



Acorn
Education Trust

Teacher of Religious Studies

Kingdown School

Welcome from Sara Edwards

Acorn Education Trust CEO

Thank you for your interest in one of our vacancies, I hope the information enclosed in this pack inspires you to apply.

Acorn Education Trust was established in 2014 to provide a local solution to a national strategy. We now serve 22 settings: 16 Primary Schools, 4 Secondary Schools and 2 nurseries.

Our mission is to 'prepare young people for their world in their time' and this sits at the heart of all we do. We strive for excellent leadership, excellent teaching and excellent learning. Our vision is to transform lives through education.

In every Acorn School, you will see:

- A** Active and visible leadership
- C** Care, support and challenge
- O** Opportunities for all
- R** Readiness to reach out
- N** Needs of all are paramount

Every Headteacher focuses on leading teaching and learning in their school. Central teams manage the business element of the Trust which allows us to share resources, improve IT and estates infrastructure and invest in school to school support. We are therefore able to direct as much money as possible into teaching and learning thus improving the life chances of all our young people.

Whatever role you are applying for, whether in a school or as part of the central team, we hope you can align with our vision and values, have the determination to succeed and are up for a challenge. In turn, we will provide you with a comprehensive and supportive induction programme, professional development and a career with Acorn.

We hope this information pack provides you with a flavour of working within our Trust and we look forward to receiving your application.

Sara Edwards

About Kingdown School

Believe. Aspire. Achieve.

Kingdown School is a co-educational, non-denominational secondary school, educating young people between the ages of 11 and 18 years. Located in the charming garrison town of Warminster, Wiltshire, we have a strong reputation in the local community and beyond, built on an unswerving focus on the quality of teaching and learning and great pastoral care.

Our school has a large and friendly team who are dedicated to helping each and every young person achieve their full potential. In 2022, we retained our 'Good' Ofsted rating and were praised for our strong moral leadership and for the wide range of opportunities that we have on offer to support students with their broader development.

As a founding member of Acorn Education Trust in 2014, we work closely with other schools within the Trust to provide the best possible education, opportunities and support for our young people, who are always at the heart of our decision making.

Our well-resourced school has a wide range of excellent facilities, including:

- Sports fields, netball courts, tennis courts, astro turf pitches, a gym and sports hall;
- Dance and drama studios;
- Interactive whiteboards and projectors in classrooms;
- Computer suites in most teaching areas;
- A dedicated sixth form building and suite of rooms;
- A large hall with full AV system and a stage for productions, events and concerts;
- An open-plan library with a wide range of reading materials;
- Subject area suites for science, design technology and art;
- Enhanced provision via our Link and Learning and Welfare Hub, plus a Behaviour Hub.

In a recent survey, 95% of our staff said they enjoyed working at Kingdown and felt well supported here – we value everyone at Kingdown.

Helen Carpenter
Headteacher

For more information, please visit our website: www.kingdown.wilts.sch.uk

Department information

Religious Studies

Curriculum

Key Stage 3

- Students in Year 7&8 have two lessons a fortnight and students in Year 9 have three lessons a fortnight. Students in year 7 are streamed with two higher groups and three lower/mixed groups on each side of the year. Students in year 8 and 9 are set, but the exact nature of the setting varies according to the needs of the students each year. KS3 learning covers a wide variety of religions and topics, as we aim to engage students interest in the beliefs of others, and provide them with an understanding of what both links and differentiates different belief systems.

Key Stage 4

- We have full course classes in each year group. Students are studying Edexcel Spec B course through Christianity and Islam. Students are taught in mixed ability groups. We have excellent exam results.

Key Stage 5

- Students are studying OCR Religious Studies Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism. There are 9 lessons a fortnight. Where appropriate we attend conferences with the 6th form students.

Department accommodation and resources

There are three dedicated RS classrooms, each with a PC, whiteboard and data projector. There is an RS office with two PC's and a printer for staff to work on in non-contact lessons. The department has worked together to produce full schemes of work for every unit, and fixed homework and assessment tasks are in place. Teachers are encouraged to use these as a basis for their planning, while adapting individual lessons to suit the needs of their groups.

Extra-curricular activities

Religious Studies (RS) has a variety of extracurricular activities to enrich students' learning including afterschool clubs, giving students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge and deepen their understanding outside the classroom, as well as conferences for Sixth Form students.

Department structure

We are a small and supportive team, who work closely together to develop our curriculum and inspire our students. We also work closely with the RS teachers in other Acorn Trust schools to continually review and improve RS throughout the Trust. Teamwork and willingness to share ideas and resources are very important to us, as we work to encourage our students to become respectful, philosophical and critical thinkers.

