



BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

Information for Candidates applying for the role of Head of Cricket/Teacher in Charge of Cricket

Required for September 2025

Birkenhead School, awarded the Sunday Times Independent Secondary School of the Year in the North West for 2025, was founded in 1860. It is an HMC independent day school providing education for boys and girls drawn from the whole of the Wirral, Liverpool and as far afield as Chester and North Wales. There are currently some 127 children in Early Years (60 in Nursery aged under 3 years old, 67 in our “Pre-Prep” aged 3 to 5 years old), 301 pupils in the School’s Prep (ages 5-11) and 527 students in Years 7 to Upper Sixth Form. Birkenhead School has been fully co-educational since September 2008, offering the choice of an independent education to all local children. Across the School approximately 45% of students are girls.

Situated in the leafy suburb of Oxton, the School enjoys excellent facilities. The main campus has a ‘village green’ atmosphere, with classrooms and laboratories looking out over the cricket square. There are ongoing and substantial investments in facilities. In addition to the main campus, the School owns 17 acres of playing fields on two sites nearby – the primary one being McAllester Field on Bidston Road.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION & VALUES

The School comprises Nursery and Pre-Prep (Early Years), Prep and Seniors and integrates their objectives and activities within a ‘One School’ concept. The Headmaster chairs the School’s Senior Leadership Team (SLT) comprising the Head of Prep, Deputies and the Bursar.

Birkenhead School prides itself on being a family school and this has been greatly strengthened by the opening of the Nursery in 2006. It is attractive to parents to have all their children in one school and it is a great advantage for the school to be able to establish strong, long-lasting relationships with families. The move to co-education reinforced this and at present, 234 families have more than one child in the School and 33 have three or four children.

A key feature of the School is its strength of community, which runs through the student, staff and parental bodies. The School is embedded within the wider Wirral community, has strong links with local business and charities, and offers an extensive bursary programme. The School aims to inspire students both inside and outside the classroom, knowing each individual and providing them with outstanding opportunities to find their niche.

A dedicated, talented and collegiate staff body is required to achieve these aims. The School’s informal motto is Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, to which we have recently added Inclusivity, Compassion, Integrity, Humility and Courage as defined School values. Birkenhead School recruits on attitude as much as the quality of an individual’s qualifications on paper, an approach that has played a considerable role in the winning of the Sunday Times award – in short, staff go above and beyond in delivering outstanding academic grades and an expansive co-curricular programme which leads to a fulfilled, inspired and happy community – staff, students, parents, grandparents and alumni (Old Birkonians—OBs).

SENIORS

527 STUDENTS
AGED 11-18
296 BOYS / 231 GIRLS

PREP

301 PUPILS
AGED 5-11
162 BOYS / 139 GIRLS

NURSERY / PRE-PREP

127 CHILDREN
AGED 3 MONTHS – 5 YEARS
70 BOYS / 57 GIRLS



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THE DEPARTMENT

The PE Department currently consists of three full time and two part time specialists in the Senior School, and a co-ordinator of PE and Games in the Prep department, led by the Director of Sport, Mr Darryl Taylor. The School offers both GCSE and A Level PE. All members of the department have an input into PE and Games for both boys and girls. Within the staff community, we have a number of colleagues who have international, as well as regional and county experience. This greatly enhances the coaching provision of our major sports and helps foster confidence, teamwork and the development of specific skills in the students. We are assisted by a large number of colleagues from other departments who contribute enormously to the wide range of co-curricular sporting activities offered. Facilities are excellent and include a sports hall, indoor climbing wall, weights and fitness suite and gymnasium, as well as an astro turf sports pitch and several acres of playing fields.

The School has an excellent sporting tradition and boys' and girls' teams compete very successfully in regional and national competitions. Senior squads embark on major overseas tours. At an individual level, a number of students have performed at county, regional and international level in their respective sports. In order to maintain our high level of team and individual success, the successful candidate will need a strong commitment to co-curricular involvement after school and each weekend.

