OAKWOOD PARK GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post:	Teacher of Sociology and Politics
Responsible To:	Head of Department / Relevant Line Manager

Strive & Serve

The School

Oakwood Park Grammar School is a selective boys' grammar school with high aspirations for every student. Our ethos, captured in our motto 'Strive and Serve', places students at the centre of all that we do. We are committed to inclusive excellence, strong academic outcomes and providing a rich education that develops knowledgeable, confident and thoughtful young people.

The successful candidate will join a highly successful department with an established record of exceptional outcomes in Sociology and Politics. They will contribute to sustaining this success while ensuring that students are intellectually challenged, well supported and prepared for ambitious next steps.

Job Purpose

To deliver high-quality teaching and learning in Sociology and Politics, enabling students to make excellent progress and achieve outstanding outcomes. The postholder will promote curiosity, critical thinking, informed debate and a secure understanding of the social, political and cultural world. They will contribute fully to the work of the department and the wider life of Oakwood Park Grammar School.

Key Responsibilities

1. Teaching and Learning

- Plan and deliver engaging, challenging and well-sequenced lessons that meet the needs of highly able learners and enable all students to make strong progress.
- Demonstrate secure and up-to-date subject knowledge in Sociology and/or Politics, making complex concepts accessible and encouraging students to think deeply and independently.
- Use a range of effective teaching strategies to develop knowledge, understanding, application, analysis and evaluation.
- Establish high expectations for learning, conduct, effort, participation and the quality of students' work.
- Create a purposeful, inclusive and intellectually stimulating classroom environment in which students feel confident to question, discuss and debate.
- Use questioning, discussion and formative assessment effectively to check understanding, address misconceptions and adapt teaching.
- Provide clear, timely and constructive feedback that helps students understand how to improve and take responsibility for their learning.
- Promote literacy, oracy and disciplinary vocabulary, including students' ability to construct coherent arguments and communicate complex ideas with precision.
- Make appropriate use of digital resources and technology to enhance teaching, learning and students' independent study.

2. Curriculum and Departmental Contribution

- Contribute to the planning, review and development of a coherent, ambitious and appropriately sequenced curriculum in line with examination specifications and the school's curriculum principles.
- Support the development of schemes of learning, teaching resources and assessment materials that secure depth, breadth and progression.
- Ensure that teaching reflects current developments, debates and relevant contemporary examples within Sociology and Politics.

- Contribute to the department's shared approach to teaching, assessment, feedback, independent learning and the preparation of students for public examinations.
- Support enrichment opportunities that extend students' subject knowledge and understanding, including relevant lectures, visits, competitions, visiting speakers and wider reading where appropriate.
- Work collaboratively with colleagues to share effective practice and contribute to the continued improvement of the department.

3. Assessment, Achievement and Progress

- Assess students' work regularly and accurately in accordance with departmental and whole-school policies.
- Use assessment information, examination analysis and knowledge of individual students to identify strengths, gaps and barriers to progress.
- Support students in developing effective revision strategies, examination technique and independent study habits.
- Monitor the progress and attainment of teaching groups and individuals, taking timely action where students are not making the progress expected.
- Contribute to the department's analysis of outcomes and the identification and implementation of strategies to sustain its exceptional examination performance.
- Maintain accurate records of assessment, achievement and intervention, and communicate relevant information to colleagues and parents/carers as required.

4. Inclusion, Pastoral Care and Student Support

- Ensure that all students are treated fairly, with dignity and respect, and have access to an ambitious and appropriately challenging curriculum.
- Adapt teaching and provide appropriate support and scaffolding so that students with differing needs can access learning and achieve highly.
- Work with the SENDCo, pastoral teams and other colleagues to support students with SEND, disadvantaged students and those who may be experiencing barriers to learning.
- Promote positive relationships, high standards of behaviour and a culture of mutual respect in line with the school's policies and expectations.
- Take an active interest in students' academic progress, wellbeing and personal development, following up concerns and referring them through the appropriate school procedures.
- Act as a positive role model, promoting the school's values and encouraging students to become responsible, respectful and engaged members of the school community.

5. Professional Responsibilities

- Work constructively with the Head of Department, colleagues and wider school teams to support the school's priorities and improvement plans.
- Participate fully in departmental meetings, whole-school meetings, professional learning, performance development and quality assurance activities.
- Reflect on professional practice, respond positively to feedback and take responsibility for ongoing professional development.
- Fulfil duties, attend parents' evenings and other school events, and undertake reasonable responsibilities that contribute to the effective running of the school.
- Communicate professionally and effectively with students, colleagues, parents/carers and external partners.
- Follow all school policies and procedures, including those relating to health and safety, data protection, acceptable use of technology, equality and inclusion.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

Oakwood Park Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All staff are expected to share this commitment, maintain professional boundaries, understand and follow the school's safeguarding and child protection procedures, and act promptly on any concerns about a student's safety or wellbeing.

- Undertake safeguarding training and maintain an up-to-date understanding of statutory guidance and school procedures.
- Report concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.
- Promote the welfare of students through professional conduct, vigilance and a culture in which students feel safe and listened to.

General

The postholder will be expected to undertake any other reasonable duties commensurate with the responsibilities of the post, as directed by the Headteacher. This job description may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the postholder to reflect the changing needs and priorities of the school.