compassion, Peace, Perseverance, Forgiveness, Thankfulness and Truthfulness, which permeate throughout the life of our school. Our Christian values encourage all to make the world a better place through love, knowledge and understanding.

Children at Roehampton are known, valued, and celebrated. We believe that every child has God-given potential, and we aim to help each one discover and develop their gifts.

Our thriving Forest School provision is central to our identity. Through outdoor learning, children build resilience, confidence, creativity, problem-solving skills, and a deep connection with the natural world. Our grounds and local green spaces enable children to develop curiosity, independence, and teamwork in ways that complement classroom learning.

The next Headteacher will play a key role in embedding and extending this distinctive aspect of our offer.



Our Community

We are proud to serve the diverse Roehampton community. Our families bring a richness of cultures, backgrounds, and experiences, all of which contribute to the inclusive environment that characterises our school.

We enjoy strong partnerships with:

- Holy Trinity Church, which supports our worship and spiritual life.
- Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, which supports school leaders and the school
- The local authority, who collaborate closely with us.
- Community organisations, providing opportunities beyond the curriculum.

Our parents and carers are deeply committed to the school and play an active role in school life.

Our Staff

The staff team at Roehampton is dedicated, compassionate, and highly motivated. Our teachers and support staff work collaboratively to create a safe, stimulating environment where children thrive. We are proud of our culture of professional development and reflective practice, and we are seeking a Headteacher who will continue to nurture this.

Looking to the Future

As we look ahead to the coming years, we are excited about the opportunities before us. Key priorities for the next phase of our journey include:

- Strengthening our Christian distinctiveness, ensuring that faith and values remain at the heart of everything we do.
- Further embedding our Forest School practice, deepening its impact across the curriculum.
- Raising aspirations and attainment through high-quality teaching, broad enrichment, and strong pastoral care.
- Continuing to develop a rich, ambitious curriculum that reflects the needs, talents, and diversity of our children.
- Investing in staff development, leadership growth, and sustainable recruitment.
- Enhancing partnerships with families, the church, and the wider community.
- Ensuring financial stability and strategic use of resources to support long-term school improvement.

We are searching for a leader who will embrace these opportunities with creativity and determination.



Job Description

Job title: Headteacher of Roehampton Church Forest School, Wandsworth

Starting date: September 2026

At Roehampton Church Forest School we welcome you to an exciting world of 'Nurturing Individuality, Growing Together, Embracing Community'.

We value each child as a unique individual and, through rich learning experiences, we aim to ignite a love of learning. In keeping with our Christian foundation, we nurture the values of being responsible, caring, fearless and secure

Job Purpose

To provide professional leadership and plan, develop, support, administer and monitor the academic, pastoral, social, religious and financial life of the school community, in pursuit of the aims of Roehampton Church Forest School, and to help develop the school's long-term strategic vision, realising all aspects of the annual school development plan.

The Headteacher will uphold the school's Christian ethos and Forest School philosophy, creating a safe, inclusive, and stimulating environment where children are at the heart of all decision-making.

The Headteacher will work closely with governors, staff, parents, Holy Trinity Church, and the wider community to ensure that children receive the highest quality education, pastoral care, and opportunities for personal growth.

The Headteacher's role requires:

Professional and aspirational leadership for the school, setting clear strategic direction and securing high-quality operational delivery including, but not limited to:

- Leading the development of Christian distinctiveness including collective worship and the programme of Religious Education, and the celebration of key events in the Christian Calendar
- Setting high expectations for academic standards within the school, while recognising differences and respecting cultural diversity
- Promoting a love of learning through teaching a broad and balanced creative curriculum, including forest school, within a safe, happy and emotionally secure environment



- Challenging underperformance at all levels and having a decisive impact on the quality of teaching and pupils' achievements in the classroom
- Establishing, developing and maintaining effective strategies and procedures for staff induction, professional development and performance review
- Taking responsibility for managing, promoting and encouraging a working environment conducive to excellent staff relations and high staff morale
- Establishing and developing a collaborative learning culture within the school and actively engaging with other schools to build effective learning and cultural communities
- Working with the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SDBE) and the Local Authority (Achieving for Children); advising the governors on matters relating to the school's voluntary aided status and representing the school's needs and concerns
- Ensuring the highest standards of safeguarding to protect all children
- Ensuring resources, facilities and staffing are optimised to enhance children's learning and financial sustainability

Headteachers are required to carry out their duties in accordance with the School Teachers Pay and Conditions document and the National Standards for Headteachers. The National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers (2020) which forms the framework of this job description can be found in this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-of-excellence-for-headteachers>

Safeguarding Statement

Roehampton Church Forest School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check, online search, and satisfactory references.

Equality Statement

Roehampton Church Forest School is committed to positively tackling discrimination in all its forms and works to ensure that all sections of the community have fair and equal access to and experience within employment. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds and communities, in particular those that are currently underrepresented in our workforce; we are respectful of all individuals' race, age, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, caring responsibilities, disabilities and cultural background.