The main winter sports for boys are Rugby and Hockey, whilst in the summer Cricket is the main activity. It is important that the successful applicant is able to coach/teach these sports or be willing to develop their skills to teach and coach and contribute to co-curricular activities in these areas.

Whilst the department is justifiably proud of the School's co-curricular achievements it also believes strongly in a 'sport for all' philosophy and PE staff encourage all levels of ability to ensure that students fulfil their potential both in PE lessons and co-curricular activities. It is important that any new member of the team embraces this philosophy.

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We are looking to appoint a motivated Head of Cricket/Teacher in Charge of Cricket to lead the cricket programme at Birkenhead School from 1st September 2025. The ideal candidate will lead and develop the School's Cricket programme, and teach PE and Games to talented, bright and enthusiastic students from Year 4 to Year 13 (and potentially from Year 3 in the Junior School as well).

The ideal candidate will be an excellent team player with the highest standards of professionalism and expectations of themselves and of our students. They must have strong sporting credentials and interests and be fully committed to the work of the department. This is an exciting time to join Birkenhead School, leading our Cricket programme across both our Junior and Senior Schools. This role would suit a qualified teacher of Games or PE, or someone with experience of playing or coaching the game at a high level.

Cricket has a long history at Birkenhead School. The sport has been played at the School since at least the 1860s. Over the years, Cricket has become one of the most prominent sports at the school, with many notable achievements and developments. Cricket continues to be one of our "Focus Sports" in terms of both participation and performance for boys. We are looking to expand our girls' provision and programme in the next phase of our sports development plan.



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We attend an annual 1st XI Cricket festival and have a Senior Cricket tour every 3 years, most recently Sri Lanka in 2024. Junior Cricket tours take place regularly. We have individual players who have achieved national honours and professional contracts in the School's history.

Cricket facilities at Birkenhead School are superb, with a fantastic main square and historic pavilion. Across our two sports fields there are two turf squares, an artificial pitch, and 7 outdoor nets. The sports hall is utilised for indoor nets providing 3 lanes, and players have access to two Bola bowling machines.

The successful candidate will coach and direct Cricket to all age groups and will be expected to contribute to the other major sports (i.e. Hockey and Rugby). The role entails leading the busy and successful Cricket program through the provision of coaching, training and fixtures across the school week, including Saturdays during the summer term, and delivering a robust pre-season program in the build up to the summer term.

Teachers at Birkenhead School set themselves the very highest standards and commit to 'going the extra mile' to ensure students enjoy their lessons and make outstanding progress.

The role would be suitable for an experienced teacher or coach. We would also consider applications from an outstanding Early Career Teacher (ECT) who could be developed into the role.

Responsibilities

- Teaching, marking, assessment and grading within the department, always setting the highest standards of personal organisation and administration. All teachers are expected to:

Teaching

- Contribute to a department academic extension programme designed to stretch, challenge and inspire students.
- Meet the needs of different groups of learners including SEND students and those identified as potential high attainers
- Keep abreast of developments in the subject, maintaining contacts with other schools, exam boards and professional associations.
- Ensure students are properly prepared and entered for exams.
- Work co-operatively with the Director of Sport and the rest of the PE department in order to operate a well-structured games programme. Candidates will be expected to run 2-3 after School sessions each week
- Contribute to the organisation of co-curricular activities both in relation to the department and wider School community
- Provide a stimulating learning environment
- Liaise with students about sports and other related subjects at Universities.
- Liaise with Prep regarding sporting and enrichment activities.



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Assessment

- Give timely, positive and helpful feedback to students
- Complete reports to a high standard and within specified deadlines
- Regularly assess and mark student's work in line with School and department guidelines

Tutoring

- Actively monitor students' progress and provide support where necessary
- Encourage student's self-development and personal expression through PSHEE and tutor sessions

Professional Development and Wider Contribution to the School community

- Proactively engage in continuous professional development to reflect on and improve teaching repertoire
- Participate in arrangements for the appraisal and review of own performance
- Contribute to the life of the community, particularly by leading and contributing to co-curricular activities
- Commitment to sports fixtures including every Saturday
- Presenting the School at Parents Evenings, Open Days and other events
- Support and develop the use of ICT within the department.

