



Cover Supervisor

Fixed Term Contract until July 2026

Start: ASAP

LBR 5, Scale 12-15
(£32,535 - £33,987 FTE)
£25,045 - £26,163 Actual Salary

Application Pack



Wanstead High School

Education with Character

Redbridge Lane West, Wanstead, London E11 2JZ

- Tel: 020 8989 2791 • Email: whs@wansteadhigh.co.uk
- Website: www.wansteadhigh.co.uk



Headteacher: Miss E Hillman

October 2025

Dear Prospective Candidate

Thank you for showing an interest in our school.

I have been Headteacher since September 2022, and love the school, the pupils and the commitment to 'Education with Character'. This is a great place to be, with great staff, a welcoming atmosphere, opportunities for growth and development via a robust CPD programme at all levels, and strong links with local schools; including being part of the Seven Kings Teaching Alliance. Behaviour for learning is very good and pupils are polite, engaging and motivated. They really are truly amazing young people with bags of character and creativity.

The school was 100 years old last year and we strive, as then, to be the best local school for the community, providing unparalleled opportunities for our pupils to find their interests and develop a passion for learning, as well as growing to be lovely human beings!

The school received a 'Good' Ofsted judgement in May 2025 and the [report](#) celebrates the things we are really proud of and highlights our amazing young people. The school is clear about its development priorities and aspires to improve further and offer an outstanding education for all. We seek to enable all pupils to achieve the highest academic standards, with a particular focus on further supporting our SEND learners and continuing to develop adaptive teaching and filling gaps in learning. For the second year, our disadvantaged pupils outperformed our non-disadvantaged pupils in progress measures.

We encourage you to visit or call and learn more about the school and get a better understanding of what we are, what we stand for and the journey we are on.

We have a clear and strong Behaviour Policy and have bold plans ahead to ensure all our young people are supported and developed during challenging times and a growing backdrop of mental health needs. We are exploring exciting new models of appraisal to make sure staff really do grow and develop - a high challenge, low threat approach supported by line management and instructional coaching. This is an exciting place to grow and develop as a teacher, staff member or leader.

Whilst we want to ensure change as per our School Development Plan, we are also committed to ensuring this is a truly great place for staff to work - we constantly consider well-being and offer great perks for teachers like the opportunity to leave school if staff have free periods for the rest of the day, as long as directed time is made up elsewhere. We also offer free tea and coffee in the staff room and are looking to develop a much more active staff social life in the future for those who like this sort of thing!!

We are seeking a dedicated individual to support the Cover Supervisor Team during staff absences. The right candidate will have the drive and ambition to demonstrate excellent practice within the classroom across the school. The successful applicant will join an existing team of three cover supervisors. You will cover lessons as required and based on the needs of the school. We teach a broad curriculum and therefore the subjects are likely to vary on a day-to-day basis. In some instances you may be required to support a department, covering the classes of a particular member of staff, for a period of time.

As outlined above, we welcome visits to the school and I am happy to talk over the phone to anyone about the role and/or school. We currently have a large building project taking place, which will add 14 new classrooms and associated facilities, with a dedicated dining hall, commercial kitchen and a Leisure Centre and swimming pool on site. I hope you will have the vision to look beyond the temporary facade. Please do not hesitate to get in touch and learn more about this amazing school.

Yours sincerely

Emma Hillman
Headteacher

Application Requirements

Please write a statement in support of your application.

This must address the Person Specification

Statements in support of your application should be no longer than two sides of A4.

The closing date for this post is 23:59 on Friday 17 October 2025 although outstanding candidates may be interviewed before the closing date.

To apply for this role, please visit our website: wansteadhigh.co.uk/vacancies.

Interviews TBC.

Candidates should be advised that if they have not received a response within 2 weeks of the closing date, they should assume that they have not been shortlisted.

If you would like to speak to the Headteacher or Department Leader regarding this post or if you have any questions, please contact HR (recruitment@wansteadhigh.co.uk).



Further Information

Full/Part time: Term-time only (inc. INSET days) Fixed Term Contract until July 2026

Start Date: ASAP

What We Are Looking For

This is an important role, providing the successful applicant with the opportunity to support the school in ensuring that, where necessary, lessons are covered by a dedicated professional who is fully committed to supporting the school's behaviour management and teaching and learning strategies.

The right candidate will have the drive and ambition to demonstrate excellent practice within the classroom across the school. They will put young people first and have the highest expectations of themselves, the pupils and others. Great interpersonal skills and the ability to develop positive relationships with pupils as well as the following of the school's behaviour systems and procedures are key to effective classroom management.

