

The Orchards Federation



Dear Interested Applicant,

As the Executive Head Teacher of the Orchards, I would like to thank you for expressing an interest in joining our team. The aim of this document is to provide you with as much information as possible about us and to help you decide if you wish to apply.

The Orchards

The Orchards was the name chosen by the Governing bodies of three schools when they federated back in April 2006 as part of a co-located new build project. It is also the name given to the two sites on which the school provision is based (The Orchards & Lower Orchards). This decision was made to allow each school to retain its own name and unique identity e.g. Green Fold at The Orchards - the best description of us is probably: 3 schools who share 2 buildings and some key personnel e.g. Governors, Senior Leadership, Admin and Site teams.

The 3 schools moved into our 2 shared sites in January 2008 under the leadership of an Executive Head Teacher and joint Senior Leadership Team where the Head Teachers' act as day to day lead professional for a particular school.

Each school continues to have individual Ofsted Inspections and has its own standards agenda. While this is reflected in School Improvement Planning, we try wherever possible to maximise on the benefits of being together and driving through improvements for everyone at the same time.

As a highly unique organisation we are not afraid to innovate in order to constantly improve all of our provision and have already made many changes along the way. One of our most recent examples is the establishment of an Orchards Children & Families Team who support all of our vulnerable pupils and their families. This team draws on the experience of 2 highly trained and skilled TA 4s (one from our Special School and one from our Mainstream school) who along with the Executive Head Teacher ensure that all children are able to gain maximum benefit from the educational and social opportunities we provide.

Our journey is ongoing; it still feels as if it has only just begun. We continue to work vigorously to have a positive impact on current provision and shaping the long term future for all pupils and their families. The successful candidate will have a key role in helping to make this happen.

Are you the very special person we are looking for to join us?

The 3 Federated Schools

Cherry Tree CP School

This is a 420 place, two form entry primary school (4 -11yr olds)

At our last Ofsted Inspection (Dec 2017) we were graded as Requires Improvement, we believe that if we continue to continually improve practice and raise standards higher then we can improve and work towards our previous grade of Good and the ultimate goal of Outstanding.

Green Fold Special School

This is a 115 place primary school for 2-11yr olds with Severe Learning Difficulties, Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties as well as Pupils with Autism and additional learning difficulties. Many pupils have additional complex medical needs and or sensory impairments.

At our last Ofsted Inspection (Nov 2016) we were graded as Outstanding for the third consecutive time. We continue to drive up standards with a clear focus on pupil progress and personalised learning and are determined to continue to meet the high standards we have already set.

The Orchards Nursery School

The Orchards Nursery is a 130 P/T place Nursery School created when we merged our Cherry Tree School Nursery provision with that of our existing Nursery school (formerly St Germain)

At our last Ofsted Inspection (December 2013) we were graded as Good.

We provide 16 places for 2 year olds (8 in the mornings and 8 in the afternoons) as part of our Nursery provision which runs in conjunction with the DFE 2 year old scheme.

From October 2017 we have provision for a 12 place SEN High Needs Base which runs in conjunction with Bolton Local Authority and part of the assessment process for SEN children.

On both our sites, staff and pupils come together to work and play as and when it is appropriate.

Our Two Sites

Our 2 sites are situated approx 1/3rd mile apart.

The Upper Orchards

This building houses all of the Year 1 – Year 6 pupils from Cherry Tree and Green Fold Schools. The two schools each have their own specialised classrooms /teaching areas as well as some shared areas e.g. library. Each school has its own discrete classrooms and other specialist provision. In order to maximise the benefits of co location for pupils and staff, a number of specific shared areas have been included in the building for example; a shared library, play areas, large first floor external classroom, shared admin areas and a shared staffroom.

The Lower Orchards (EYFS)

This building houses our provision for under 5s (Early Years Foundation Stage) where staff from all 3 schools work in close partnership together across these 2 exceptionally well resourced year groups. There is a Children's Centre on this site who act as a key partner.

The schools have had a huge amount of input into the design, layout and finish of both buildings. As a result, they represent high quality teaching and learning provision underpinned by our own core values philosophy and vision for the future.

General

My own style is highly collaborative and I am a firm believer in distributed leadership. None of what we are setting out to achieve can be done by one person alone - the idea is to make best use of the huge range of resources, skills and expertise that exist within the three schools to drive overall good practice forward. We have a huge commitment to professional development and are keen to ensure that every employee is able to access high quality learning and promotional opportunities.

Finally, if you are passionate about teaching and learning, keen to work as part of a dynamic and very successful team and are interested in applying, then we very much look forward to hearing from you. Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

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