



Teacher of Religious Studies

Information for Applicants

September 2026

TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Required for September 2026

Summer Fields is one of the premier boys' prep and pre-prep schools in the country, situated in 70 acres of superb grounds in North Oxford. The school has an excellent academic reputation and is extremely well resourced.

We seek an outstanding full-time teacher in the Religious Studies department who will also play a full role in the pastoral and wider life of the school. At Summer Fields the Religious Studies department is called Theology, Philosophy and Religion (TPR). The successful candidate will support the Head of TPR in developing and delivering schemes of work that inspire passion for the subject and develop knowledge and understanding of world religions, philosophy, and Christian theology. In addition to facilitating a happy, stimulating environment in TPR lessons, and requiring high expectations of both effort and attainment, applicants will play a full and active part in the pastoral life of the school; contribute to the daily co-curricular programme in which all boys are active; and participate in the daily activities and duties which are an important characteristic of life in a flourishing boarding school.

The successful candidate will have:

- A strong knowledge of Theology, Philosophy and Religion; pedagogy; and a passion for teaching 9 to 13-year-olds;
- An interest in teaching beyond the curriculum (for example, supporting senior school scholarship preparation);
- The ability to play a full role as part of a wider team (both within the TPR department and across the school);
- The capacity to undertake daily/evening/weekend activities and duties; the ability to participate in the daily co-curricular programme in which all boys are active (including games/activities); and a willingness to contribute to boarding life.

The successful candidate may already be familiar with the requirements of teaching Common Entrance TPR but this is not essential. The role is suitable for a teacher with experience of teaching RS or TPR, or for candidates who are beginning a career in teaching.

Application Procedure

Please apply by submitting a fully completed application form with a cover letter addressed to Mr David Faber, Headmaster. To satisfy the requirements for safer recruitment, we need to ask you for your full employment record. Details of any gaps between jobs or between finishing education and employment must be provided. If you have a CV you wish to send, please do so, however a completed application form with full employment history must still be provided.

Applications should be saved as Word or PDF files and emailed to recruitment@summerfields.com by the closing date of Friday 27th February 2026.

Summer Fields is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment. All staff must adhere to, and ensure compliance with, the school's safeguarding policies and procedures in the context of their role. Successful applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER, DAVID FABER MA

Thank you for your interest in Summer Fields and, in particular, in the role of Teacher of TPR. I am delighted that you are considering our school and I hope that you will wish to apply for this position once you have found out more about us.

Summer Fields was founded in 1864 by Archibald and Gertrude Maclaren at their home in north Oxford. Mrs Maclaren was a gifted classical scholar and Mr Maclaren was a fencing master and owner of an Oxford gymnasium, with a passionate belief in the importance of physical fitness. It is from these roots that our school motto was born: *Mens sana in corpore sano*, A healthy mind in a healthy body. The Maclarens established the importance of a breadth of education inside and outside the classroom, values which remain central to the education we offer today.

Summer Fields is a full-boarding and day school for boys aged 4 to 13. There are currently approximately 310 boys on the roll and the school. We offer excellent teaching, traditional values and exceptional pastoral care. We continue to build on a strong academic legacy with an individual focus on strengthening each boy's confidence and abilities.



Summer Fields is a special place and pastoral care is very strong. The school is a vibrant, extended family of staff and boys, living side-by-side in a busy, caring and friendly boarding community. We aim to ensure that each boy is happy, academically challenged and is taking full advantage of life at Summer Fields, with its many possibilities and opportunities. Our most recent ISI inspection, in June 2025, was glowing in all respects and is easily available online.

Summer Fields celebrated its 160th birthday in 2024 and recent years have seen the redevelopment of various areas of the school. The Salata Pavilion provides sports changing and other facilities, and what was New Room now provides a state-of-the-art new school library, including an archive room, a periodicals room and associated teaching rooms in what is the oldest and largest teaching space in the school. The £2.5m project, completed during lockdown, included a major refurbishment of the school Chapel, as well as the DT and Learning Support areas.

The school is thriving at all levels and in 2018 we entered an exciting new phase in our history with the opening of a brand new Summer Fields Pre-prep school, catering for boys from Reception to Year 3. The school is housed in a stand-alone building, Newton, one of the oldest and most historic buildings on the school's 70-acre site. The building underwent a complete re-development, including the addition of a striking, modernist new extension; it now provides purpose-built facilities for up to 80 boys aged 4 to 8.

