

Candidate Brief for the position of
Director of Music

Newton
PREP

Newton Prep was rated as 'Excellent' across the board by ISI Inspectors in March 2022



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The School

Established in 1991, Newton Prep is a thriving school for children, aged 3-13. The School is unashamedly ambitious for its pupils who have access to outstanding facilities. We want them to achieve their academic potential whilst also engaging in sport, art, music and drama. In the School, there are currently over 650 pupils from Nursery to Year 8.

We want the children to involve themselves in the total life of the School, which includes after school clubs and activities and a wide range of trips. We celebrate the diversity of our pupils; we want our children to develop a strong sense of community, learning how to make a positive contribution to the community of Newton Prep and the world around them. The ethos and philosophy is one that is based on mutual respect and kindness shown to others.

Our Vision is to provide the children in our care with a first-rate education in the knowledge that time is precious and irreversible. The education we provide has a strong academic base and an imaginatively broad curriculum giving a rich learning experience for all children including provision for children with a range of abilities, including those with high aptitudes in specific subjects. Moreover, the Newton education has a lasting impact as children progress through their school years and throughout their lives, developing both intelligence and character. Our atmosphere is full of happiness and enthusiasm with a sense of purpose and achievement as both pupils and staff aim high. Good governance bolsters these aspirations. We focus on developing ambition in the children so that they move on to the most appropriate senior school.

Newton Prep is a model for best practice in all aspects of prep education.

The School places a strong emphasis on the education of the whole person. We attach great importance to the teaching of Art, Drama, Music and Sport as well as the more academic subjects. Our curriculum and extensive co-curricular programme, together with the House system, reflect the School's commitment to providing both high quality learning opportunities and strong pastoral support so that our pupils have the best opportunities to achieve their full potential and are successful in all areas of school life.

Fundamentally, we want Newton Prep children to enjoy their precious childhood years.

Location

Newton Prep is positioned in the heart of central London's newest vibrant and dynamic development. The area stretching from Nine Elms to Battersea is home to a bustling new 'town'. The iconic Battersea Power Station, now rebuilt, has transformed this part of the capital. With the opening of the Northern Line tube extension, the school enjoys exceptional connectivity, we are within five-minutes' reach of three different stations, served by four bus routes and even accessible by river!

-  Battersea Park  2 mins
-  Queenstown Road  5 mins
-  Battersea Power Station  5 mins
-  156, 344, 436, 44  1-3 mins
-  Battersea Power Station  15 mins



The Music Department

Music plays a central role in the life of Newton Prep: children love their music lessons and engagement with the subject is very high. Music is taught by a specialist teacher from the very beginning of a child's time with us and continues through to the end of Year 8. Outside the classroom, pupils have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of choirs and ensembles before and after school. There are regular recitals, concerts and performances both in school and at venues throughout the UK and abroad.

The full-time staff comprises the Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, three music teachers and a Head of Strings. The Music & Drama Administrator supports the Director of Music in the running and management of the Music Department. There are 24 part-time Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) teaching a wide range of instruments. Over 50% of pupils are currently receiving individual lessons each week. Each year a number of very talented musicians go on to their senior schools with music scholarships and exhibitions.

The Music Department has truly first-class facilities with a 120-seat Recital Hall with live streaming and recording facilities. A new and dedicated 800sqm teaching space was created for regular class music lessons, choir and ensemble rehearsals. In addition, the Music

Department has a recording studio, Music Technology Mac Suite and ten practice rooms with pianos. There are three grand pianos across the principal teaching and performances spaces. Music Tech has been incorporated into the KS2 and KS3 curriculum. There is a good stock of classroom instruments and the school has its own instrument hire scheme.

Singing is very strong at Newton Prep, with 221 children engaging in weekly choir rehearsals across the week. The Training Choir regularly visit Cathedrals to sing Evensong; there are tours in the summer, most recently to Cambridge and the choir visited Dublin in the Summer of 2023. String playing is similarly popular, with 38 pupils learning stringed instruments. Pupils regularly perform with professional musicians and the school offers masterclasses and educational visits. In 2022, we celebrated the School's 30th birthday with a concert at St John's Smith Square alongside the English Chamber Orchestra and Voces8.

Most recently we celebrated the Kings Coronation at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, a much loved venue where we also host our annual Festival of Carols concerts. In 2020 and 2022 we commissioned a series of videos to showcase the children's work in place of our annual Christmas Concert. A sense of music at Newton Prep can be experienced [here](#).



Summary of the Role

The Director of Music is appointed by the Head and is responsible to her via a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The Director of Music has overall responsibility for providing an inspirational, creative, and engaging programme of both curriculum and performance music for Newton Prep. This post provides an exciting opportunity for a talented, passionate and creative individual to lead an outstanding Music Department at one of London's largest co-ed prep schools.

