



# Head of Learning Support & SENDCO

FROM APRIL OR SEPTEMBER 2026

Ryde School seeks to appoint an experienced and dedicated SENDCO to join our team at a prominent independent school on the Isle of Wight. This is a fantastic opportunity for a passionate leader to shape our SEND provision and ensure every pupil from Nursery to Upper Sixth thrives. The successful candidate will be able to take up the post in September 2026 or January 2027.



**RYDE SCHOOL**  
WITH UPPER CHINE

*An island school with a global outlook*

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES



## RYDE SCHOOL WITH UPPER CHINE

Ryde School, situated on the Isle of Wight, minutes from the mainland and international links yet also a short walk from the beach, is a wonderful and rewarding place to work. The School is set in grounds of 17 acres in the town of Ryde with beautiful views across the Solent. It is within walking distance of the terminals which link Ryde to Portsmouth by hovercraft (10 minutes) or catamaran (22 minutes). London Waterloo is only two hours away by train from Ryde.

Ryde School was founded on 25 April 1921 and so celebrated its centenary very recently. Having merged with Upper Chine Girls' School in 1995 and acquired the buildings of Bembridge School in 1996, the School now has just over 720 pupils between 2 and 18 years of age and is fully co-educational. There are approximately 70 boarders in the School who form a diverse community of UK, British overseas and international students and live on site in one of the two boarding houses opened in the last two years – Millfield for years 6-10 in a converted Victorian villa and Centenary in a contemporary new building overlooking the Solent. The remainder are day pupils from the Island with a small number commuting on a daily basis from the Portsmouth and Gosport area. The Prep School shares part of the same site and all key facilities whilst the Pre-Prep in Fiveways lies just across the road accommodating pupils from Reception to Year 2. The Nursery has its own building on the main site, too, which moved to its current location in September 2023.

We have four core values: Ambition, Responsibility, Courage and Respect which underpin the day-to-day life of the whole School. Our motto - *Ut Prosim (That I may be of service)* - is also a fundamental part of the School's ethos with pupils encouraged to think and help others through actions and service. We aim to serve the local community as a whole which makes for a rich variety of skills and abilities amongst its pupils; in the last five years, we have had pupils secure offers at Cambridge and Oxford and many go on to study Medicine and Engineering but other children will have over-achieved if they gain 5 GCSEs at 9 to 4. Pupils enjoy not only academic success but success across many areas and there is a steady stream of pupils who go on to Art, Music and Drama careers. In recent years we have had pupils selected for national sailing squads, elite sports teams, the Royal College and Trinity for example and enjoyed national success in Maths, Debating, MUN, Poetry, Sailing and Engineering competitions. Unsurprisingly for such a setting, the School enjoys particular success in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme with around fifteen pupils securing their Gold Award each year before leaving the School. The Head Master is a member of HMC and the Head of Prep is a member of IAPS. Ryde is a Christian faith school whose Visitor is the Bishop of Portsmouth and has close and growing links to our local parish church, All Saints. Pupils, parents and staff often comment on the supportive, friendly and positive atmosphere in the School and we have a strong reputation on the Island for high academic standards.

Whilst serving a traditional community on the Island, the School's strategic planning, encouraged and supported by an ambitious governing body, is creative and global in its thinking. In 2015 we became the first UK independent school to run the IBCP alongside A Levels and the IBDP at Sixth Form. We have created a rich and challenging enrichment programme and teach seven languages at various ages across the School. Reception to Year 9 follow a progressive skills-based curriculum before they progress into GCSEs and then the three Sixth Form routes. We have developed nationally recognised programmes of pastoral care based on coaching and have recently invested in a number of new buildings including a new Performing Arts Centre which opened in June 2022. This is a good time for creative and innovative teachers with a commitment to education in the round to join the School.



## THE ROLE AND THE PERSON

The ideal candidate will have a deep understanding of special educational needs, a strong commitment to inclusive practices, and the ability to inspire and lead both pupils and staff. Key responsibilities will include:

### Leadership and Management

- Lead, manage, and inspire a team of learning support staff, providing regular training and professional development.
- Strategically oversee the school's SEND provision, including resource allocation, budget management, and policy implementation.
- Maintain accurate and confidential records for all pupils on the SEND register, including Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).
- Act as the primary point of contact for external agencies, including educational psychologists, speech therapists, and other health professionals.
- Contribute to the strategic development of the School by advising the Senior Leadership Group on all SEND-related matters.

### Pupil Support and Assessment

- Identify and assess pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, working closely with teachers, parents, and specialists.
- Develop, implement, and monitor a range of support strategies and interventions tailored to individual pupil needs.
- Conduct regular reviews of pupil progress and adjust support plans as necessary to ensure effective learning outcomes.
- Manage and maintain the School's SEND register, ensuring it is up-to-date and reflects the diverse needs of the pupil body.
- Line Manage the EAA Coordinator and oversee access arrangements for internal and public examinations.