I recognise that a great deal of thought and time goes into preparing such an application and I assure you that I will, in turn, give your application serious consideration.

ACADEMIC RECORD

Academic standards and outcomes are high. The principal entry point to the prep school is in Year 4, although a few boys join in Years 5, 6 and 7 depending on places being available. Some 20 boys will join the prep school from the Pre-prep each year, in addition to those joining directly, both boarders and day boys, in Year 4. Admission is by selection. The aspirations of boys and parents are high and the school prides itself on the outstanding exam results achieved by our leavers. The school's greatest academic strength is excellent teaching at all levels and we are proud of the academic achievements of boys of all abilities. Each year boys pass Common Entrance and regularly win scholarships to the top public schools in the country.

BOARDING

The boarding structure is horizontal, according to age, in six lodges (boarding houses), where the boys are usually looked after by two lodge parents. Every boy has a personal tutor, responsible for overseeing all aspects of his life at school and with whom he meets regularly, one-to one. In addition, a boy can seek help from lodge parents, form takers, the Head Sister, and, of course, the Headmaster.

The school is set within 70 acres of grounds and is extremely well resourced with many outstanding and modern facilities, which are continually enhanced. In addition to the academic curriculum, sport plays an important part in the life of the school, as does music, art, design and technology, and drama; recent results in music scholarship exams, in particular, have been outstanding. All these activities, and many others, are extremely well provided for. The Chapel is at the heart of the school, both literally and figuratively.



TEACHING AT SUMMER FIELDS

The school recognises that its teachers are its most valuable asset and seeks to recruit and retain the very best qualified and most enthusiastic academic staff, who can communicate their knowledge and passion for a subject to the boys. Our teachers' primary aim is to develop the boys' intellectual curiosity, interest and enjoyment in an atmosphere of mutual respect and discipline. The supportive boarding community is particularly conducive to developing these qualities.

All members of staff are expected to show a willingness to play a full part in the life of a busy boarding and day school and to assist with, and contribute to, games, the boarding routine and other duties and activities within the wider school community.

The majority of teaching staff live on site and it is possible that accommodation may be available for the successful applicant; a position as houseparent in one of the six boarding houses becomes available from time to time. However, it is not essential to live on site and applications are warmly welcomed from candidates who live in or close to Oxford.

The school has its own salary scheme and the salary offered will depend on ability and experience. Members of staff who have children attending the school will be eligible to receive a significant discount on the fees. Other benefits include a generous flexible pension scheme with salary exchange options, life assurance and income protection. There are also extensive continuing professional development opportunities, access to an Employee Assistance Programme, annual flu vaccination, a contributory private healthcare scheme; onsite parking, and discount on holiday activity clubs run on site.



THE DEPARTMENT

During their time at Summer Fields, boys will learn about all the major world religions, examine Christian theology and explore philosophical questions. The department has a passion for engaging and inspiring pupils through deploying a variety of approaches to teaching and learning, aimed at developing independent thinking, understanding of contrasting world views and appreciation of difference. Summer Fields boys benefit from learning in an environment that includes a variety of religions and world views. Boys are encouraged to reflect on their learning and how it may relate to their own questions, beliefs and practices.

TPR is taught as a single, discrete subject from Year 4 through to Year 8. There is strong curriculum progression between the department's schemes of work and the topic-based learning delivered in the Pre-prep. All boys will undertake the Common Entrance TPR examination at the end of Year 8, or an equivalent examination (such as a senior school academic scholarship). The department is led by a subject specialist, currently supported by four other teachers who have experience of teaching TPR (in addition to other subjects) from Year 4 through to the end of Year 8.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The school is fully committed to the principles of equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion. Summer Fields does not discriminate on the grounds of race or colour, nationality or national or ethnic origins, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, marital or civil partnership status, gender reassignment, age, and disability. Applications are welcome from a diverse range of backgrounds.

TEACHING JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Teacher of Theology, Philosophy and Religion

Reporting to: Head of Department, Deputy Headmaster, Headmaster

Purpose of the Job

The Classroom Teacher is at the centre of academic life at Summer Fields. He or she is responsible for all teaching and learning within the classroom.

