



Candidate Information

Teacher of Geography (Maternity Cover)

September 2026

Sutton Valence School



Broadening Horizons.
Since 1576.



A Warm Welcome

Sutton Valence School (SVS) has been inspiring pupils since 1576. Our greatest strength is our community. Staff, pupils and parents enjoy mutual respect and kinship that allows each individual to embark on a unique educational journey; a journey fuelled by self-confidence, hard work and high academic standards. It is a Co-Educational Day and Boarding School for ages two to 18 and a member of various organisations such as HMC, BSA, IAPS and ISBA. It is a School with a great heart that values individuality and ensures that every pupil enjoys their own, unique journey through formative years of their education.

The **Senior School** is located in the beautiful traditional village of Sutton Valence in Kent. It currently has 560 pupils (11-18), with around 20% boarding either part or full time.

The **Prep School** - just a few minutes' drive or a short walk down a lovely track – has around 260 students aged 2-11 between its three phases – Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep.

The School is part of the **United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation**. This enables the School to work collaboratively with other member schools of the Foundation and also provides invaluable professional support, guidance and development. More information about the Foundation can be found [here](#).

The **HIKSVS International School in Tianjin, China**, is the most recent addition to the Sutton Valence School family having opened in August 2017, offering a British style education in a very different cultural setting. The School has been very successful since its opening and it works closely with the Governors and Leadership of Sutton Valence School. More information about HIKSVS can be found [here](#).

The Senior School has excellent facilities both indoors and outdoors. Our Art and DT Departments have enviable facilities and their own buildings in the Village, the Music School has dedicated teaching/practice rooms and a performance hall, the Drama department boasts a professional standard theatre, and our sports facilities include a full-size AstroTurf, Tennis and Netball courts, extensive fields, a superb indoor swimming pool, a sports hall, permanent Cricket nets and an Athletics track.

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.

Mission

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 Geography 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 four 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). 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. Pupils receive three hours of teaching per week at GCSE.

At A Level the CIE Geography (9696) syllabus is covered, with students sitting the AS examinations in May of the Lower Sixth, followed by the Advanced examinations at the end of the Upper Sixth. A Level students have six hours of teaching 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 North Wales 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.

Join Our Team at Sutton Valence School

A Geography teacher is required from September 2026 as maternity cover for one academic year. We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic teacher who is able to deliver core and general subjects and this may be a recent graduate, or a more experienced teacher. 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.



How to Apply

To be considered, applicants must complete the official application form in full. Please note that CVs will not be accepted as a substitute.

Your covering letter should highlight:

- The skills and attributes you would bring to Sutton Valence School;
- How your experience aligns with the role;
- Specific achievements or relevant qualifications.

Submit your completed application and monitoring form, along with your covering letter addressed to Head of Senior School, to hadmin@svs.org.uk.

Alternatively, post your application to:
Head of Senior School
Sutton Valence School
North Street
Sutton Valence
Kent ME17 3HL

Application deadline: Friday 20th February 2026

Please note: We reserve the right to appoint before the closing date.

Not sure if you meet every requirement? Research shows that women and people of colour often hesitate to apply unless they meet every single qualification. At SVS, we are devoted to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace. If you're excited about this role but your experience doesn't align perfectly with every detail, we still encourage you to apply — you might be exactly who we're looking for.

Sutton Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All applicants must be willing to undergo appropriate child protection screening, including:

- Checks with past employers;
- Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check;
- Declaration of medical fitness.

It is a criminal offence to apply for this role if you are barred from engaging in regulated activity with children.

All applicants are expected to read the School's Child Protection Policy prior to interview.

Sutton Valence School is an equal opportunities employer.



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. Support Staff working less than 52 weeks are deemed part time.

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, staff drinks 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 £11.90 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

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SVS.ORG.UK

A member of The United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation
Registered Charity No. 1181012
Founded in 1576 by William Lambe