



Parkstone Grammar School

Teacher of Religion and Philosophy

Part-Time (0.7 - 0.8 FTE)

Applicant Pack

Parkstone Grammar School
Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset, BH17 7EP
01202 605605
recruitment@parkstone.poole.sch.uk





Headteacher's Welcome

As the headteacher of Parkstone Grammar School, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to our vibrant and dynamic school community. At Parkstone, we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience that nurtures the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of every student.

We are a heavily oversubscribed 11-18 selective girls' school offering outstanding education to the students of Poole and its surrounding area. Founded in 1905, Parkstone has continued to provide excellent academic results within a warm, friendly and vibrant community. We are a six-form entry school with 1250 students including 350 in the sixth form.

Our school is a place where students are encouraged to explore their passions, expand their knowledge, and develop critical thinking skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. We have a team of dedicated and highly qualified teachers and support staff who are passionate about education and are committed to inspiring and challenging our students.

We believe in creating a supportive and inclusive environment where each student feels valued and respected. Our students are rightly proud of their school which provides for them a broad and balanced curriculum promoting independence, intellectual curiosity and a love of learning. Subjects offered at GCSE and A Level include academic and facilitating subjects from a very wide range. Our sixth form collaboration with Poole Grammar School for Boys allows us to offer an extensive A Level curriculum.

Students at Parkstone are not only encouraged to succeed academically, but to enjoy the wide range of musical, theatrical, sporting, speaking and charitable opportunities. They thrive in an environment of support and challenge, becoming resilient learners well prepared to succeed in the 21st Century.

The unique single-sex selective environment allows the students to grow in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Parkstone's national reputation for excellence and continued success is testament to the consistent dedication of students, staff and governors.

Ofsted commented that Parkstone offers a 'stimulating, friendly community in which all students are valued and may thrive intellectually, emotionally and physically'. Our school's focus is always on teaching and learning as we strive to challenge these able students to become confident, happy and successful young people.

I invite you to apply to our school, and experience the warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes Parkstone truly special. If you're ready to embark on a rewarding journey where your passion for education meets limitless possibilities, we encourage you to explore the opportunities at Parkstone. Join us in making a difference to our young people and shaping the future together.

David Hallsworth, Headteacher



Our Vision

At Parkstone, we embody the values of Commitment, Courage and Compassion to enable students to adapt and thrive in an evolving world, providing an education that inspires and empowers students to determine and achieve their goals.

COMMITMENT

“Be tenacious and relentless in your curiosity for knowledge”

COURAGE

“Feel confident to achieve your very best and develop your resilience to overcome barriers”

COMPASSION

“You should encourage and care for your peers, value and engage with all cultures and religions in our diverse global community”

“Parkstone has encouraged and inspired me to love learning. There is a great community and I am always supported – just like a family.”

Year 7 Pupil



Our Guiding Principles

- Parkstone will be a seat of exceptional learning where great teachers enjoy autonomy in the classroom to inspire and challenge our able students.
- Very high-quality staff development and peer support to facilitate highly effective learning over time.
- Effective feedback to move students forward in their knowledge and skill development.
- Parkstone will achieve amongst the best schools in the country for the national progress measures at GCSE and A Level.
- A positive ethos underpinned by our values of Courage, Commitment and Compassion.
- Personalised support with highly effective intervention to enable equal access to learning.
- Students will have an understanding of global and national diversity and will be well prepared for life in an ever-evolving world.
- A strong community supported by the staff and student leadership teams.
- Compassionate, high quality advice and guidance to make informed and confident decisions regarding life after Parkstone.
- Opportunities outside the classroom which provide holistic development.
- To engage in initiatives and charity projects to contribute to the local and wider community.
- A broad, balanced and inspiring curriculum appropriate to Parkstone.
- An inspiring learning environment underpinned by a research culture and reflective practice.
- Our community will have high expectations of everyone in line with our Values and Charter.
- To instil a sense of stewardship towards our local, national and global environment.



"Teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They inspire and sustain a love of learning in their pupils."

Ofsted Report



Our School Charter

In our community it is important that we should maintain high standards and take responsibility for our own actions.

OUR COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To uphold the values of our school
- To treat all persons and the environment of the school with respect
- To apply ourselves to all areas of school life
- To empower all to do our best and to take care of each other
- To challenge any inequality and prejudiced attitudes

OUR RIGHTS

- To be treated with respect by all members of our community
- To feel safe both emotionally and physically in our school environment
- To participate in all the opportunities that our school offers
- To know where we can access support and guidance
- To be challenged appropriately where we fall short of our responsibilities



"Parkstone was the very best option for our daughter and has helped her grow in confidence and equipped her for university and life beyond!"

Parent



Safeguarding

Parkstone Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

All shortlisted candidates will be required to complete a Criminal Records Self-Declaration Form. This will allow the school to identify whether you may be ineligible for a role based on barring or a section 128 direction.

Any successful applicant will be required to undertake an Enhanced DBS Check with Children's Barred List information. They will also be required to provide the relevant criminal record checks for time spent living or working outside of the UK within the last 10 years. Applicants can find further information via gov.uk. Please note that any cost for these checks will not be covered by the school.

Further information on safer recruitment processes can be found on our website and we encourage you to read these before submitting your application. Alternatively, please contact our HR Manager if you have any questions by calling the school on 01202 605605.

Our Child Protection Safeguarding Policy can be found on our school website.



Ofsted

Key findings of this Outstanding School

“Under the headteacher’s calm, authoritative and exceptionally effective leadership, the school has improved rapidly since the previous inspection”.

