

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS



Dedworth Middle School

Working together, making a difference





DEDWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Smiths Lane, Windsor, SL4 5PE

Tel: 01753 860561

Email address: office@dedworthmiddle.co.uk

[Web site: www.dedworthmiddle.co.uk](http://www.dedworthmiddle.co.uk)

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in working at Dedworth Middle School. I am proud to be the headteacher here, having taken up the post in September 2018. Our aim is simple – for each pupil to fulfil their potential in a secure and happy environment.

We're a middle school situated on the outskirts of Windsor with just over 500 pupils; we educate pupils between years 5 and 8 and are one of the schools within The Windsor Learning Partnership. Our status as a middle school enables us to welcome applications from both primary and secondary trained colleagues alongside those with experience within a middle school. We can provide colleagues with opportunities to be involved in the education and development of both upper primary and lower secondary age children. Speaking from personal experience, being directly involved with Key Stage 2 pupils after nearly twenty years in secondary schools has been hugely enjoyable for all sorts of reasons, not least of which is that the pupils at Dedworth Middle are a joy to be around.

This is a brilliant time to be thinking about joining us. Firstly, at the heart of our school improvement plan is the desire to make sure that teaching and learning is exceptional. Developments in teaching and learning are increasingly based on evidence collected from extensive research. At Dedworth Middle, we are engaging with this to help us to fulfil our teaching and learning goals. Central to achieving this is our drive to make sure that the continuing professional development opportunities we provide are extensive in range and of high quality. Being part of the Windsor Learning Partnership MAT is very powerful in this regard, as you will see within this information pack. At Dedworth Middle we really do recognise the workload issues facing teachers so we have the following benefits: collaborative planning, a sensible feedback policy underpinned by verbal feedback and reduced marking in books, staff refreshments at INSET sessions, weekly staff sports on-site and social events.

Secondly, I am going to write about our pupils again. I'm not a huge fan of the banners that quote Ofsted reports that can be found outside some schools but I was proud when the lead inspector described our pupils as "the loveliest, happiest children he had met in a long time" during our inspection back in October. We are a genuine comprehensive school that is at the heart of the community that it serves – geographically and in so many other ways too. The pupils are brilliant ambassadors for the school; every single year 8 pupil is invited to be a guide for our annual open evening. How many schools can say that? You are very warmly invited to come in and have a tour of the school and meet some of them ahead of applying if you would like to. If you work at Dedworth Middle, you'll be joining a supportive, caring and collaborative team.

Our motto is 'working together, making a difference' and we are looking for the kind of people who want to help us to do this. We're an expanding school with fantastic facilities; recently extended accommodation includes a 4G community all weather pitch, 7 new classrooms, a refurbished science lab and a sports hall.

If you're committed to improving the lives of young people through education then please get in touch – I would love to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,

Andy Titheridge

Head teacher

The Windsor Learning Partnership – Our Multi Academy Trust

Established in 2015 with Windsor Girls' School and The Windsor Boys' School as the founding schools, The Windsor Learning Partnership expanded to include Dedworth Green First School and Dedworth Middle School joining in 2016. Being part of the Windsor Learning Partnership has allowed our staff to access some excellent CPD. Within the past 12 months, this has included:

- Outstanding Teacher Programme – run and accredited by Olevi trained providers.
- Improving Teacher Programme – also Olevi.
- Middle Leader Development Programme.
- Big Write training with first school colleagues.
- INSET from Pivotal Education (leading provider on behaviour).
- INSET from Teacher Toolkit.

This has supplemented the CPD programme within school where sessions have covered a wide range of areas, including:

- Effective feedback for learning.
- Planning.
- Stretch and challenge for exceptionally able pupils.
- Developing problem solving and reasoning skills.
- Self-harm awareness.
- Effective teaching of SEND pupils.
- Teach meet style sharing of good practice.
- Safeguarding.
- Collaboration with other Windsor middle schools.

Windsor Learning Partnership has also led on cross phase curriculum and assessment work that has helped individual schools (from within and outside the trust) to manage the transition to life after levels and reformed GCSE and A Level qualifications. Subject specialists continue to meet at key points in the academic year to further embed the progress made and to share expertise. These meetings are almost always during the school day rather than after school.

Dedworth Middle School is a partner school for the Teaching School which is co-ordinated through Windsor Girls' School. For colleagues with the capacity to do so, there are opportunities to support others with teacher training through the delivery of CPD and/or taking on a mentoring role. Growing our own through continuing professional development is very much a priority for the school and the multi-academy trust.

We have maintained a productive relationship with the local authority and have accessed development opportunities through them on an individual level, for example, in supporting the moderation of writing at key stage 2, and collectively for safeguarding and managing educational visits.

