



ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL
— TWICKENHAM —



Teacher of Physical Education
Part Time/Full Time
To start January or April 2026

Welcome to St Catherine's School

Thank you for taking an interest in working at St Catherine's. I hope this job description gives you a good understanding of our ambitious, creative and caring school.

All schools speak of their high standards for pastoral care, teaching and learning, and co-curricular provision and we are also very proud of our record of excellence in these areas. However, what sets St Catherine's apart is our vibrant and happy community; this is a place where pupils and staff feel supported and valued, and where friendship and belonging are everyday experiences.

Working at St Catherine's means being part of a team that puts the girls first, as we seek to bring out the gifts and talents of each individual. We are very proud of our strong exam results and we are also committed to a wide programme of activities and events so that school is exciting, varied and fun. Our dedicated staff enjoy making this possible, whether by encouraging designs for a STEM competition, travelling with the school cast to the Edinburgh Fringe, or simply taking time to listen to the girls. They also support each other, and they take pride in working together to provide the best all-round education for our girls.

I am sure you will enjoy working at St Catherine's and I really look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards



Johneen McPherson
Headmistress



The Mission and Values of Our School

We are inspired by St Catherine of Siena, who said 'Be who God wants you to be, and you will set the world on fire', to form young women of confidence and compassion, ready for service and leadership in the world. We fulfil our mission through these values:

Community: a place of cheerfulness, dignity and tolerance, where all are welcome

Faith: a Christ-centred school with time for reflection; a culture of gratitude and friendship

Courage: with self-knowledge, resilience and integrity, and a readiness for challenge

Scholarship: where gifts are developed through curiosity, imagination and ambition

Service: commitment to others, to stewardship, and to justice and hope for all

An Outstanding School

St Catherine's School is a Catholic independent Girls' Day School, which draws pupils from a wide catchment area. The site of St Catherine's has been famous since the poet, Alexander Pope, came to Twickenham in 1719. He developed extensive gardens behind his riverside villa and the School is now situated in this garden. In 1992 the School became fully independent and now operates as a charitable trust.

The School enjoys an enviable position next to the River Thames and is only a short distance from the centre of Twickenham. Strawberry Hill Station is a ten minute walk from the School and Twickenham Railway Station, 15 minutes. Both have regular services to London (Waterloo), Surrey, Berkshire and Middlesex.

Approximately 40% of pupils are Catholic, and we also warmly welcome girls from all faiths and none who are in sympathy with the values of School. The School's Christian values and Catholic ethos is offered in an inclusive and open manner, which allows us to help all girls to explore deeper values. This also underpins our excellent pastoral care system and all staff are committed to caring for each and every pupil.

We help every girl achieve her personal best by providing a broad and balanced education within a stimulating, secure and supportive environment. Success is achieved through personal responsibility, high expectations and a close partnership between parents and school. Emphasis is placed on ambition, creativity and resilience, and on the importance of pupil voice, kindness, and service. Since we are a relatively small school the staff know the pupils as individuals and this creates a strong and happy community.



The School is organised into the Preparatory School, Senior School and Sixth Form all of which are located on the same site. On leaving the Preparatory School, most pupils enter the Senior School and most Year 11 pupils join the Sixth Form.

Academic Scholarships are awarded for Year 7 and the Sixth Form. Music, Art, Drama and Sports Scholarships are also available, and the all-rounder Siena Scholarship is awarded for the last four years of St Catherine's schooling.

In the Senior School pupils follow a broad academic and creative curriculum. Most pupils study ten subjects to GCSE A Level and three or four subjects at A Level. Sixth Form pupils can choose from a wide selection of subjects and many also complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

We attach great importance to a well-rounded education and co-curricular activities play a significant role in the life of the School. Competitive events are held throughout the year and there is a healthy rivalry between the four houses (Bronte, Cavell, Nightingale and Pankhurst). The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is also a popular option. Sports include swimming, netball, athletics, cross country, hockey, football, tennis, gymnastics and rounders, and pupils achieve considerable success at county, regional and national level. Music and Drama also play an important part in the life of the School and all pupils are encouraged to participate in productions, choirs, orchestras, ensembles and concerts.