The post holder will be an outstanding musician in their own right. They will set an example of excellence in this important and high-profile area of school life. They will inspire a love of music across the school and will be able to engage musicians at all levels.

In collaboration with their team, the post holder is responsible for developing a curriculum which is challenging, exciting and forward-thinking. Three Music teachers, a full-time Music Administrator, dedicated Singing Teacher and 24 Visiting Music Teachers all contribute to a truly magnificent and unique musical programme in a busy and highly successful prep school.

The position is a full-time permanent role with a start date of **September 2024/January 2025**.



Main Duties & Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Director of Music include:

Management & Leadership:

- Manage, lead and develop all aspects of music within the School
- Line manage members of the Music Department
- Ensure all staff in the Music Department develop their teaching in an open, supportive and professional environment
- Recruit and appoint Visiting Music Teachers
- Manage music budgets

Teaching & Learning:

- Ensure all pupils are given the maximum opportunity to fulfil their potential in the classroom, and in choirs and ensembles
- Lead extra-curricular activities in line with particular experience and expertise
- Teach a reduced timetable of academic music lessons across the school
- Communicate with and guide parents and pupils regarding music scholarship applications to senior schools

Performances, Events & Concerts:

- Manage and musically direct major concerts, performances and recitals
- Liaise with colleagues in the Music and Drama Departments to ensure the effective running of joint events
- Develop and oversee music tours both in the UK and abroad
- Work with the Communications Team to produce effective materials for concerts and performances



Person Specification

The Director of Music needs to be:

- A qualified and proven musician
- An excellent pianist
- A teacher with current experience of Music teaching in a Prep/Primary school (independent or state), preferably with leadership experience
- Committed, driven and visionary in leading a large team of visiting and permanent teaching staff to achieve the highest possible standards in music
- Able to encourage, inspire and energise children to perform music at all levels and to respond with enjoyment, excitement and understanding
- Someone with passion and experience to lead and continue to develop the choirs
- Creative and forward-thinking so as to foster and build on a deep love of music - and singing - across the whole school
- An outstanding, adaptable and practical musician, with advanced keyboard skills, and with experience in either choral direction, orchestral/ensemble direction, or score arrangement



Summary of Terms & Conditions

The following information provides guidance, without prejudice, on the expected main terms and conditions of employment.

A formal contract detailing the terms and conditions applicable to this position will be drawn up on receipt of your acceptance of your provisional offer of employment. Any offer of employment will be subject to satisfactory recruitment checks (including qualifications, references, ID, right to work, online searches and medical checks) that are satisfactory to the School as well as satisfactory checks from the DBS and Teacher Regulation Agency.

Period of employment

Full-time, permanent.

Salary

A competitive salary package, above the national teachers' scale for Inner London, will be offered in accordance with the School's salary scale which will reflect the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate. Salaries are paid by BACS transfer on the last working day of each month in twelve equal payments.

Pension

Teachers will automatically be enrolled into the School's flexible Defined Contribution pension scheme with the Aviva Pension Trust for Independent Schools (APTIS). Associated benefits include group life cover and group income protection.

Fee remission

A discount of up to 50% is given on school fees for children attending Newton Prep (subject to satisfying the School's admission criteria).

Probation

This post is subject to a probation period of twelve months. During this probationary period either you or the School may terminate your employment by giving not less than one month's prior written notice. The School may, at its discretion, extend the probationary period for a further period in the event it is considered necessary.

Other benefits

Staff gym, free on-site parking, cycle-to-work scheme, free 'travel to work loan scheme', free school lunch, tea and coffee during term time, 24-hour counselling and legal advice service, free annual flu vaccination, training and development opportunities.



Application

Newton Prep is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The School will carry out online searches on all successful candidates as part of the process of assessing suitability.

The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the School is therefore permitted to ask job applicants to declare all convictions and cautions on a self-declaration form in advance of attending an interview (including those which are "spent" unless they are "protected" under the DBS filtering rules) in order to assess their suitability to work with children.

Please ensure that you include the names of two referees and details of employment since leaving school. As the position involves working with children the successful applicant must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post (including checks with past employers) and will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

The closing date for applications is **9.00 am Friday 17th May 2024**.

Application is by form only. Application packs, including the Application Form, may be downloaded [here](#) or from our website newtonprepschool.co.uk. Candidates should complete the School's Application Form electronically and email it to the HR Assistant at: hassistant@newtonprep.co.uk.

Alternatively forward it via post to the HR Assistant, Newton Prep, 149 Battersea Park Road, London, SW8 4BX. If you have any queries about the application process, please contact the HR Department on **0207 720 4091 Ext 1255**.

Formal interviews will be held week commencing **Monday 20th May 2024**. However, the School reserves the right to interview and appoint ahead of the advertised closing date, should an appropriate candidate be found. Therefore, it is advisable to submit applications as early as possible.

We are an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.





Newton
PREP

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Newton Prep Ltd