### Curriculum and Teaching

- Work collaboratively with Heads of Department and teachers to ensure the curriculum is accessible and differentiated for pupils with SEND.
- Provide training and guidance to staff on best practices for inclusive teaching, including strategies for supporting a wide range of needs.
- Stay current with developments in SEND policy and practice, ensuring the School's approach aligns with the latest regulations and best-in-class methodologies.

### Essential Qualifications and Experience

- A recognised SEND qualification (e.g., National Award for SEN Coordination).
- A recognised Teaching Qualification.
- Proven experience as a SENDCO, or significant experience in a leadership role within a school's SEND department.
- Experience supporting children at different stages of their education.
- Strong leadership and management skills, with the ability to build and motivate a high-performing team.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build strong relationships with pupils, parents, and staff.
- A deep understanding of the SEND Code of Practice and up-to-date knowledge of relevant legislation.

### Personal Attributes

- Work with integrity and be able to connect with pupils, parents and staff.
  - Commitment to being involved in the life of a busy school.
  - High personal and professional standards.
  - Empathy with the values and aims of the School.
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## BENEFITS OF WORKING AT RYDE

The benefits of working at Ryde School are many. The School occupies a 17-acre site overlooking the Solent with a range of traditional and listed buildings alongside award-winning contemporary architecture.

Competitive salaries, private pension arrangements, salary sacrifice, access to electric car and health scheme memberships and to sailing, golfing and gym facilities. A daily lunch is prepared in house. These are some of the benefits enjoyed by staff, whilst working in a happy, rewarding and innovative environment focused on our motivated pupils and their achievements.

All staff at Ryde School are motivated individuals who are integral to the organisation. In the role of supporting the business of the School all staff are expected to act as role models to pupils and act as part of a professional and supportive team. We encourage support staff to continue their professional development and will support where possible staff wishing to develop their experience and qualifications. All staff have a collective responsibility to ensure the values and ethos of Ryde School are upheld.





## MOVING TO THE ISLAND

Recent years have seen a growing number of families move to the Island from the mainland or elsewhere, as a result of parents deciding to take advantage of Island life, a trend that has grown further since the Pandemic. The benefits of moving to the Island are clear – clean, open beaches, sailing and outdoor adventure, competitive house prices and a real feeling of a safe, family environment in which to raise children, yet only minutes from the mainland where many parents choose to work either in London or other southern cities. London Waterloo is two hours from Ryde. As a member of staff, you will also be able to enjoy all the Island has to offer.

The uniqueness of the Island is the diversity of landscapes within it. Bustling towns, hills and farmland combine with open beaches and sailing locations such as Cowes, the international home of Sailing. Known as the UK's Holiday Isle, the UK's Dinosaur Isle (due to the large number of dinosaur fossils found here on a regular basis) and an idyllic place to bring up children, the Island has a huge amount to offer our pupils and staff both in and outside the school day and there has been a notable increase in high quality, innovative dining options in recent years.

Ryde is one of the principal towns on the Isle of Wight and sits on the shores of the Solent roughly opposite the city of Portsmouth. Its development owes much to the move in the 19th Century of Queen Victoria to nearby Osborne House and has some impressive Victorian architecture. Island life combines a fascinating history and architecture with a modern vibrancy rich in bars, restaurants and culture. The Island is rich with sites of interest to the historian with strong links not just to the Victorian period but also the Civil War, Tudor England and the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

There are many farms and restaurants offering fresh food in contemporary settings. The Island is famous for its festivals; not just Cowes Week, the Isle of Wight Festival and Round the Island Race but also the Garlic Festival, Sweetcorn Festival and the many town carnivals each August.

Whilst the Island enjoys a distinct identity, it is easily connected with the south east of England and many residents commute daily to Portsmouth, London and the South East. Hover travel from the mainland is at most 10 minutes to Ryde and train links from Portsmouth and Southampton take around 90 minutes to London. Gatwick and Heathrow are around 90 minutes by car and there is a direct train link from Portsmouth to Gatwick Airport. Southampton Airport also has a good number of international destinations.

Pupils and staff travel daily from towns and villages across the Island and some each day from Portsmouth. There is a wide range of accommodation available on the Island and often offering considerable value compared to housing on the other side of the Solent. Through our boarding facilities there is the opportunity for some staff, who wish to be involved in boarding life, to be accommodated on site.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Ryde School is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. Offers of appointment are subject to satisfactory references, confirmation of qualifications and DBS clearance.

Applications, which should include a short letter of suitability (no longer than one side of A4), should be addressed to Mr W Turner, Head Master, by post or emailed to [tdg@rydeschool.net](mailto:tdg@rydeschool.net)

Candidates must fully complete a Ryde School Application Form (available on the website). Please also include the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees including a current employer.

If you have any further questions or require further information about this post please contact our HR Manager, Mrs Tracy Green on 01983 617922 or [tdg@rydeschool.net](mailto:tdg@rydeschool.net)

The closing date for applications is 9am on Friday 17th April 2026.

Interviews will take place at the School shortly after.

Early applications are encouraged as the School reserves the right to withdraw this advert should a suitable candidate be found.

