



Candidate Information

Teacher of Geography

September 2025



Sutton Valence one school, many journeys



The School Introduction

Sutton Valence is an independent, HMC co-educational day and boarding school situated in the heart of Kent for pupils aged 2-18.

At the Senior School, whilst not fiercely selective on entry, its value added statistics are impressive. For those subjects Sutton Valence offers at A Level, the School aims to be in the top 10% nationally for adding value, managing to bring out the academic potential in every pupil. Equally impressive is the breadth of education on offer, which at GCSE is tailored to each pupil's strengths, recognising that academic achievement is only one measure of success.

From Year 7 (First Form), all our pupils work on laptops using Microsoft OneNote which acts as repository for class notes, prep and online textbooks. Pupils also make notes on their devices and store them in OneNote so teachers can mark online using digital ink or recording. It is expected that most lessons will use the device at some point although many will use a combination of paper work and device.

Individuality, confidence without arrogance and the strength of character to meet the complexities of modern living with equanimity are the hallmarks of a Sutton Valence pupil.

The Senior School's roll is currently 575 of which around 120 are boarders. Class sizes are small and the overall pupil-staff ratio of 9:1 enables Sutton Valence pupils to benefit from the close guidance and individual attention of teachers. The academic staff are all highly-qualified subject specialists with a commitment to continuing professional development.

Contained within the 100-acre site, there are dedicated games pitches, an all-weather playing surface, a sports centre, which contains a fitness suite, an all-weather athletics track and field sports arena and an indoor six-lane swimming pool.

Sutton Valence Preparatory School occupies its own site in the neighbouring village of Chart Sutton and currently has 250 pupils between the ages of 2 and 11.

Vision, Mission and Ethos

Vision

Through our community values, broad curriculum, and extensive enrichment opportunities, we believe that all young people at Sutton Valence School will be inspired and supported to fulfil and exceed their potential. We want our students to be open-minded individuals who possess a love of learning, are confident not arrogant, and have a strong set of values reflecting our principles as a Christian Foundation.

Our Mission is to have a School where one will find:

- **Care**

A caring, safe, supportive and kind community for the education of children aged 2 to 18, in a day and boarding environment

- **Challenge**

A challenging, relevant and broad curriculum encouraging curiosity, delivered in ways that allow all to achieve

- **Choice**

An outstanding range of creative, cultural, social and physical activities so that all can develop skills such as self-discipline, commitment, leadership and teamwork

- **Culture**

A culture of curiosity and celebration of diversity which promotes excellence, independence and high standards, whilst providing support to all who need it

- **Community**

A grounding in moral and spiritual understanding which promotes respect for others, along with self-respect, enabling all to contribute positively to their School community and the world beyond it

Ethos

A community where each cares for all and individuality is cherished.



The Department

Geography is a popular and thriving subject in the Senior School and continues to go from strength to strength.

The department is presently housed in the Cornwallis Building in the upper part of the School, has three large classrooms sited over two storeys with four Geography teachers.

As a GCSE option, Geography has been one of the largest for over a decade and the subject has remained in the top three most-popular A Level options for many years. Each individual student faces a high level of scrutiny throughout the courses and specific measures are implemented to bring out the best in each one.

The ethos in the first two years is to develop a curiosity for the planet through the teaching of a wide range of topics, many of which will be revisited at greater depth in later years. Emphasis is on developing the independent learner. Use of the School's digital strategy complements the work here. There are two lessons per week and one extended piece of homework a fortnight.

The Edexcel IGCSE Geography (4GE1) syllabus is first covered in the January of Third Form (Year 9) in order to complete by December of Fifth Form (Year 11), where the number of weekly lessons increases to three. It involves field days to Canterbury and Reculver. This is a content-rich syllabus and demands pacey lessons and regular testing to incorporate a substantial body of knowledge.

At A Level the CIE Geography (9696) syllabus is covered, with students sitting the AS examinations in October/November, followed by the Advanced examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth. A Level students have six lessons per week, which are shared by two teachers each responsible for the human or physical content.

The department has seen outstanding results in recent years at A Level, with 93% A*-B achieved in 2022 and Geography has been a popular subject for leavers to study at university. Fieldwork remains an integral part of A Level study, with human and physical enquiry equally balanced on residential trips to Norfolk to support the syllabus content.

A passionate belief in the value of enquiry in the field to bring the subject alive, knowledge of a wide range of fieldwork techniques and approaches, as well as the ability to oversee a cohort of fieldwork investigations to achieve excellent outcomes are all essential.

The Post

The department seeks a versatile Geography graduate with a passion for the subject and will provide a source of inspiration to the student body from all ages between 11 and 18. Whilst this department has a history of successfully supporting talented, early career teachers, the post is available to anyone, regardless of experience. Applicants should have high expectations of pupil achievement and behaviour, excellent organisational and time-management skills, and enjoy working as part of a team.

