



Sidcot

Live Adventurously



TEACHING POST CANDIDATE
INFORMATION PACK

WHAT MATTERS WHEN CHOOSING A PLACE TO TEACH?



If it matters that you're teaching more than just exam technique, that you're encouraging children to take a wider view of their future, then Sidcot may be the place for you. At Sidcot you'll find a school community that aims to put into practice the Quaker values of peace, equality and living adventurously. It's a place where children learn to be curious about the world and develop the confidence to live purposeful, engaged lives.

We are justifiably proud of our students' academic record. We are equally proud of their social skills, their emotional intelligence, their resilience and their determination to make a difference in the world.

We encourage the same outward looking attitude in our teachers. We want them to be motivated by the fact that we are all continually learning and developing throughout our lives. We want them to find in Sidcot a kind, supportive place, where they can do their very best work.

Teaching at Sidcot means joining a community of highly skilled, like-minded professionals who value the school for its determination to educate the whole person for a life of active, responsible citizenship. If you're interested in teaching at Sidcot, I look forward to hearing from you.

Iain Kilpatrick
Headmaster



"A rare breed of school which values individual worth above corporate success."

The Good Schools Guide



SIDCOT AT A GLANCE

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|--------------------------|--|
| Type of school: | Day and Boarding |
| Gender: | Co-educational |
| Year founded: | 1699 |
| Faith: | As a Quaker School we welcome students and staff of all faiths and none. |
| Age range: | 3 to 18 |
| Age range of boarders: | 11 to 18 |
| Number of students: | 600 |
| Number of boarders: | 180 |
| Educational programmes: | IB Diploma A Levels |
| Outstanding reputation: | Well known for excelling in the Creative Arts, Maths and Science |
| Extras: | Equestrian Centre |
| Setting: | Rural |
| Nearest airport: | Bristol – 7 miles |
| Nearest railway station: | Weston-super-Mare or Bristol Temple Meads |
| Nearest cities: | Bristol and Bath |

[View on Google Maps](#)

QUAKERISM – WHAT MAKES A QUAKER SCHOOL DIFFERENT?

Since its foundation, the values of the Society of Friends have been at the heart of Sidcot School. Quakers believe in living life adventurously and letting their lives speak.

In practice this means an approach to teaching that encourages individual thought and exploration, whilst making sure all students have the support they need to grow as individuals with their full range of talents recognised and celebrated.

QUAKER MEETINGS

The whole school community meets together in a 'Morning Meeting' once a week. This is a time when all staff and pupils share a period of quiet reflection – a rare opportunity for peace in today's noisy and hectic world. The meeting helps students to learn the habit of self-reflection, and experience the power of shared silence. There is also a Quaker Meeting on a Sunday which boarders can attend if they wish to.

At Sidcot we welcome students and staff of all faiths and none.