What we offer you

Joining Roehampton Church Forest School means becoming part of a caring, committed community where leaders are encouraged to grow and make meaningful impact. We offer:

- A school with a clear identity, strong values, and a passionate community.
- Enthusiastic children who love learning and thrive in our Forest School environment.
- A dedicated, talented staff team eager for continued professional development.
- A supportive governing body and strong partnerships with Holy Trinity Church.
- Opportunities to shape an ambitious vision and lead creative curriculum development.
- A competitive salary of £87,032 to £98,234 which may be pro-rated depending on agreed pattern of work.



What the children say



'We enjoy projects with Sparkle where we communicate with older people who become grandfriends'

'We learn about nature as we go to forest school weekly alongside other learning'

'I like the forest school and the Church'

'We learn about Jesus and God'

'We are caring, fearless and secure in school and in the school community'

'All children at RCFS are always ready to learn'

'Our knowledge grows bigger and better every day because the staff the staff communicate well'

'RCFS I committed to our education and forest school learning'

'We have fun trips that are linked to our learning'

'We get opportunities to attend after school clubs at different places'

'I like the forest school and the Church'

'The best thing about school is the Maths!'

'I love the playground.'

'My favourite thing about school is my friends.'

'My really best thing is lunch.'

'All my favourite things are my playing and learning and doing Maths.'

'My favourite thing is arts and crafts and English '

'My favourite thing is all the nice teachers'

'All my best things are English and science, we do some great science'

'We love Sparkle'

'My favourite subject is Art. You can be quiet and it is so calming.'

'My favourite thing about school is Maths'

'My favourite thing is Forest School. You get to look at nature and explore outside.'

'I like Forest School. We talk about Nature and learn about trees and we respect nature.'

'My favourite things are Forest School, Art and DT and Maths.'



What the staff say

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I love being involved in the forest school element of the school.

As a member of staff at Roehampton Church Forest school, what stands out most is the genuinely welcoming atmosphere. Because we're a small school, we have a close-knit community of staff, pupils, parents, and church partners, and there's a real sense of working together. It's a supportive place to work, and you can feel that shared commitment as soon as you walk in.

I like being part of a team, someone is always around to ask for support. It's an amazing location, a beautiful historical building, great to look and explore the common around us, but most of all we have with lots of lovely children.

RCFS is like a family full of warmth, committed to supporting all of our families and community whilst shaping our children's futures.

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Person Specification

Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Education, Training and Experience	
Qualified Teacher Status	
Honours degree or equivalent	NPQH
Leadership experience as a Headteacher, Deputy or Assistant and at least 3-5 years as a member of Senior Leadership Team	
Clear evidence of commitment to own professional development	

Qualities and Knowledge of Leadership in a Church School	
Ability to fully support, maintain and build on the strong inclusive Christian ethos and values of the school and close links with the Parish Church.	
A deep understanding of current national education policy and statutory requirements that relate to the management of schools.	
Has experience of or enthusiasm for forest school learning and a willingness to champion it to benefit the pupils in the delivery of the national curriculum.	
Is a confident communicator, able to engage effectively with pupils, parents and carers, staff, governors and the church community.	Evidence of home-school partnership to secure the active participation of families in pupils' learning
A strategic educational vision and ability to apply this to school improvement whilst empowering and inspiring stakeholders to support this vision.	
Secure understanding of quality of education in line with the current Ofsted and SIAMS frameworks, with the ambition and skills to achieve excellence and lead the school into our next inspection.	
Proven experience of building positive working relationships with key stakeholders and ability to remain calm and focussed when faced with difficult/stressful situations.	
Ability to inspire, motivate and support the whole school community including commitment to lead change through innovation and staff development.	



Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Qualities and Knowledge of Leadership in a Church School... continued	
A strong record as an exceptional leader, and teacher, and of developing outstanding practice in a primary school.	
Ability to be an ambassador for the school promoting it locally and further raising its profile in and involvement with the wider community.	
Proven ability to be adaptable and open to new ideas and set high expectations of self and others.	
Considerable experience of effectively safeguarding pupils and ensuring their health, safety and well-being	
A strong understanding of and commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, with aspiration for all pupils	

Pupils and Staff	
Commitment to and experience of effectively evaluating and monitoring quality of teaching, learning and assessment in order to further raise pupil progress and achievement and enhance the school improvement plan.	
Proven ability to implement, build, lead and monitor effective performance management and develop full potential of all staff. Well versed in personnel management, flexible and able to accommodate and manage differing opinions and views.	
Commitment to pastoral care, with safeguarding as a priority, and promoting the well-being of everyone in the school community.	
Evidence of effectively implementing whole school change, taking staff with them and having a positive impact on pupils' outcomes.	
Knowledge of strategies to promote inclusion in school through development of curriculum, leadership of staff and raising achievement for all pupils.	

Systems and Processes	
Sound understanding of financial and administrative management and experience of managing resources, including buildings to secure the best value.	
Confidence using ICT for leadership purposes including data examination and document creation to communicate with and present accurate information to a range of stakeholders.	

