



DURHAM HIGH SCHOOL
Independent Day School
Church of England Foundation
GSA – c400 girls (aged 3-18)
www.dhsfg.org.uk

**INFORMATION FOR THE POSITION OF
RELIGIOUS STUDIES TEACHER**

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Durham High School
A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 6257502
Registered Office: Farewell Hall, South Road, Durham DH1 3TB. Registered Charity No.
1119995
Headmistress: Simone Niblock

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To create a friendly, caring community based on Christian principles where every individual is valued
- To develop the potential of every girl in all areas of her life
- To encourage academic excellence and a life-long love of learning

QUOTE FROM THE GOOD SCHOOLS' GUIDE

'Top flight single sex school (the only all girls' school in Durham) with all the trimmings.
"A fantastic school - I recommend it to everyone I know" enthused a parent.'



Durham High School

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Durham High School is a leading Independent Day School for girls aged 3 - 18. We were one of the first schools in the North East of England to take girls' education seriously and we are proud to continue that tradition today; we seek to develop the potential of every girl in all areas of life.

The school was founded in 1884 by the Church Schools' Company and in 1910 the school's governing body took over and formed an independent school. In the 1960s, Durham High School moved to its first purpose-built premises on the edge of the city adjacent to the new Durham University colleges. This began a period of building and expansion which continues to the present day. Recent developments include a wonderful Nursery, a Science, ICT and Library block and most recently a new building incorporating classrooms for Mathematics and Geography with a purpose-built Performing Arts Suite and Music practice rooms.

Durham High School enjoys a very good reputation locally both for its academic results and for its excellent pastoral support. Classes are small and the pastoral care of pupils is given a very high priority. Our pupils consistently achieve fantastic results for both GCSE and A level. In 2021, 69.5% of GCSE entries achieved grade 9-7. At A-Level 68.2% of the entries achieved A* or A. Pupils invariably obtain a place at the University of their choice, including Oxford and Cambridge, and other Russell Group universities.

We are keen to widen access as much as possible, with a number of means-tested bursaries, including some free places, to enable as many girls as possible to attend the school from a wide area. There are also academic scholarships available at 11+ and 16+ together with scholarships in Music, Performing Arts and Sport.

There is an extensive extra-curricular programme, with huge enthusiasm for a wide-ranging number of sports including hockey, netball and tennis, as well as aerobics and cricket. The musical life of the school is also extensive and of a very high standard. A large proportion of girls take lessons in an instrument and/or voice. There are four choirs, orchestras, a number of bands and an outstanding Drama Department, which stages a number of plays every year. This includes the School's annual production which is performed at Durham's Gala Theatre.

The opportunity to serve both the immediate and wider community is an important part of school life. Other extra-curricular activities include: a Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme with large numbers of girls taking part, including achieving Gold Awards; Young Enterprise; Debating; Art and Photography; and numerous trips and visits abroad.

Durham High School has continued to thrive throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite two periods of school closure, our staff and pupils embarked on an extraordinary journey, adapting to new technology and a new way of learning very quickly, which has meant our pupils have received a full curriculum offering and no need for any catch up.

In addition, with thanks to the virtues of the virtual, from House events to School Council meetings, art exhibitions to sporting challenges, Leavers Service to Sixth Form Bake Off, from assemblies to virtual concerts: Even though for large parts of the last two years our community has been physically apart, we truly believe we have never been closer.

Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves further by viewing the website at www.dhsfg.org.uk to obtain a sense of the school.

Ethos and Christian Values

All staff are expected to be sympathetic to and supportive of the Christian ethos of the school and to model Christian values.

Our school is inclusive and distinctive. As such, we welcome girls of all faiths and none. Religious faiths are valued and respected and we have a significant number of pupils who practise faiths other than Christian.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE INSPECTION REPORT NOVEMBER 2018

Principal findings

Durham High School succeeded in fulfilling every standard examined during the Regulatory Compliance Inspection carried out by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). Please find a link to the report on our website here:

[2019 Regulatory Compliance Inspection Report](#)

It is important to note that the format of RCI reports is such that each standard is simply 'met' or 'not met': there is no evaluative judgement in the report beyond this.

Format of the inspection and the report

Inspectors visited the School on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 November 2018 and immersed themselves fully in DHS school life. They observed lessons; analysed the curriculum; conducted interviews with pupils; and held informal discussions with staff. They attended assemblies and form periods and observed a variety of extra-curricular activities.

