

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for considering the post of Deputy Head (Inclusion) at South Wirral High School.

This vacancy has emerged because one of our Assistant Head teachers has secured a promotion at another school. The fact that this position is being replaced by a Deputy Headteacher is a reflection of how much our school has grown in recent years and also of how important all aspects of inclusion are, as we recover from the pandemic.

The successful applicant would be joining a vibrant, energetic and committed leadership team that has come together under my Headship over the last six years. The ethos of our leadership team is first class, and has been modelled throughout the pandemic period by leaders with a shared strategic vision and attention to operational detail.

Our leadership team currently consists of

Headteacher – Simon Goodwin

Deputy Headteacher – Mike Cloherty

School Business Manager – Tom Moseley

3 Assistant Head teachers – Gill Williams, Will Chitty (who is leaving us) and Helen Latham

3 Associate Assistant Headteacher – Daryl Harrison, Liz Wigfall, Sian Hodson-Evans

From September Mike Cloherty will take on the role of Senior Deputy Head which means the new appointee will enjoy a supported induction into the other deputy role.

This is a community-based and inclusive school. We share a passionate commitment to lead a school that we would be happy for our own children to attend, as in fact many of our staff do. We want our children to experience academic rigour, excellent behaviour and outstanding pastoral support.

Over the last six years the school has undergone a quiet revolution. The impact of this is evidence in our rising school roll (over-subscribed for the last two years) and in the pilot Ofsted inspection that we volunteered for in March 2021. Unfortunately, that did not change our designation of “Requires Improvement”, but it was clear from the feedback we received that the school now deserves higher accreditation.

Our curriculum has been re-designed from first principles and is implemented consistently throughout the school, following the “South Wirral Way”.

We take a co-ordinated approach to inclusion in which one senior leader co-ordinates and quality-assures our pastoral system, attendance, safeguarding and special needs. This requires a detailed knowledge of external agencies and pathways for support.

We have a house system with 4 House Progress Leaders who are TLR holders and 4 Assistant House Progress Leaders who have a non-teaching role. Our pastoral practice in school has been informed by recent training on trauma and attachment, and by some of the thinking of Tom Bennett, who visited the school in 2020.

We have two Student Welfare Officers- one is our Designated Safeguarding Lead and the other our Attendance Officer. In total, 5 staff are trained in safeguarding to a high level. Also on site we have the Wirral South Community Police Officer and a Schools Social Worker, who both work across several schools.

We have a SENDCO and Assistant-SENDCO who lead a big team of TAs and HLTAs.

So, as you can see, we have a settled and effective pastoral structure, but it is also important to note that we are always seeking to improve and are open to innovation.

As you familiarise yourself with the school, you will find it useful to look at the information that we share with prospective parents and students which you can find here

<https://southwirral.wirral.sch.uk/transition2022/>

In addition, a look at our “South Wirral TV” page on Youtube, will tell you a lot about our culture

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj2yxQOVt7kFn2f4EZmtPhQ/videos>

I look forward to meeting with you, as we consider this significant appointment to our school.

Simon Goodwin