



FRANCIS HOLLAND SCHOOL

SLOANE SQUARE

**39 Graham Terrace
London SW1W 8JF
Tel 020 7730 2971**

HEAD OF LEARNING SUPPORT
Full-time, permanent position
Required from September 2018



General Information

Francis Holland School Sloane Square is an independent selective school for about 540 girls aged 4 to 18 (GSA and Society of Heads). There are 166 Juniors and about 350 Seniors, including 80 in the Sixth Form. The School is located on a spacious site in a quiet area of SW1, very close to Sloane Square.

Francis Holland School is enjoying considerable popularity and is heavily oversubscribed. Our warm, vibrant and nurturing atmosphere is coupled with an innovative and creative culture. Our pupils are not valued on academic performance – notwithstanding high achievement - and we recognise the many different types of

intelligences which can manifest themselves in a variety of gifts and talents. Community service and enterprise are also highly valued, and we seek to build resilience and courage through our wide range of sports and co-curricular opportunities and our expeditions programme. Girls are encouraged to take considered risks and to learn that failure is simply a work in progress. This brave and aspirational attitude informs the School and produces young women of character and flexibility.

Pupils come from all parts of the London area with many of the Junior School pupils choosing to stay for the Senior School. Each member of staff is involved in the pastoral life of the School, normally as a Form Tutor, the Junior School having one form throughout and Years 7 to 11 having two or three forms per year. The Sixth Form girls are placed in tutor groups of about 8 girls. A very wide range of co-curricular opportunities are offered to the pupils, and all staff contribute to this vibrant dimension of the School.

Academic standards are high throughout the School and on leaving school, after A Levels, girls proceed to higher education courses, sometimes after a gap year.

The Role

We are seeking an experienced Special Educational Needs specialist who will continue to develop the work of this well-established department to support the learning needs of pupils in this academically selective school. The successful candidate will be supporting girls in a variety of ways, including 1:1, group and in class support. The school aims to offer all girls the opportunity to fulfil their academic potential and to provide appropriate support for those girls who have special needs of various kinds. These girls include those who may have a diagnosed special educational need, learning difficulty or disability, those who require help with study skills and those for whom English is an additional language. It also includes those who may have particular medical or emotional/psychiatric problems. The majority of girls on the Learning Support Register have dyslexic/dyspraxic type difficulties and the successful candidate will have experience in this area and a post-graduate qualification in specific learning difficulties; preferably at Level 7 or equivalent. The successful candidate will be mainly supporting girls in the senior school and therefore should have considerable experience of working in a senior school (Key Stages 4 and 5 in particular) and will be required to report to teachers and parents regarding pupil progress. They will also work closely with the learning support coordinator in the junior school.

Procedures for Identification

Girls may be identified as requiring learning support or having special needs in the following ways:

- Information received or concerns expressed by parents;
- Information from previous schools;
- Staff referral form;

- In-house screening;
- Pupil monitoring;
- Analysis of examination performance;
- Concern expressed at staff meetings.
- Initial referral may be followed by an internal report to gather additional information

We recognise that some children with special needs may have physical disabilities. Parents and prospective parents of disabled children can obtain copies of our school's accessibility plan and disability policy from the website. This shows the ways in which we plan to make our buildings progressively more accessible to disabled pupils, parents, and visitors.

Staff should not treat pupils with SEN or LDD less favourably, without justification, than their non-disabled peers, and should make reasonable adjustments to ensure that pupils who are disabled are not put at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with pupils who are not disabled.

Personal Profile

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced specialist teacher who enjoys the challenge of devising effective strategies to enable pupils to fulfil their potential. Experience of working with senior school pupils is essential but patience, a good sense of humour and a positive disposition are just as important for this role. A post graduate qualification in specific learning difficulties is essential. The candidate should demonstrate flexibility and the skills and willingness to lead a department of experienced staff, working across other departments as required, with an understanding of the need for confidentiality and discretion. Excellent interpersonal skills and good organisational ability will also be vital for this role.

The Appointment

Completed application forms must be received by 12.00 noon on Friday 26th January 2018 and interviews will take place in the week commencing Monday 29th January 2018.

Francis Holland School is committed to the safeguarding of children and child protection screening will apply to this post.