



RATHMORE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Teacher of Religious Education to GCSE with English to KS3

(Temporary - Maternity Cover from November 2019)

SCHOOL PROFILE

Rathmore Grammar School, a Catholic, co-educational, voluntary grammar school, situated on the southern side of Belfast, was opened in 1953 by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. It inherits the rich tradition of a Congregation engaged in education for one hundred and fifty years. It has 82 teaching staff and 1260 pupils and has excellent accommodation and facilities for this enrolment.

Rathmore, with its highly qualified and caring staff, seeks to foster academic excellence while meeting the individual needs of pupils within a well-structured and fully supportive pastoral care system. All pupils are encouraged to develop their gifts and to become self-assured, articulate and responsible members of society. The ethos of the school is Catholic, with a strong emphasis on the spiritual and moral formation of pupils. Pupils are encouraged to mature as fully committed Christian adults, prepared to respect the beliefs and traditions of others and to bring to society the values of the Gospel. Rathmore endeavours to create a friendly, caring atmosphere where pupils feel at home. It recognises the special role of parents in the education of young people and welcomes close contact with them. The school operates a Child Protection Policy to which all staff must subscribe.

There are generally 180 pupils in each year group. In Years 8 to 10 they are divided into classes of 20 for practical and 30 for non-practical subjects while throughout the school they are divided into tutor groups of approximately 20. Tutors have responsibility for the overall development and welfare of the pupils in their group whom they meet each morning, once a week for a Year Assembly, under the direction of the Head of Year, and four times a week for a tutor period during which a programme designed to meet the needs of the particular year group is followed.

Religious Education

Religious Education is central to the life of the school which seeks to lead pupils to a deeper, active and more personal faith and to create an atmosphere where Christian qualities find practical expression in daily life. Throughout the year opportunities are created for pupils to experience prayer and to participate in the sacraments and in paraliturgies, especially during the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Pupils in Years 8 to 10 have an annual one day retreat.

Religious Education is taught by five specialist teachers under the direction of the Head of Department.

The Religious Education programme, Fully Alive, followed by pupils in Years 8 to 10 is a continuation and development of the Catholic primary school programme.

Year 11 and 12 pupils follow the CCEA GCSE Religious Studies syllabus which involves the study of Sacred Scripture and the chief tenets of Christian belief and ethical practice. They sit one unit at the end of Year Eleven and one unit at the end of Year Twelve.

The school-designed Sixth Form programme provides pupils with opportunities to reflect on their own faith experience and the demands of Christian living in contemporary society.

Pupils who take Religious Studies to A/AS level follow the CCEA syllabus which involves the study of Philosophy of Religion and Ethics.

Currently there are three groups in both Lower and Upper Sixth.

English

English is taught by seven specialist teachers under the direction of the Head of Department. CCEA examinations are taken at GCSE and A level. All pupils take English and English Literature for GCSE while English Literature is an optional subject in the Sixth Form.

Job Profile

The responsibilities of the advertised post include:

- (i) as a teacher of Religious Education and English, under the direction of the two Heads of Department, delivering the curriculum to pupils throughout the school up to and including GCSE, as appropriate;
- (ii) as tutor, under the direction of the Head of Year, working as one of a team of tutors in a particular year group in assuming responsibility for the overall development and welfare of about 20 pupils; carrying out routine administrative duties and pastoral duties which include the delivery of the tutorial programme designed for the particular year group;
- (iii) contributing positively to the ethos of the school and to the building up of the school community;
- (iv) contributing where appropriate to other areas of the curriculum and to extracurricular activities.

Teachers' (Terms and Conditions of Employment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 apply to the post. Salary will be in accordance with the relevant statutory regulations regarding Teachers' Salaries and the school's Salary Policy. The post does not carry any responsibility/management points.

Candidate Profile

The Governors are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified Religious Education specialist who can also teach English to KS3 and who is fully committed to the aims and objectives of the school as outlined in its Mission Statement. The successful discharge of the post will require prospective candidates to have:

- (i) a teaching qualification recognised by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland;
- (ii) a good honours primary degree (minimum 2.2) in Religious Education;
- (iii) initial teacher training geared to the teaching of Religious Education at Post Primary level or experience of teaching Religious Education in a Post Primary School;
- (iv) clearly indicated ability and/or experience to teach English to KS3;
- (v) a good knowledge of appropriate teaching methodologies, including the use of ICT, of the N. Ireland curriculum, curriculum development and relevant examination syllabi;

- (vi) willingness to contribute to extracurricular activities relating to Religious Education and English;
- (vii) concern for the overall development of pupils, enthusiasm, imagination, good communication skills and commitment to team-work.

Notice to Candidates

The Application Form must not be changed from the format provided to you. Additional pages will not be considered.

The following criteria will be used to select candidates for interview numbers (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) of the Candidate Profile.

Essential criteria (vii) and (viii) will be assessed at interview.

Please note that the above criteria may be enhanced to facilitate short-listing and that preference may be given to candidates who are best qualified for the post in terms of qualifications and experience.

Candidates should complete the Application Form in full and return it to the Principal's P.A.
by **12 noon** on **Tuesday 5 November 2019**.

Emailed applications will not be accepted.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held as soon as possible thereafter.