



HEAD OF HOCKEY

FROM SEPTEMBER 2025

Ryde School seeks to appoint a Head of Hockey who will lead the hockey programme across the School, taking responsibility for the coaching, progress and development of all hockey players from 2-18 years. All teaching and coaching staff at the School are expected to be outstanding practitioners both in and out of 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 from September 2025.



RYDE SCHOOL
WITH UPPER CHINE

An island school with a global outlook

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES



OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

The Head of Hockey position is a year-round term-time role (36 weeks per year) working with pupils in our Prep and Senior Schools. The post holder will oversee both the girls and boys hockey programmes throughout the Autumn and Spring Terms, working alongside a range of coaches from both academic and sport staff.

Although this role is predominantly focussing on the Head of Hockey position, the School welcomes applicants who are qualified teachers (all subjects welcome) or have no teaching background. There is the expectation that candidates will have played hockey to at least a high club level and to have prior coaching experience. There is also the possibility this role could be combined with the Head of Boys Cricket role. If candidates wish to be considered for this role, too, they should specify in their application. All candidates should be able to contribute to our summer sports programme, coaching cricket, athletics, tennis or sailing, when the hockey seasons have finished.

The Head of Hockey will oversee all aspects of the girls' hockey programme in the Autumn Term and the boys' programme in the Spring Term. This will involve arranging all fixtures with other schools, leading and supporting other colleagues who coach hockey, and overseeing the coaching programme and all logistics related to the hockey provision at the School. This position is suited to individuals who are passionate at delivering high-quality sessions and are interested in supporting teams and individuals to achieve at all levels irrespective of their sporting skill. During the school day, the Head of Hockey will be actively coaching in the timetabled afternoon games sessions and there is an expectation to lead after-school hockey sessions which form part of the School's co-curricular programme. Fixtures take place on Saturdays or midweek and the post holder will be expected to be the lead member of staff on most match days.

Reporting to the Director of Sport, the Head of Hockey requires strong leadership skills, excellent knowledge of the sport, and a commitment to inspiring pupils' passion for hockey. The successful candidate will have a track record of achieving excellent outcomes for their teams and increasing participation numbers. Working alongside other Heads of Sport, the Head of Hockey will look to promote pathway opportunities and support ambitious pupils who aim to play hockey to a high standard.

The School's on-site sports facilities include two full-sized rugby pitches and two junior rugby pitches (which become a cricket ground in the summer), a small astro training facility, cricket nets and cages, three new netball and tennis courts and a range of portable floodlighting. The School also benefits from having a pavilion with changing facilities and our on-site café adjoining the pitches. We also have a large well-equipped sports hall with indoor hockey capability and a new strength and conditioning facility. Off-site (ten minutes drive from the School) we have one full-sized floodlit hockey astro alongside a full-sized 11-aside and 9-aside football pitches. There is also an off-site cricket ground with clubhouse a short distance from the School.

Sport development is an important part of the School's strategy and there are plans for future capital projects to enhance our sporting facilities and to strengthen the sports provision more generally in the coming years.



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

The closing date for applications is midday on Wednesday 8 January.