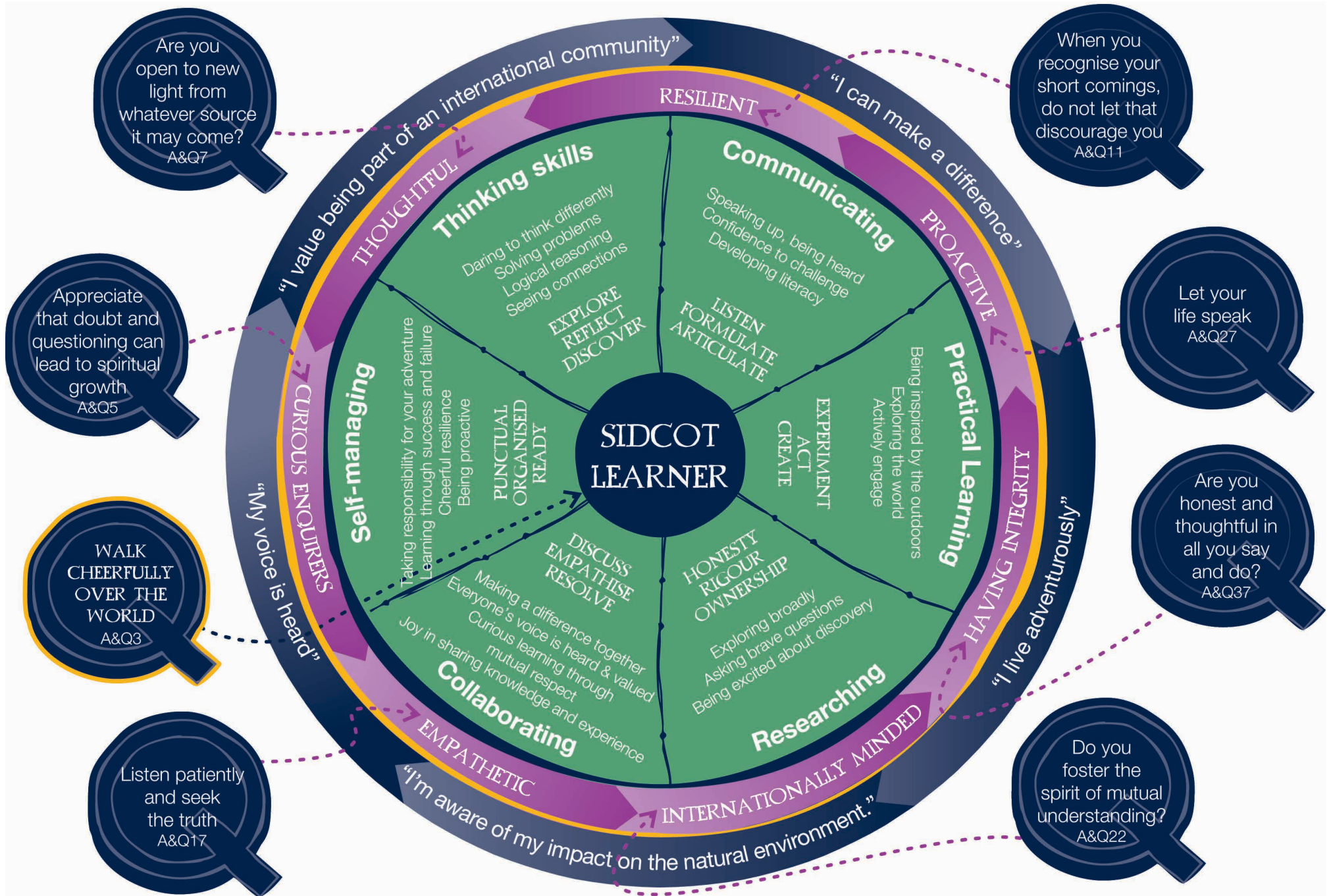
THE LEARNING WHEEL

A Quaker school is built on Quaker values. At Sidcot we have created 'The Learning Wheel' to show how these values come to life day by day in the School.

The Quaker values sit on the outer part of the wheel. Move inwards and you'll see how those values translate into action.

You'll see the learning wheel all over the school. In the classroom it guides our teaching and helps children to reflect on their learning experience. It's used as a reference point when recruiting new staff, and for evaluating our teaching practice.

It's also used as a resource for discussion amongst students and staff. Values are abstract; the wheel makes them concrete and gives us a language with which to discuss our aims and aspirations for life in the school.



PEACE & GLOBAL STUDIES

The Centre for Peace and Global Studies works to create a learning environment where students and staff are able to explore and understand how we embody the qualities of peace in the way that we engage with each other across the School community. We feel that it is important to help students make sense of the world around them.

Peace education is embedded throughout Sidcot, without structured lessons, but a way of life, of being. Our aim is to create a school filled with peacemakers and changemakers, we facilitate learning, give voices and ways to follow through on the things we say are important. We want students to be able to discern, to be able to ask questions about what they see and hear. To be awake to how actions support words, to look for the inconsistencies of behaviour and the rhetoric behind school policies.

Our teaching staff play a key role in creating a learning space where the energy is one of enquiry and that much lauded quality, curiosity – a place where all parties have something to learn and something to offer.

THE PASS PROGRAMME

The 'Programme of Activities for Sidcot School' (PASS) is an innovative programme which aims to bring our key values to life with a specially designed course of activities that are embedded in the curriculum. Students take part in activities that focus on ideas around integrity, stewardship, self-reflection, adventure and community.

LANGUAGES FACULTY

Consisting of Modern Foreign Language and EAL Departments

At Sidcot we are lucky to have many international students who enrich and strengthen our Languages department. We put a strong emphasis on cultural awareness in our teaching, and use singing, drama and art in lessons at all levels.