Additional Elements

Teachers are expected to: -

- Adhere to the School's Code of Conduct
- Commit to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students
- Support and encourage the School's ethos and objectives
- Ensure facilities, including equipment and teaching areas, are maintained in an appropriate condition.
- Demonstrate a commitment to improving and developing the school's processes and facilities.
- Carry out such duties that may be reasonably required by your Line Manager.

THE PERSON

The ideal candidate will:

- Hold ECB level 2 or worldwide equivalent. (or working towards)
- Have a wide experience of teaching and coaching in both participation and performance.
- Have the ability to lead and develop a sports programme.
- Be approachable and lead a team with an ability to inspire others to work collaboratively.
- Be organised, efficient, and strong at the deployment of resource effectively.
- Have high level communication skills with excellent time management.
- Have the ability to engage and motivate young people.



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- Set and maintain high standards in all aspects of the role and personal presentation.
- Inspire others to have confidence through sharing personal knowledge and experience.
- Be able to work effectively and collaboratively with the Director of Sport and Prep School, and put their vision into effect
- Have a vision for Cricket at Birkenhead School and can clearly identify the steps and tools required to achieve it.

REMUNERATION & BENEFITS

Salary

Birkenhead School operates its own salary scale, competitive depending on experience and expertise.

Hours

This is a permanent, full-time post and the post holder will be required to contribute to co-curricular opportunities and work as necessary to carry out the duties of the role.

Holiday

You will be entitled to School holidays and Bank Holidays.

Pension

The School operates an auto-enrolment pension scheme.

Other Benefits

We will value and support your contribution to School life and in return provide you with excellent rewards;

- Working with fantastic young students
- Working as part of a committed team
- Membership of a Defined Contribution scheme
- Term time is 34 weeks
- Discount on School Fees for permanent members of staff
- Free use of the fully equipped on-site gym
- Support for your continuous professional development
- Lunch provided during term time

APPLICATION

A letter of application indicating skills and experience, together with a completed application form, including the names and addresses of at least two referees, should be sent for the attention of the Headmaster via: chw@birkenheadschoo.co.uk

Applications may also be sent by post to: **Cheryl Wallace (Human Resources), Birkenhead School, 58 Beresford Road, Oxtou, Wirral, CH43 2JD**

Birkenhead School, Registered Office: The Lodge, 58 Beresford Road, Oxtou, CH43 2JD

Tel: 0151 652 4014 | **Fax:** 0151 651 3091 | **Email:** headmaster@birkenheadschoo.co.uk | www.birkenheadschoo.co.uk



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Application forms can be downloaded from the School's website: www.birkenheadschoo.co.uk

Candidates are welcome to contact the Director of Sport, Mr Darryl Taylor via djt@birkenheadschoo.co.uk with any questions relating to the role.

To meet our safeguarding obligations, an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check is undertaken as part of the recruitment process for all new staff. As Birkenhead School is an educational provider, it is permitted to ask whether an applicant has any convictions, cautions, reprimands or final warnings which would not be filtered in line with current guidance, as defined by The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (2013 and 2020). It is a criminal offence for an individual who is barred from working with children to apply for a role which is classed as regulated activity (i.e. involves working with children). As such, candidates are asked to also complete the separate Criminal Record Declaration Form on the School's website. The information disclosed on this form will not be kept with your application form during the application process.

Candidates selected for interview will be offered the opportunity to have a tour of the School and meet with relevant members of the department.

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 28th April 2025.

Successful candidates are likely to be invited to interview the following week.

We reserve the right to close this vacancy and complete the recruitment process when we are in receipt of sufficient applications. Should you wish to apply for this post you are advised to complete and submit your application form as soon as possible.