Facilities are very good and include an indoor swimming pool, multi-purpose hall, playing field, newly renovated ICT suites, and netball/tennis courts. Over the past ten years the School has invested heavily in new facilities, including a Sixth Form Centre, Drama Studio, dining facilities and other teaching areas, as well as upgrading the Science Block and playing field - and new projects are underway.



Scholarships

Academic Scholarships are awarded for Year 7 and for the Sixth Form to pupils of academic promise who will benefit from the opportunities that St Catherine's provides and who will contribute strongly to the life of the school. Music, Art, Drama and Sports Awards are also available, and the all-rounder Siena Scholarship is awarded for the last four years of St Catherine's schooling.

The Curriculum

The Prep curriculum promotes creativity and curiosity and establishes firm foundations for all pupils; specialist teaching enriches the programme and includes French, Spanish, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Music and PE.

Pupils in Years 7 to 9 have a rich and exciting curriculum and pupils generally study ten subjects to GCSE level and three or four subjects to A Level. Sixth Form pupils can choose from a wide selection of subjects and they also have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).



St Catherine's School Benefits

Working at St Catherine's School Twickenham offers a unique and fulfilling experience due to the School's strong commitment to academic excellence, pupil wellbeing, and a happy and supportive community life. The school prides itself on providing a nurturing environment that fosters both personal and professional growth.

Staff benefit from a collaborative and inclusive culture, where innovative teaching methods and ongoing professional development are encouraged. The beautiful, historic campus provides a tranquil setting conducive to creative and effective teaching. Additionally, St Catherine's School's dedication to developing well-rounded students ensures that educators have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact in a setting that values and supports their contributions.

Additional Benefits include:

- Competitive salary
- Pension scheme, including salary exchange
- Employee Assistance Programme for staff and their family
- Complimentary lunch and refreshments
- Cycle to work scheme
- On site parking
- Fee reduction
- Staff wellbeing activities, including swimming, yoga/pilates, static rowing, and prayer group
- Staff Liaison Committee
- A comprehensive training and development programme
- Tickets for school music and drama performances
- End of term celebrations and staff social events



Job Information

St Catherine's is a school very proud of its happy atmosphere, excellent pastoral care and strong academic reputation. Our School Mission captures the spirit of our happy and inclusive community, and all staff support and nurture school ethos.

Our school has very good sports facilities which include a heated indoor swimming pool, outside tennis and netball courts, and a playing field. The large School Hall is marked for netball, basketball and badminton. The Department also has access to local facilities, including at St Mary's University.

All girls are encouraged to participate in Inter House sports competitions. Pupils also regularly qualify for regional and national school finals and compete in ISA, Middlesex and Richmond Borough Championships. Recent successes include national awards for Gymnastic Acrobatics and swimming, pupils selected for GB rowing training programmes, and significant achievements in football and cross-country.

The selection of sports and fitness activities offered at St Catherine's varies according to year group. Options include health related fitness, swimming, netball, hockey, trampolining, athletics, rounders, badminton, football, cross-country, basketball, tennis, rounders and self-defence. Pupils also enjoy dance and other co-curricular sports activities, and GCSE PE (Edexcel) and A level PE (AQA) are popular academic subjects.

We seek an experienced and enthusiastic person to join our successful PE Department. S/he will teach across the School, though individual strengths and preferences are taken into account, and share responsibility for fixtures, Inter-House competitions and practices. Experience with netball, trampolining, swimming and Academic PE are all desirable; the ability to offer a wide range of sports and skills would also be an advantage.

The person appointed will be expected to play a full and positive part in the life of the school. Therefore an ability and willingness to become involved in, and contribute to, the extra-curricular life of the school is expected. Applicants are asked to state their specific preferences and strengths regarding the wide range of co-curricular activities.