As a 3-18 School, we offer Languages in the Junior School where the focus on learning through oral and written work. When pupils reach Year 7, they will have already studied Spanish for a year, German for a year and French for at least 3 years. These lessons are run by the Faculty.

Curriculum and Co-curriculum

From Year 7, all pupils learn French as their first language in three 50 minute lessons a week, using the Studio 1 textbook by Pearson. As there is always a variation in how much French students have learnt in their previous schools, students take a test to determine their knowledge to date and then join one of 3 groups, setted for ability. Students who pick up a language quickly will have the opportunity to move between groups before Christmas. For students who require support, our lunchtime 'Languages Surgery' offers further help to students of all ages.

In the summer term, students are introduced to Spanish and German, which they learn in a Carousel for three weeks each. After this, students decide their second language for the coming year.

In Year 8, students take two 50 minute French lessons per week and two 50 minute lessons of either Spanish or German. In Year 9, they continue to study the two languages, while those who take only one have Learning Support or EAL lessons during the second option block.

In Year 10, most of our students continue with a modern foreign language, with an increasing number choosing to be dual linguists. We follow the new GCSE course by AQA with textbooks Viva GCSE, Studio GCSE and Stimmt GCSE. In addition to classroom lessons all students have one session a week with the Language Assistant in pairs or small groups. This continues in Year 11 as students complete their GCSE courses and practice for the subsequent summer exams.

In the Sixth Form, our students have a range of choices. The International Baccalaureate programme offers German, Spanish, French and Italian. Alternatively, they can take AQA two-year A Level courses in French, Spanish and German. All AS, A Level and IB students have individual sessions with the Language Assistant once a week, and visit Bristol University for lectures in their chosen language.

Our international students have the option to take native speaker exams at GCSE, AS Level and A Level in the summer.

As well as exams and practice, we make sure that our students have plenty of real world experience of the languages they are studying. Regular trips include a stay in a French farmhouse in Normandy, visits to Madrid and Cordoba staying with Spanish families, and a trip to the Museum Quarter in Vienna.

Back at the school, members of the MFL and Drama departments run The European Theatre working with students of all ages to perform works in Spanish, French and German. The Faculty also hosts theatre companies performing plays in French and German, and organises visits to see international touring companies.

During International Languages Week the whole school, Junior and Senior, comes together to take part in a lively and engaging programme of activities produced by the international students working with the MFL faculty members. The department also hosts The Linguistics Olympiad – a new event in which our ‘Lead Linguists’ compete to solve problems through linguistics and language.

WHAT'S EXPECTED?

Sidcot School is a busy and lively day and boarding school with a strong sense of community. As a teacher, you'll be right at the heart of that community. You'll be part of a team of professionals whose energy and commitment brings to life the Quaker ethos of 'Living Adventurously.'

So, what does that mean in practice? It means that we'll ask you to apply your enthusiasm and talents to helping our students step outside their comfort zone and try new things. At Sidcot we set out to educate the whole person so alongside your classroom work, you'll be involved in working collaboratively delivering our extensive programme of extra and co-curricular activities. This will include sessions in the evenings and at weekends. You'll be asked to offer at least one club or society of your own, or an activity for our Wednesday afternoon PASS programme. This can be a club or activity in your specialism or an opportunity to offer other skills than your subject area. You'll also attend assemblies and possibly lead one a year – and you'll be involved in our annual Festival of Peace weekend.

Your regular classroom teaching will also include tutor responsibilities and a role in the pastoral care that is an essential part of the day and boarding community. You'll be involved in regular school events including open mornings, parents' evenings, departmental meetings and staff briefings. You'll also attend training courses and take part in the school's professional development programme.

BENEFITS

This is an excellent opportunity for someone who wishes to join a thriving day and boarding school, in one of the most attractive regions of England.

Sidcot rewards its teaching staff well by offering the following benefits:

- Competitive salary scale points.
- Longer holidays than the maintained sector.
- Eligible for membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme.
- Remission of school fees subject to satisfying our standard Admissions criteria.
- Opportunity to take on additional responsibilities for which there are allowances.
- Free on-site parking.
- Free school lunches are provided during term time in the Refectory.
- Free use of leisure and sporting facilities.

For more information please visit the Sidcot website: www.sidcot.org.uk.

As part of the School's commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the role, including checks with past employers and a DBS Enhanced check.