The ability to teach another classroom based subject could be an advantage.

Other Responsibilities

Outside of the Geography Department, there is scope for involvement in the School's varied programme of co-curricular activities.

Opportunities exist to participate in the coaching of major sports, The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) the Community Service programme, the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme and in our many clubs and activities.

All teachers at the School are expected to be heavily involved in the co-curricular and sport programme. Candidates will be expected to take an active role in the pastoral care of our pupils, which is based on a house system, with vertical tutor groups.





Application Process

Applications will only be accepted from candidates completing the application form in full. CVs will not be accepted in substitution for completed application forms.

Covering letters of application should state particular skills and attributes you can bring to Sutton Valence School and a brief details of how you fit the position, including specific details of skills, experience and achievements.

Do not meet every single requirement? Studies have shown that women and people of colour are less likely to apply to jobs unless they meet every single qualification. At SVS we are dedicated to building a diverse and inclusive workplace, so if you're excited about this role but your past experience does not align perfectly with every qualification or experience in the information provided, we encourage you to apply anyway. You may be just the right candidate for this or other roles.

Further information about Sutton Valence School can be found on our [website](#). To apply please complete the [application and monitoring form](#) and email it with a covering letter to hradmin@svs.org.uk or post it for the attention of the Assistant Bursar, Sutton Valence School, North Street, Sutton Valence, Kent ME17 3HL.

Closing date: Wednesday 26th February 2025

Interviews: Week commencing Monday 3rd March 2025

Applicants will be required to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and a declaration of medical fitness. It is an offence to apply for this role if the applicant is barred from engaging in regulated activity relevant to children.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. A copy of the School's Child Protection policy may be found on the School's website, which all applicants are expected to read prior to interview.

Sutton Valence School is an equal opportunities employer.

Please note: we reserve the right to appoint prior to the closing date.

Benefits to Working at SVS

Community and Environment

We are very proud of the positive and supportive community we have and staff often comment on this being one of the best aspects of working at SVS. This, coupled with a beautiful physical environment both at School and in the immediate vicinity, make it a highly desirable place to work. Classrooms are well resourced. All teaching staff have their own devices, and our ICT facilities are regularly upgraded to support the latest teaching initiatives. Excellent discipline, support and pastoral systems help ensure successful teaching and learning.

Fee Remission

All staff with a contract for at least one full term and have children who attend either the Senior or Preparatory School will be eligible to receive a discount in respect of School fees (excluding the Nursery). The current rate of discount is 50% for full-time staff, and for part-time staff the relevant percentage will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

Staff Development

The School has a strong commitment to professional development with a substantial budget for whole School training and individual courses, support towards degrees, teaching qualifications and apprenticeships.

Staff Social Events

The School holds social events such as an end of year BBQ, staff drinks and canapes with the Headmaster at the start of the year, regular staff drinks at SVPS and the Support Staff Christmas Lunch.

School Meals

Lunches during term time are provided at no cost by our excellent caterers. Complimentary tea, coffee and other refreshments are available throughout the day.

Benenden Healthcare Membership

All staff are welcome to join the [Benenden Healthcare Scheme](#). The cost of joining Benenden is currently £15.50 per month; the School pays up to 80% of contributions, based upon length of service. Further information is available from the Bursary.

Pension

Academic staff are offered membership to the TPS or to the [APTIS DC Scheme](#). The teacher's gross salary will be dependent on the pension scheme and contribution level chosen.

Support Staff are offered the opportunity to join a [defined contribution \(DC\) scheme TPT](#), and currently offer two levels of contribution. With Option One, the employee contributes 5% of their salary, and the School contributes 3%. With Option Two, the employee contributes 7% and the School contributes 14%.

Fitness Facilities

All staff may use the Senior School's fitness facilities at designated times. These facilities include an indoor, heated, six-lane swimming pool, a fully equipped air-conditioned Strength and Conditioning Suite, and a Cardiovascular Suite, as well as a large sports hall available for a multitude of sports. The Prep School has both an outdoor swimming pool and play equipment available for staff to use.

Free Parking

Both the Senior and Preparatory School sites have free, ample parking available for staff. The Senior site has five EV charging points, and both sites have allocated accessible bays.

Electric Vehicle Scheme

All staff are offered the opportunity to purchase an Electric Vehicle (EV) as part of an HMRC approved Salary Sacrifice scheme; [Octopus Electric Vehicle](#). Basically, this is much like a cycle-to-work, but for electric vehicles. You give up some of your gross monthly pay for a new EV, and can save up to 40% on the monthly cost thanks to saving on National Insurance and Income Tax.

Press Reader

The School has a subscription to Press Reader which allows anyone on the SVS networks access to over 7,000 news publications from across the world in different languages.

Eye Tests

If you need to use a computer for a significant amount of time a day for your job, you may be eligible for a free eye test.



Sutton Valence School

North Street

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www.svs.org.uk

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