Main duties

The main duties of the Teacher of TPR include the requirement to:

- Teach all boys to the highest standard (with reference to relevant SEND and/or Learning Support recommendations).
- Follow departmental schemes of work, teaching beyond the usual Year 8 TPR curriculum where necessary and extending the most able (with specific reference to senior school scholarship preparation).
- Ensure pupils are well prepared for external and internal exams, through the above.
- Play a full role as part of a wider team within the TPR department, discussing with departmental colleagues the preparation and development of teaching programmes and materials, methods of teaching and assessment; and to support extra-curricular departmental events.
- Follow all school and departmental policies on assessment, recording and marking.
- Play a full role as part of a wider team across the school, working in collaboration with other departments.
- Set and mark appropriate and sufficient classwork and Private Study and taking responsibility for the upkeep of books and other resources.
- Communicate and meet with parents as appropriate and respond positively, professionally and promptly to e-mails, letters and messages from parents; attend all Parents' Receptions and organise any additional meetings with parents as appropriate (in discussion with the Head of Department).
- Follow the school's procedure for reporting (and make sure that all reports are written to a high standard).
- Participate in regular departmental meetings, as required.
- Maintain the fabric of the classroom, including displays.
- Participate in school arrangements for further training and development as a teacher.
- Attend outside courses to refresh and enhance classroom skills.
- Regularly review methods of teaching and schemes of work.
- Prepare for appraisal/professional review as explained in relevant policies.

All Teachers are also expected to:

Be responsible for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of all children in their care.

- Maintain good order and discipline among the children and safeguard their health and safety (in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy and school procedures).
- Enforce all school rules and reward boys for good work or other activities (in line with the school's Behaviour Policy).
- Contribute to the activities, clubs and societies at Summer Fields.
- Contribute to the daily games programme in which all boys are active.

- Undertake supervisory duties as required by the Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Head of Boarding, as they may reasonably direct.
- When necessary, supervise boys and cover for absent colleagues as directed.
- Undertake at least one evening duty in a boarding Lodge each week.
- Attend weekday Chapel or Assembly and also the Sunday Service.
- Attend school lunch and help promote good manners and civilised behaviour in the dining room.
- Attend all relevant staff meetings, unless other duties prevent this.
- Read notices displayed in the staff room, especially the “24-hour board”.
- Support school functions and activities whenever possible.
- Support and promote the ethos of the school.
- Attend school before the start of term and after the end of term (up to three days before or after) to make necessary preparations as required by the Head of Department, Deputy Headmaster and the Headmaster.

General Requirements

- Summer Fields is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff to share this commitment. All staff must adhere to, and ensure compliance with, the school's safeguarding policies and procedures in the context of their role.
- Be responsible for the promoting and safeguarding the welfare of pupils.
- Comply with all aspects of the school's Staff Code of Conduct.
- Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance and conduct.
- Maintain positive, courteous relations with students, parents and colleagues.
- Maintain good order and discipline among pupils and to support and contribute to the school's responsibility for safeguarding their students.
- Attend major school events.
- Adhere to school policies and procedures.
- Comply with all health and safety procedures as required by the school, including the completion of Risk Assessments as and when required.
- Carry out any other task or duty as reasonably required by the by the Headmaster or Deputy Headmaster.

APPLICATION AND RECRUITMENT PROCESS GUIDANCE NOTES

Summer Fields is committed to ensuring the best possible environment for the children and young people in its care. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people is our highest priority. The school aims to recruit staff that share and understand our commitment and to ensure that no job applicant is treated unfairly by reason of a protected characteristic as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

