Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the post of **Class Teacher** within ‘The Orchard’, the SEN Unit, at Highfield Community Primary School.

Highfield Community Primary School is an inclusive school with an excellent community spirit, where all children regardless of their SEND and cultural background, have the opportunities to learn, socialise, be cared for and work alongside their peers in a supportive and nurturing environment. The Orchard at Highfield is for children from 5-11 years who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder/Speech, Language and Communication Needs.

All pupils who attend Highfield SEN Unit will have been previously assessed by professionals and the Local Authority and have been issued with an Education, Health and Care Plan. The nature of teaching in the Orchard is inclusive and fully promotes and enables all pupils to achieve their full potential; to learn to be healthy, sociable and tolerant of differences and disabilities, and promotes equality of opportunity whatever the child’s special educational needs.  At Highfield children are able to learn in a positive, nurturing and secure environment; enjoy coming to school and make excellent progress.

Our unit is to home to two sensory rooms which children can access along with well-staffed and resourced classrooms with a creative curriculum which will allow the children to engage and progress to their potential. We want to provide a safe environment that children are excited about coming to each day. The building itself offers a nurturing and less stimulating environment to support those children with interaction and communication needs including autism. We have small classes and a high staff to pupil ratio to ensure the children feel safe and can develop self-regulation strategies to access their potential.

Our curriculum is planned alongside Highfield’s mainstream teaching staff so that the children will be taught the core curriculum at their level, regardless of their age. They will be grouped according to their needs, behaviours and their academic ability. We have a curriculum which has a strong focus on therapeutic interventions and social, communication and interaction skills. The Unit works closely with the mainstream school and we hope to coordinate many activities and resources with the staff team and pupils. We are extremely fortunate to have the specialist provision, yet work as part of a larger mainstream team, allowing us the best possible balance.

Staff well-being is also an important aspect of our school culture. Staff are encouraged and provided with regular opportunities to develop and maintain their well-being. Support including supervision and opportunities to get together as a staff are all examples of how we work to achieve this. **All staff are valued and success is celebrated.**

As you will already have seen from the job advertisement and person specification, the SEN Unit at Highfield Community Primary School is looking for a Class Teacher for the Stage 2 class. We are looking for someone who is committed to securing the best outcomes for all children and is prepared to go the extra mile to achieve this. The successful candidate should share our high expectations whilst demonstrating the warmth, humour and resilience which are central to the values of our school. First and foremost, we are looking for a candidate who is an outstanding teacher with the ability to lead by example and secure the respect and trust of colleagues, children, governors and parents.

We are proud of our open-door policy and all interested parties are strongly advised to visit the school for a guided tour before applying. Please phone the school to arrange a visit and to meet the staff and children. Additionally, feel free to call the school to speak with me if you require any further information. Thank you for expressing an interest in joining our team. I look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards,

Andrew Proctor

Headteacher