St Catherine's has a proud tradition of excellence in netball, swimming, athletics and cross-country and pupils regularly qualify for regional and national school finals. Pupils compete in the Bank of England tournaments, the ISA London West Championships, ISA National Championships, the Middlesex Schools Netball Championships, the Richmond Borough Cross Country and Trampoline Championships and the Richmond Youth Games. All girls are encouraged to participate in, or give their support to, the Inter-House sports competitions.

Physical Education is taught through three 45 minute sessions per week in Prep and in the Senior School, Physical Education is taught through three 45 minute sessions per week in Years 7 - 9, two 45 minute sessions per week in Years 10 - 11, and one 45 minute session per week for the Sixth Form. This is the current programme.

KS3: HRA, netball, hockey, trampolining, athletics, rounders and swimming (including personal survival).

KS4: Option programme: badminton, trampolining, basketball, netball, rock climbing, compulsory HRA, athletics, tennis, rounders, swimming, self-defence. GCSE PE (Edexcel) is also offered.

KS5: Option Programme: Swimming, trampolining, fitness, badminton, HRA options, tennis, athletics. A level PE (AQA) is also offered.

Job Information

Responsibilities include:

- Work with line managers, and within the context of the School's curriculum and schemes of work, to plan and prepare effective teaching lessons;
- Set high expectations so that all pupils are inspired, motivated and challenged;
- Be responsible for tracking pupil progress;
- Participate in appraisal, lesson observations and work scrutinies;
- Ensure teaching addresses pupils' individual needs, including SEND support;
- Provide or contribute to assessments, reports and references;
- Adhere to School policies, ensuring the health and wellbeing of pupils is maintained;
- Participate in preparing pupils for external examinations;
- Manage behaviour effectively to create a safe, respectful and nurturing environment;
- Take a role within the tutorial team;
- Work with colleagues, pupils and families to develop a strong school community.

Other Responsibilities

- Actively promote the safety and welfare of pupils;
- Adhere to and ensure compliance with the school's Safeguarding Policy at all times. If, in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risk(s) to the safety or welfare of children in the school, these concerns must be reported to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or the Headmistress;
- Undertake relevant training and professional development;
- Work in collaboration with colleagues, covering lessons and support as required;
- Contribute to co-curricular activities;
- Attend INSET, whole school events, parent meetings and Open Days;
- Undertake other tasks related to this role, as requested by the Headmistress.

Experience and Personal Qualities:

- Commitment to the school's Safeguarding Policy at all times;
- Experience of delivering outstanding lessons to pupils of all ages and abilities;
- Experience of supporting pupils of all ages and abilities to make excellent progress;
- Experience of leading successful enrichment and co-curricular activities;
- Mastery of, and enthusiasm for, Sport and Physical Education;
- Resilience, motivation and commitment to driving up standards of achievement;
- Genuine passion and a belief in the potential of every pupil;
- Excellent communication, planning and organisational skills;
- A friendly, open and collaborative attitude, and a commitment to School ethos.

The salary, which will depend on qualifications and experience, will be discussed when the position is offered to the successful candidate.



Application

If you feel you have the experience, enthusiasm and commitment necessary for this post, then we would be delighted to receive an application from you. Please note that only applications on the School's application form will be considered.

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it together with a covering letter addressed to the Headmistress via email to recruitment@stcatherineschool.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 11am, Wednesday 5 November 2025. Interviews will be held the following week.

Applications will be reviewed as they are received so early application is recommended and the School reserves the right to appoint prior to the closing date.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to a number of safer recruitment checks including Enhanced DBS, Barred List and online/social media checks as part of Keeping Children Safe in Education, and once in post, receive further training and updates.

Thank you for the interest you have shown in St Catherine's. I look forward to receiving your application.

Mrs Johneen McPherson
Headmistress