APPLICATION

- Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the relevant Application Form in full. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed Application Forms but are permitted to be submitted alongside a completed Application Form.
- Candidates should be aware that all posts in the school involve some degree of responsibility for safeguarding children, although the extent of that responsibility will vary according to the nature of the post. Please see the job description for the post. If you are invited to attend a formal interview your suitability to work with children will be assessed.
- As the job for which you are applying involves substantial opportunity for access to children, it is important that you provide us with legally accurate answers.
- The successful applicant will be required to complete a Disclosure Form from the Disclosure and Barring Service ("DBS") for the post and, where appropriate, a check of the Barred List maintained by the DBS will be made. Any offers of appointment will be made conditional on obtaining such satisfactory checks. Additionally, successful applicants should be aware that they are required to notify the school immediately if there are any reasons why they should not be working with children.
- The Childcare (Disqualification) and Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 apply to those providing early years childcare or later years childcare, including before school and after school clubs, to children who have not attained the age of 8 and to those who are directly concerned in the management of that childcare.
- The school takes its responsibility to safeguard children very seriously and any staff member and/or successful candidate who is aware of anything that may affect his/her suitability to work with children must notify the school/their manager immediately. This will include notification of any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands or warnings he/she may receive.
- Staff and/or successful candidates who are disqualified from childcare or registration may apply to Ofsted for a waiver of disqualification. Such individuals may not be employed in the areas from which they are disqualified, or involved in the management of those settings, unless and until such waiver is confirmed. Please speak to the HR Manager for more details.
- The school has a legal duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. This is known as the Prevent duty. Schools are required to assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. Accordingly, as part of the recruitment process, when an offer is made the offer will be subject to a Prevent duty risk assessment.
- If you are currently working with children, on either a paid or voluntary basis, your current employer will be asked about disciplinary offences, including disciplinary offences relating to children or young persons (whether the disciplinary sanction is current or time expired), and whether you have been the subject of any child protection allegations or concerns and if so the outcome of any enquiry or disciplinary procedure. Any information about past disciplinary action or substantiated allegations will be considered in the circumstances of the individual.
- If you are not currently working with children but have done so in the past, that previous employer will be asked about those issues. Where neither your current nor previous employment has involved working with children, your current employer will still be asked about your suitability to work with

children. Where you have no previous employment history, we may request character references which may include references from your school or university.

- You should be aware that provision of false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if you have been appointed, and a possible referral to the police and/or DBS.

CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon the following criteria:

- Receipt of at least two satisfactory references (if these have not already been received), including for internal appointments. All references should be provided by a senior person with appropriate authority, subject to the satisfaction of the school. All referees will be asked if the candidate is suitable to work with children. The school will compare any information provided by the referee with that provided by the candidate on the application form. Any inconsistencies will be discussed with the candidate.
- Verification of identity and qualifications including evidence of the right to work in the UK.
- A satisfactory enhanced DBS check and if appropriate, a check of the Barred List maintained by the DBS.
- For a candidate to be employed as a teacher, a check that that the candidate is not subject to a prohibition order issued by the Secretary of State or any sanction or restriction imposed (that remains current) by the historic General Teaching Council for England before its abolition in March 2012.
- Verification of professional qualifications, including, where applicable, any award of Qualified Teacher Status.
- Where the successful candidate has worked or been resident overseas, such checks and confirmations as the school may consider appropriate so that any relevant events that occurred outside the UK can be considered. This shall include the candidate providing the school with proof of his/her past conduct as a teacher in the form of a letter of professional standing from the professional regulating authority in the country in which he/she has worked.
- Verification of medical fitness for the role in accordance with DfE Circular 4/99 Physical and Mental Fitness to Teach.
- Where the role involves providing care for pupils under eight, receipt of a signed Self-Declaration form showing the candidate is not disqualified from providing childcare as set out in the statutory guidance "Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 (July 2018)".
- For a candidate to be employed into a senior management position as set out within the School's Recruitment, Selection and Disclosures Policy and Procedure, receipt of a signed "senior charity manager positions: automatic disqualification declaration" confirming that the candidate is not disqualified from acting in a senior management position for a charity in accordance with the automatic disqualification rules for charities;
- If you are undertaking a management role, a check that you have not been prohibited from participating in the management of independent schools.

It is the school's practice that a successful candidate must complete a pre-employment health questionnaire. The information contained in the questionnaire will then be held by the school in strictest confidence and used as set out in the school's Staff Privacy Notice and Staff Information Security Policy. This information will be reviewed against the Job Description and the Person Specification for the particular role, together with details of any other physical or mental requirements of the role i.e. proposed workload, extra-curricular activities, and layout of the school. The school is aware of its duties under the Equality Act 2010. No job offer will be withdrawn without first consulting with the applicant, considering medical evidence and considering reasonable adjustments.