



HEAD OF PSYCHOLOGY (maternity cover)

FROM NOVEMBER 2026 TO OCTOBER 2027

Ryde School seeks to appoint a Head of Psychology to provide maternity cover in the Senior School's successful and popular Psychology Department, teaching A Level and IB Psychology to Lower and Upper Sixth pupils. All teaching staff at the School are expected to be outstanding practitioners in the classroom and to contribute to the busy co-curricular life in the School. The successful candidate will be able to take up the post in November 2026 until October half term 2027.



RYDE SCHOOL
WITH UPPER CHINE

An island school with a global outlook

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES



OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

This is a full-time post covering maternity leave from November 2026 until October half-term 2027 in our well-established and popular Psychology Department which enjoys a strong record of success. The subject is taught at A Level and IB, at both Standard and Higher Level, with around 50 pupils taking it across both the Lower and Upper Sixth. The department follows the AQA specification at A Level, achieving consistently excellent results with 79% A*-B over the last three years. During this time, IB outcomes have also been excellent with 89% of grades at 7-5. Psychology-related topics are popular for study in the Extended Project Qualification, which is offered as part of our A Level Plus pathway, and in the IB Extended Essay, undertaken by IB Diploma pupils. Consequently, psychology and psychology-related degrees at leading UK universities are popular choices for many pupils each year.

The role would suit an experienced practitioner who could contribute effectively to this highly successful and flourishing department in a busy school. They will be an outstanding classroom teacher with excellent subject knowledge and the ability to communicate their passion for psychology and related academic disciplines, fostering a stimulating and supportive learning environment. The successful candidate will have a track record of achieving excellent outcomes for their pupils at A Level and/or IB. Although desirable, prior experience of teaching IB Psychology is not a prerequisite for this position.

Outside of teaching, full-time members of the teaching staff are expected to be a tutor and all teachers are also expected to contribute to the busy co-curricular life at the School, which will be discussed at interview. There is a wide range of activities offered at Ryde and these take place in dedicated timeslots throughout the week.

The opportunity of accommodation on-site is potentially available for the successful candidate. This would include undertaking weekly boarding duties.

Personal Attributes

- Work with integrity and be able to connect with pupils, parents and staff.
- Committed to being involved in the life of a busy school.
- High personal and professional standards.
- Empathetic with the values and aims of the School.



RYDE SCHOOL WITH UPPER CHINE

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.



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.

Non-teaching 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. Candidates who wish to be involved in the boarding aspect of school life and considered for staff accommodation should express this in their application.



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

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

Early applications are encouraged with interviews taking place on a rolling basis. The School reserves the right to withdraw this advert should a suitable candidate be found.

The closing date for applications is 9am on Monday 1 June.

