



## Saint Christina's School

# Appointment of Director of Music

## Information for Candidates

This is a really exciting opportunity for the successful candidate to join our energetic and forward-thinking team. Our objective is to develop a unique and deeply ambitious primary educational experience that will set Saint Christina's out from every other school. We are looking for an energetic and innovative individual who feels that they would like to join our team and help forge the future!

For us, the appointment of a Director of Music is a key part of our vision for Saint Christina's as we continue our journey to full co-education. Currently there is need to ensure that our provision at the top end of the School fully serves the needs of the girls in those year groups. However, the boys are now moving through the School and can be found in Year 3 downwards. The successful candidate will have the ability to develop a top-flight musical experience for boys and girls both within and outside of the curriculum, through outstanding and inspirational classroom teaching and a rich programme of performance and 'training' opportunities. We are blessed with high-quality instrumental teaching pods, alongside the main teaching area and have access to a beautiful Chapel. This is an exciting time for Saint Christina's. A time that requires an individual with ambition, ability, patience, empathy, the ability to plan carefully and vision.

### School information

Saint Christina's is an exceptional School in many ways and the wonderful atmosphere of fun and learning can be felt when you walk through the doors. The School revolves around a caring, family orientated team of teachers and staff and the help and support of many of the parents.

The quality of teaching is reflected by the constant high grades and excellent feedback through the recent ISI report, a copy of which can be found on the School's website. The School's reputation and family loyalty, with siblings and children of past pupils all attending, is reflected in the waiting list.

Saint Christina's has pupils of all nationalities and, although it is a Catholic school, maintains a healthy balance of pupils from all faiths and none.

The School is modern, purpose built with large, bright classrooms and is in a wonderful location close by to Primrose Hill, Regent's Park, and has easy access to some of the most inspiring musical venues within London.

We are accredited members of The Independent Association of Prep Schools, the Catholic Independent Schools' Conference, and the Independent Schools Council.

## History of the School

Saint Christina's School was founded in 1949 by the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as an Independent Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Westminster. Since then the School has grown considerably and continues to flourish, always seeking to meet the needs of all of its pupils in an ever-changing world. Saint Christina's remains a charitable trust and forms part of a world-wide family founded by Saint Raphaela Maria in the late nineteenth century.

## Development of the School

The school has been and remains ambitious with regard to the development of its facilities. In recent years, a completely new third floor has been added, containing several state of the art classrooms and a bespoke music department area which includes two 'sound-proofed' practice / teaching pods. In addition to these facilities the school added a new Arts Hall for which is used for music, dance and drama as well as PE. The School Hall provides an important additional resource for performance, in addition to the Chapel. All of these facilities have enormously added to the education we provide, as well as our clubs after School.

In terms of the future, we began an ambitious build in July that will, when completed, give us an entirely new EYFS setting and 4 new classrooms. Following this phase of development we will redevelop the hall and the spaces around it to enhance its routine as well as performance function. These developments cumulatively, will allow us to increase our capacity so that we will be able to fulfil our ambition of becoming a two form entry fully co-educational London Day Prep School.

The school made the decision to transition to full co-education having previously only had boys within its community to the age of 7. It is therefore important that it is understood that we do not have an equal number of boys and girls in Key Stage 1 and 2 currently, however, our current EYFS has a very healthy mix of boys and girls – indeed, in Reception, there are significantly more boys than girls.

The successful candidate will join a school that an exciting time and will want to seize the opportunity to help develop and build the new school vision.

Further information about the Mission and Organisation of School life can be found on our website [www.saintchristinas.org.uk](http://www.saintchristinas.org.uk)

## The Job

We are seeking to appoint an inspiring person who is interested in 'growing' children as individuals who are curious about the world that they live in and who get excited about their learning in all areas. Aside from being able to teach the 'staple' curriculum diet across the whole School, we are offering a fantastic opportunity to help us to define and deliver our vision for learning as encapsulated in our recent curriculum review. This vision is driven by a deep-seated belief in ambitious teaching and learning that cultivates an authentic curiosity, rigour and sense of fun.

In this vein we believe that the job we are advertising is a really exciting and stimulating opportunity for the right individual. The job will evolve as time passes but the successful candidate will have the opportunity to help develop and embed a new vision for Music both within and beyond the curriculum at Saint Christina's as the School grows. This vision will include the development and delivery of an outstanding Music curriculum alongside the forging of an extracurricular musical programme and ambition that will be appropriate for both 3-11 year old boys and girls. We want to be a school that genuinely stands out for its approach to Music and that delights in challenging boys and girls.

The key elements of the job are detailed within the separate **job description**.

## The Candidate

Applications are welcomed from well-qualified individuals who are graduates. Although it will be important to have demonstrable experience and qualifications, the intention is to appoint an individual with the energy and vision to bring real direction, strength and innovation to their 'classroom' teaching and in particular to Music as Saint Christina's transitions to full co-education. The successful candidate will be someone who is really keen to join our mission to make Saint Christina's the most vibrant, most innovative and most exciting place to learn within.

This is a very important and demanding role, of crucial importance to the school in setting a new tone and level of expertise and competence in the focus on and delivery of Music within the school. The successful candidate will:

- demonstrate the ability to understand the school both in terms of its academic purpose and its Catholic ethos
- have excellent communication and people management skills
- be deeply passionate about teaching music and have the ability to convey that passion and enthusiasm in a way that the children are able to engage with
- be passionate about growing and challenging children
- be a regular visitor to the Head's office with new and great ideas
- be able to deliver both in the classroom and beyond
- have outstanding Mathematical, English and IT skills
- command respect in balancing approachability with natural authority and pastoral sensitivity
- be diplomatic, kind, patient, and have very good communication skills.

This is a singular opportunity for a capable and energetic teacher to help forge the new vision and future of Saint Christina's at a time where the governing body have taken the decision for the school to be fully co-educational. The successful candidate will be compassionate and caring with a positive, encouraging and collaborative style.

The salary will be generous and reflect the importance of the post.

## **Arrangements for the Appointment**

### **Applications**

Candidates who wish to have a confidential conversation with the Headteacher may contact him via his PA, Michelle Hamilton.

Candidates should complete **ALL** sections of the application form which, together with a detailed covering letter explaining why they think that they are suited to the role, should be sent in email form to the Headteacher's PA at [headteacherspa@saintchristinas.org.uk](mailto:headteacherspa@saintchristinas.org.uk)

All candidates will have references taken up in advance of interview unless they specifically indicate otherwise.

**The closing date for applications is 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

### **Interviews and appointment**

Shortlisting: week beginning **4<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Interviews: **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

The School reserves the right to adjust these dates and timings if there is need due to the current circumstances around the pandemic etc.

Candidates will be given the opportunity to see the school in action and speak with pupils and staff. They should expect to both teach a lesson and lead a small group of musicians and will be interviewed by the SLT and the Headteacher. The process may, in order to accommodate the needs of the pandemic, vary and could involve both in-school and remote elements.

***The appointment will be subject to satisfactory references, verification of identity and proof of qualifications, a satisfactory medical screening and a satisfactory DBS Enhanced Disclosure, together with all other relevant safeguarding checks.***

*The appointment will be made without regard to age, ethnicity, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.*

*The School reserves the right to adjust the advertised timings should the need arise and may make an appointment before the closing date if that is appropriate.*