Job description

Job title	Teacher of Religious Studies (RS)
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Reporting to	Head of RS / Headteacher
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Main purpose

The Teacher of RS will:

- Fulfil the professional responsibilities of a teacher, as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document
- Meet the expectations set out in the Teachers' Standards

Duties and responsibilities

Teaching

- Plan and teach well-structured lessons to assigned classes, following the school's plans, curriculum and schemes of work
- Assess, monitor, record and report on the learning needs, progress and achievements of assigned pupils, making accurate and productive use of assessment
- Adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of pupils
- Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils
- Promote good progress and outcomes by pupils
- Demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge
- Participate in arrangements for preparing pupils for external tests

Whole-school organisation, strategy and development

- Contribute to the development, implementation and evaluation of the school's policies, practices and procedures, so as to support the school's vision and values
- Make a positive contribution to the wider life and ethos of the school
- Work with others on curriculum and pupil development to secure co-ordinated outcomes
- Provide cover, in the unforeseen circumstance that another teacher is unable to teach

Professional Development

- Take part in the school's appraisal procedures
- Take part in further training and development in order to improve own teaching
- Take part in the appraisal and professional development of others, where appropriate

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Job description continued

Duties and responsibilities cont.

Communication

- Communicate effectively with pupils, parents and carers

Working with colleagues and other relevant professionals

- Collaborate and work with colleagues and other relevant professionals within and beyond the school
- Develop effective professional relationships with colleagues

Personal and professional conduct

- Uphold public trust in the profession and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour, within and outside school
- Have proper and professional regard for the ethos, policies and practices of the school, and maintain high standards of attendance and punctuality
- Understand and act within the statutory frameworks setting out their professional duties and responsibilities

Management of staff and resources

- Direct and supervise support staff assigned to them, and where appropriate, other teachers
- Contribute to the recruitment and professional development of other teachers and support staff
- Deploy resources delegated to them

Safeguarding

- Work in line with statutory safeguarding guidance (e.g. Keeping Children Safe in Education, Prevent) and our safeguarding and child protection policies
- Work with the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) to promote the best interests of pupils, including sharing concerns where necessary
- Promote the safeguarding of all pupils in the school

Please note: This Job Description may be amended at any time in consultation with the postholder.

Person specification

Criteria	Essential
Qualifications and Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)• Undergraduate degree• Successful teaching experience
Skills and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the National Curriculum• Knowledge of effective teaching and learning strategies• A good understanding of how children learn• Ability to adapt teaching to meet pupils' needs• Ability to build effective working relationships with pupils• Knowledge of guidance and requirements around safeguarding children• Knowledge of effective behaviour management strategies• Good ICT skills, particularly using ICT to support learning
Personal attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A commitment to getting the best outcomes for all pupils and promoting the ethos and values of the school• High expectations for children's attainment and progress• Ability to work under pressure and prioritise effectively• Commitment to maintaining confidentiality at all times• Commitment to safeguarding and equality

The Teacher of Religious Studies will be required to follow school policies and the staff code of conduct.

Please note that this is illustrative of the general nature and level of responsibility of the role. It is not a comprehensive list of all tasks that the successful applicant will carry out. The postholder may be required to do other duties appropriate to the level of the role.

Support for our staff

Whether your role is in a school or the central team, you will be part of a caring team that will provide you with the support and challenge needed to fulfil your role effectively.

Continued Professional Development (CPD)

- A comprehensive induction programme for all new staff (across all roles), that includes mentor and peer support
- Statutory training on safeguarding, health & safety and GDPR
- Access to over 2,500 world-leading courses, webinars and resources via the National College online training platform
- Support for Early Career Teachers (ECTs)
- Role specific training for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) roles
- School based training, including mentoring and coaching from senior leaders within school and across the wider Trust; Cross phase and school to school support
- Subject communities, across primary and secondary level, to share good practice across the Trust
- Opportunities to role shadow
- Apprenticeships available at various levels across the Trust for multiple roles, including Teaching, Teaching Assistants, Nursery and IT Technicians

Health and wellbeing

- A strong culture of wellbeing across all schools and the central team
- Family friendly policies, including comprehensive flexible working policy, adoption leave policy, maternity and paternity (including shared parental leave) policies and staff wellbeing policy
- Access to [Care First](#), an employee assistance programme which provides confidential support on health and wellbeing, relationships, money issues, bereavement and loss, stress, anxiety and depression and much more

Pensions

- Teacher pension
- Local government pension
- Nest pension

Staff wellbeing is very important at Acorn Education Trust. We are consistently looking for new ways to improve our offering, and, regularly collect feedback at all levels to check in with our staff and ensure they feel supported in their role.

How to apply

We highly encourage all interested applicants to arrange a tour of our school prior to applying.

To arrange a tour, or if you would like any additional information about this role, please contact the school office via email at info@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk or by phone on 01985 215551.

To apply

Please visit our [Acorn careers page](#) to complete an application form.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a one-day interview.

Kingdown School, Woodcock Road, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 9DR

01985 215551

info@kingdown.wilts.sch.uk

Kingdown School, as part of the Acorn Education Trust, is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. If successful in obtaining this post you will be subject to a Disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service and health screening. We are an equal opportunities employer. As part of our safer recruitment processes, if you are shortlisted for the post, we will carry out a social media account search.