If successful, you will join an existing team of three cover supervisors. You will cover lessons as required and this could be daily or sometimes you will be within a particular subject and department for a period of time, all dependent on need. We teach a broad curriculum and therefore the subjects will vary, for example from English, Maths and History, to Food and Nutrition, Spanish and Dance. As part of our staff, you will be supported and included in our continuous professional development focused on the curriculum, and approaches to teaching and behaviour. You will be expected to follow our Teaching and Learning Policy with the aim of continuously developing and strengthening yourself in the best practice for lesson delivery.

What We Offer

This is a great opportunity for an enthusiastic and diligent candidate who is keen to develop their skills in a successful school that will provide great support and encouragement. We offer an outstanding opportunity for the right person to make a real impact on children's lives, and to develop their career in a very pleasant, successful and innovative school. We hope that you will decide to pursue your application and that you will consider a future with us at Wanstead. Whilst you will need to work hard, we value well-being and support all staff with flexible ways of working where possible.

Some of our key benefits are:

- Short walking distance of Wanstead (0.4 miles) and Redbridge (0.6 miles) Central Line stations;
- Close to vibrant high street with cafes, independent shops;
- Close to Wanstead Green and local parks;
- Subsidised access to the Leisure Centre and upcoming Swimming Pool;
- Free parking in the Leisure Centre for staff;

At Wanstead High School, we are committed to staff wellbeing and provide the following benefits:

- Contribution to Eye Care and Cycling Scheme;
- Free access to Counselling Services;
- Free breaktime tea and coffee;
- Termly, free staff breakfasts;
- Catered Inset Days;
- Subsidised school lunches;
- Support of flexible working, where possible;
- Recruitment and Retention;

As part of Seven Kings Learning Partnership, Wanstead is able to provide a wide variety of CPD opportunities for staff at all stages of their career, both within Wanstead and the Learning Partnership. The post offers an excellent opportunity for the right person to develop their career within an exciting and supportive department and school.

Headteacher's Welcome From [Website](#)

I am an experienced and successful Headteacher having been Head of Heathcote School for 5 years prior to joining Wanstead High in September 2022. I have worked for 27 years in, and with, London schools and love the diversity and ambition of young people in our capital city. I have a 14-year-old daughter, and she drives my passion and ambition for children, ensuring that all pupils have an opportunity to be the best they can be; finding their interests and talents and ensuring they are nurtured.

Wanstead High has so many strengths, not least the inclusive and warm ethos, that I have experienced from day one, as well as the strong academic foundations and exam results. In a pre-Ofsted review in September 2023, a Lead Inspector stated that staff at Wanstead High *'hold children's lives in their hands and hearts'*.

There was so much positive feedback from our pupil survey in July 2024 and we are currently collating the survey for 2025. One pupil said that what they love most about the school is that 'All the teachers care about how you feel and how you are progressing in class.' Others loved the 'lunch, staff, food, opportunities' and 'the learning in which teachers make the learning most effective and find fun ways to learn to encourage children.'

Parents also rate highly the discipline, diversity, friendship, good education, care from staff and inclusive approach and nearly 90% agree or strongly agree that their child is happy in school. In addition, 90% of staff agree or strongly agree that they really enjoy working at the school.

Some other feedback from pupils that helps to get a better understanding of what the school is about:

- ★ *'The ability to feel accepted.'*
- ★ *'The school achieves good results and there are kind, caring and patient students in the community - you give the school a good reputation.'*
- ★ *'I am proud of being a part of the Wanstead High Community because I am able to learn with the best teachers and I have many learning opportunities to help build a great future.'*
- ★ *'Dance and music opportunities.'*
- ★ *'Definitely the togetherness we have at this school, and it's a really inviting atmosphere.'*
- ★ *'The way how the school runs and makes me feel as if I belong here.'*
- ★ *'Everyone is very nice and supportive especially teachers.'*
- ★ *'Safety and kindness.'*
- ★ *'How close we all are and how much we all support each other.'*
- ★ *'Being part of a lovely team including space where you feel that you can openly talk about your thoughts and feelings, and you feel supported by all members of staff.'*

We know we are not yet perfect, but we will never rest on our laurels. Leaders at all levels in the school are reflective and honest and able to forensically analyse what needs to happen to continually grow and improve. We also encourage feedback to ensure we listen to the voices of our stakeholders. The staff are passionate and dedicated subject specialists, committed to providing 'education with character' for all and capable of ensuring the best quality learning and teaching and

results for pupils. It is vital that all pupils have the same opportunities and chances to reach their potential, and we address areas where this is not the case.

