

Candidate Brief for the position of
Visiting Music Teacher - Guitar (up to 2 days a week)

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



Contents

The School	3
The Music Department	4
Summary of the Role	5
Key Responsibilities	6
Person Specification	7
Application Process	8



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 Head of Music, Head of Choirs, Ensembles and Performances, three music teachers and a Head of Strings. The Music & Drama Administrator supports the Head of Music and Head of Choirs, Ensembles and Performances in the running and management of the Music Department. There are 22 part-time Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) teaching a wide range of instruments. Over 56% 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 108-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 241 children engaging in weekly choir rehearsals across the week. The Training Choir regularly perform at concert venues around London. In the Summer of 2023, they performed a 5 day tour in Dublin. String playing is similarly popular, with 46 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 our End of Year 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

We are seeking to appoint an inspiring, committed and highly-skilled Visiting Music Teacher (VMT) Guitar, to join a first-class Music Department. The Music Department is well resourced and, as such, there are many opportunities to support extra-curricular activities through additional group coaching and to accompany concerts and pupils at the direction of the Head of Music, Head of Choirs, Ensembles and Performances.

VMTs are recruited by the Head, Head of Music and Head of Choirs, Ensembles and Performances. They are responsible to the Head, via the Head of Music and Head of Choirs, Ensembles and Performances, in all matters relating to performance, ensembles, recruitment and pupil progress and the day-to-day management of their timetables.

The successful candidate will be an outstanding teacher with a passion for inspiring our youngest musicians to perform to the highest possible standard, as well as being an active performer in their own right.

VMTs are self-employed and invoice parents directly each term. They are expected to communicate with parents to arrange lessons, organise payment and report on progress. The appointment is in addition to the current team of 22 VMTs teaching over half of the pupils at Newton Prep.

January 2025

£54.60 per hour (up to 2 days a week)



Key Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Visiting Music Teacher will be to:

- Inspire musical performance of the highest quality through committed, skilled and outstanding one-to-one teaching.
- Teach to the individual needs, abilities and talents of each child, suggesting repertoire and adapting scores where necessary.
- Identify clear teaching objectives and learning outcomes, with appropriate challenge to deliver outstanding quality.
- Assess pupils' progress, give timely individual feedback to pupils and their parents as to how to progress further.
- Ensure that the School's Policies are reflected in daily practice.
- Actively promote and encourage pupils' participation in extra-curricular music, including solo recitals and school concerts.
- Lead the Guitar Ensemble in their weekly rehearsal. Prepare the ensemble for Christmas concerts, showcases and end of term performances.
- Enter pupils for examinations through the Music Administrator, as and when appropriate.
- Invoice parents in a timely manner at the beginning of a new term.
- Communicate with parents and respond to parents' queries and concerns as and when they arise in a professional and timely manner.



Person Specification

The ideal candidate will have:

- A relevant music qualification at degree level.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Experience in teaching pupils aged between 3-13, both boys and girls.
- Experience rehearsing and leading a Guitar Ensemble, including choosing a range of appropriate repertoire for performances throughout the year.
- A unique approach to teaching the Guitar which is inspiring and is not based solely on exam repertoire.
- Performing experience in their own right.
- A sound understanding of technique, particularly with regard to young players.
- An ability to work as part of a team.
- An approachable and engaging manner.
- An understanding of, and commitment to, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
- Enhanced disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service, including a Barred List check.



Appointment Process

To apply, please submit your CV, a cover letter (which does not exceed more than one side of A4) and a video (not exceeding more than three minutes), explaining your suitability for the post. This should reach the HR Department at hrrassitant@newtonprep.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is **9.00 am, Thursday 5th December 2024**.

For further information, please contact the **HR Department on 0207 720 4091 (Ext 1255)** or via the above email address.

Interviews and lesson observations will take place during **the 1st week of January 2025**. Candidates invited to interview will be required to complete the School's Application Form, which may be downloaded [here](#) or found on our website, newtonprepschool.co.uk.

The successful candidate will be subject to child protection screening, including a DBS and Barred List check. The School will carry out online searches on all successful candidates as part of the process of assessing suitability.

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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