DHS passed the Inspection in every one of the eight compliance requirements. These included the standards of the quality of education provided; the suitability of the staff and those in contact with the pupils; the welfare of the girls; and the moral, social and cultural development of all our girls. We met every requirement, as did the standards relating to the premises and the provision of information to parents, Inspectors and the Department of Education.

In relation to the quality of leadership and management of the School, leaders fulfil all responsibilities effectively to ensure that standards are consistently met, and they actively promote the wellbeing of the pupils.

* *See school website for full Inspection Report*

THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES TEACHER

Applications are invited from candidates who can develop their particular interests within a small department whilst complementing its existing strengths. The department at present has two full-time teachers with a wide range of expertise that allow us to deliver a curriculum which provides an exciting varied programme of trips and visits. You will be joining a hard-working, busy and extremely successful Religious Studies department and must be able to contribute to different areas of the curriculum as well as our extra-curricular programme. It is anticipated that the timetable will cover Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and A Level teaching.

The successful candidate will be expected to support the vision and values of Durham High School:

- To create a friendly, caring community based on Christian principles where every individual is valued
- To develop the potential of every girl in all areas of her life
- To encourage academic excellence and a life-long love of learning

THE CURRICULUM

At **Key Stage 3**, the Department has written its own scheme based on many worldviews and include the six largest religions in the UK as well as philosophical and ethical approaches.

Year 7 focus on four religions; Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism. Pupils consider key beliefs about the nature of God, religious identity and religious practice. Learning is underpinned with religious sources and sacred texts.

Year 8 focus on Buddhism and Islam, considering key religious beliefs and practices. Pupils are introduced to philosophy and consider the nature of God, arguments for the existence of God and the challenges of science. We complete the year with an in depth study on the person of Jesus and look at this from a feminist and humanist perspective in addition to a religious perspective.

Year 9 consider challenging issues such as genetic engineering and the sanctity of life, the problem of evil and suffering, prejudice and discrimination, life after death and religious expression through the arts. These are considered through the lenses of different religious and atheistic worldviews.

GCSE

The Department follows the Edexcel course. Both units are divided into four sections.

Paper 1: Christianity 1B

- Belief in God, Marriage and the Family, Living the Religious Life, Matters of Life and Death.

Paper 2: Judaism 2F

- Belief in God, Crime and punishment, Living the Religious Life, Peace and conflict.

CORE RE

Pupils at Key stage 4 that do not choose Religious Studies for GCSE, follow a Core RE programme that draws on key aspects of the GCSE course.

A Level

The Department follows OCR Religious Studies; Philosophy of Religion, Religious Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought.

THE ROLE

We are seeking a Religious Studies Teacher on a permanent contract.

SALARY

Salary will be payable according to the Durham High School Salary Scale, which is negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

During term time a free school lunch may be taken in the Dining Hall.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES PERSON SPECIFICATION

Ideally, the successful candidate will:

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A good honours degree in Theology, Religious Studies or similar discipline - Qualified Teacher Status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recent study or training in Religious Studies and Pedagogy
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A record of successful teaching (as a trainee or experienced teacher) and the potential to be an outstanding classroom practitioner - Up to date knowledge and understanding necessary to undertake the teaching of KS3, GCSE and A Level Religious Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience of teaching A Level Religious Studies - A proven track record of examination success at KS4 and KS5
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to plan and deliver stimulating learning experiences which draw on a wide range of teaching and learning styles that enable inclusion and engagement - The ability to enthuse students of all ages and abilities - Ability to establish good relationships with students and colleagues - Understanding of curriculum and assessment - Up to date understanding of safeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ability to use ICT as a tool for teaching and learning - Skills to be an effective pastoral tutor
Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent team member - Energy, positivity, enthusiasm - Prepared to go the extra mile to enable students to do as well as possible - Excellent organisational and interpersonal skills - A willingness to learn and ask for support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A willingness to be involved in the school's wider enrichment programme

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Please complete the application form (also available from the School's website) and submit this with a covering letter outlining your reasons for applying and what you feel you can bring to the post. This should be addressed for the attention of the Headmistress and sent by email to enquiries@dhsfg.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 4pm on Friday 24 June 2022
Interviews will be held shortly after this date.

The successful candidate will take up the appointment in September 2022 or January 2023.

DBS

Durham High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS disclosure.

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Durham High School
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