

A.S. Neill's Summerhill School

Primary Teacher



Summerhill School is looking for a teacher to join our Primary department. The school is a co-educational boarding school in Suffolk, England – the original famous alternative 'free' school. Founded in 1921, it continues to be an influential model for progressive, democratic education around the world. The system Summerhill employs is about educating the whole child. A.S. Neill believed that if you free the emotions, the intellect will look after itself.

'Summerhill is a real place, not a utopia. Living in a community of around 100 people is not always easy. Everybody is learning about themselves, and on a bleak January day, with the east wind blowing, things are sometimes not wonderful! But Summerhill in summer time is lush, green and not unlike never-never land. It is more of a family or tribe than a school – full of companionship, laughter and real feelings. For many Summerhill pupils it becomes the most meaningful experience in their lives.'

—Zoë Neill Readhead, Principal of Summerhill

The Job

An exciting opportunity to work in the oldest children's democracy in the world, **with an aged mixed group of students**. Teaching experience is essential, especially the ability to offer Maths and English to first and second language students. As well as, to offer more primary subjects, maintaining a beautiful atmosphere in the classroom and managing materials for lessons.

This position is full-time and live-in

Single accommodation only

Ability to work in the UK is essential

Start date is 14th January 2026

The ideal candidate would be:

- A dedicated primary teacher with imagination and flair.
- An organised and self-motivated; able to work without supervision.
- Able to offer lessons to students of different ages and mixed ability levels.
- Possess the appropriate academic qualifications and the relevant teaching experience and the confidence and ability to be in sole charge of this crucial stage of learning
- Capable of keeping up to date regarding appropriate syllabuses, new methods, etc.
- Able to maintain a safe and attractive classroom environment, organising and managing the space and the materials in the classroom
- Someone happy to live and work in a multi-national community where many children's first language is not English.
- Sensitive to the reasons that children may not want to attend classes.
- Tolerant of differences and willing to work cooperatively with other staff.
- Up to create a Curriculum Outline and a yearly Self-Evaluation.
- Enthusiastic- willing to take a full and active part in the life of the school.
- Good sense of humour- essential!
- The courage to live in a community of children as an equal member whilst retaining a responsible attitude towards the children, staff and community in general
- Aware of the unique philosophy of Summerhill School and sympathetic to the aims of the school.

For more information and an application form contact: office@summerhillschool.co.uk

Closing date for application: 10th November 2025, 9:00am

Summerhill School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all who work here to share this commitment. A copy of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is available on the school's website.

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the Disclosure and Barring Service and online background checks. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020.