“Leadership at all levels is very strong. Governors, senior leaders, middle leaders and other staff work harmoniously together to provide high-quality education for pupils”.

“Pupils make remarkable progress by the time they take their GCSEs in Year 11. This is sustained in the sixth form”.

“By the time they leave school, pupils have attained consistently at the highest levels and are extremely well prepared for the next stage of their education or employment”.

“Disadvantaged pupils make exceptional progress during their time at the school. Their rates of progress are much higher than other pupils nationally with the same starting points”.

“School leaders make very good use of targeted training to develop teachers’ professional knowledge and skills. As a result, teaching continues to improve”.

“Teachers are knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They inspire and sustain a love of learning in their pupils. Teachers have an unswerving faith in the ability of their pupils to succeed and give their time unselfishly to ensure that this happens”.

“Pupils are confident and articulate learners. They take great pride in their work and are determined to succeed”.

“Pupils’ behaviour is impeccable and their positive attitudes to learning are exemplary. They are hungry to learn and attendance rates are high, including in the sixth form”.

“The sixth form is outstanding. Students follow very well developed 16 to 19 study programmes”.

“Disadvantaged students prosper in the sixth form and in recent years all have gone on to university”.



Benefits

Parkstone is pleased to be able to offer all staff members:

Core Benefits

- A contributory pension scheme relevant to your role (including access to Teacher and Local Government Schemes).
- Occupational sick pay.
- Tailored Continuous Professional Development (CPD) through the South Central Teaching Hub.
- Free access to the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) - confidential support network that offers expert advice and compassionate guidance 24/7 covering a wide range of issues, such as: Legal Information, Bereavement Support and Online CBT among much more.
- All staff are entitled to a 'Golden Day' once a year – a paid day off or part time equivalent.
- Free Yoga and Pilates sessions throughout the term.
- Termly Staff Wellbeing and Workload groups to raise and solve issues.

Flexible Benefits

- Cycle to work scheme
- Eligibility to join The Blue Light Card discount scheme



Teacher of Religion and Philosophy

(between 0.7 - 0.8 FTE)

DETAILS OF THE POST

This post is available from September 2025. We are looking to appoint an outstanding teacher to teach KS3, GCSE and A Level Religion and Philosophy. Our students are academically able and well-motivated and achieve excellent results.

We are seeking a colleague who enjoys working in a team, can provide a stimulating atmosphere in the classroom and inspire our students to give of their best. All teachers are expected to act as form tutors. Enthusiasm, patience and calmness under pressure are vital qualities. Please see the attached Person Specification for further details of our requirements.

THE DEPARTMENT

This post offers excellent prospects for a committed and enthusiastic candidate to work in an exceptional and innovative Religion and Philosophy Department.

Religion and Philosophy is taught by a flourishing department in a school which places high value on the development of thinking and of the individual. As Religion and Philosophy is an exploration of the diverse value systems, both religious and non-religious, in our society, the subject is taught from an objective, non-confessional, standpoint. Students may be of any religious persuasion or of none.

CURRICULUM

Religion and Philosophy is a popular academic subject at GCSE and A Level. Years 7 and 8 are taught in form groups with both year groups currently having three 60-minute lessons a fortnight.

In Year 9, 10 and 11 Religion and Philosophy is an option subject, with students receiving three 60-minute lessons per fortnight in Year 9 and four 60-minute lessons a fortnight in Years 10 and 11. Students follow the WJEC Eduqas Route A: 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World, focusing on Christianity and Islam.

In addition to GCSE classes, students receive one hour per fortnight of Religious Education in Years 9 and 10. This is a non-examined course which explores perennial and contemporary religious and philosophical questions with regards to what it means to be fully human.

At A level, students follow the OCR syllabus in Religious Studies (H573) with a focus on Developments in Buddhist Thought as the third component. All A Level students receive nine 60-minute lessons a fortnight. In 2023, 90% of year 13 students secured A*-B grades.



In 2024, 77% of year 11 students secured 9-7 grades, 51% achieved grades 9-8. At A Level, 43% of our students achieved A*-A and 100% achieved A*-C. The department has a long-standing tradition of sending students to read Philosophy and Theology at leading universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

We are looking to appoint an outstanding teacher who can inspire and bring out the best in all our students. Enthusiasm, vision and a passion for the subject, particularly Philosophy of Religion, are all desirable attributes. Please see the attached Person Specification for further details of our requirements.



Person Specification

We are seeking a highly skilled colleague who will be dynamic and committed to the school. The qualities/skills/experience we are looking for include:

- excellent academic/professional qualifications
- excellent subject knowledge and an awareness of current developments in the subject
- an ability to teach Buddhism at A Level would be desirable though not essential
- the highest possible expectations of standards of behaviour and attainment
- a proven record of success in teaching Religion and Philosophy - ECT applications are welcomed
- the ability to demonstrate enthusiasm and passion for the subject
- the ability to use data on student achievement as effectively as possible
- ICT skills that enable you to make the best use of new technology to support teaching and learning
- excellent inter-personal skills
- the ability to work well within a team and contribute to planning of schemes of work
- a willingness to carry out coursework supervision and marking
- an excellent rapport with both students and colleagues
- decision-making skills
- excellent communication and presentation skills
- the ability to work effectively under pressure
- a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students
- a commitment to the wider life of the school
- a commitment to equality of opportunity
- a commitment to continuous improvement and professional development
- boundless energy and a sense of humour!



Contact us

If you would like more information about Parkstone Grammar School please email recruitment@parkstone.poole.sch.uk

Alternatively, if you wish to discuss the vacancy please call 01202 605605 8.00 – 4.30 Monday to Thursday and 8.00 – 4.00 on a Friday.

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