We strive to ensure the curriculum is rigorous, but also romantic, and engages pupils at all levels, as well as being diverse and forward-thinking. I am passionate about developing the full person, ensuring enrichment opportunities for pupils of all ages, and enabling excellent mental health and well-being, supporting pupils and staff still, in some cases, affected by after-effects of Covid and for the community to continue to grow and flourish.

School Information

Wanstead High School seeks to enable all pupils to achieve the highest academic standards. At A level in 2025, 29% pupils achieved A*-A, 61% A*-B and 82% A*-C, increasing from last year and well above national figures. 59% of pupils will be studying at Russell Group Universities and two pupils are on their way to Cambridge, one with with 2A*s and 2 As in Geography, History of Art, History and Art.

GCSE results were strong in many areas, although there is further work to be done in core attainment outcomes, especially Maths which took a significant drop this year (9-4 79%; 9-5 63%). The absence of a leader for much of the year due to illness has impacted these outcomes and we are confident that these will return to their previous high levels. For the second year, disadvantaged pupils out-performed disadvantaged pupils in progress measures.

Our Progress 8 score has been positive and above average for the past 3 years - there are no 2025 progress measures.

A large number of our pupils stay on to the Sixth Form and the majority of these gain entrance to universities and other centres of Higher Education, and we also recruit a substantial number of post-16 pupils from the surrounding area.

The school is maintained by the London Borough of Redbridge and is situated in a residential area near Epping Forest, served by the London Transport Underground Central Line and the M11 motorway. It is, therefore, both within easy reach of central London and out-lying areas such as Essex and Hertfordshire.

There are currently approximately 1438 plus pupils on roll including 250 pupils in the Sixth Form. Currently there are 150 teaching and support staff. Eight forms of entry (240 pupils) are admitted at Year 7. The school encompasses a rich social and cultural diversity and 35% of pupils speak English as an additional language. There are over 35 languages spoken by the pupils. The school is heavily oversubscribed.

All pupils wear uniform except in the Sixth Form where pupils are required to wear tailored clothing. After much liaison with 40 linked primary schools (7 main feeders), pupils join one of eight mixed ability tutor groups and the school seeks to maintain the composition of this and the association with the same tutor throughout the pupil's career. The year based pastoral system is central to the discipline and wellbeing of the pupils. Tutors are led and supported by an experienced team of pastoral heads.

The school has some very good facilities, including a good Sixth Form Centre with state of the art study facilities; ten well equipped Science laboratories and a purpose built theatre, a dance studio and music suite. Considerable refurbishment has taken place over recent years, with work still on-going. The school is well-resourced with IT equipment. There is currently a new build project which you will see if you visit - this will be a new Humanities Block and swimming pool and is therefore a joint enterprise between Leisure and Education. This does impact the day to day running of the school and we are very much looking forward to its completion.

The school's sports facilities are used as a local Leisure Centre, which serves the community in the evening, but which is part of the school during the day. It comprises 4 squash courts, a sports hall, a gymnasium, a multi-purpose sports hall, a fitness training room and a floodlit play area.

School Vision and Aims

Who Are We?

Wanstead High School is a modern, forward-looking school with traditional values maintained over the last hundred years. We seek to provide the best, most inclusive, local education for all our pupils and a thriving and collaborative environment for staff, ensuring no one is left behind. We seek to develop a passion for learning which promotes academic and career success, happiness, personal growth and confidence whilst ensuring everyone is safe and everyone is able to benefit from the right help when they need it.

We all achieve in our learning community by being:

- **Ready**
- **Respectful**
- **Responsible**

What Is Our Vision?

A school that creates.....

- A love and passion for creative and collaborative learning - inside and outside of the classroom - which is encouraged to drive progress and ambition within our school: staff, Governors and pupils alike.
- A curriculum on offer that is engaging, relevant, broad and balanced and is implemented equally for every pupil in every classroom.
- The development of character is fostered in all areas of school life and pupils develop to be kind and respectful of others views and opinions and nobody tolerates bullying or discriminatory behaviour. Pupils also strive to achieve specific character virtues that they have chosen, including integrity and teamwork.
- All pupils are challenged consistently to excel in everything they do, from academic study, sport, artistic skill, through to their personal and group behaviour and attendance.
- Pupil, parent and staff voice and strong relationships help to shape our values and development.

Our Learning Community

- A Wanstead High pupil will develop to be a happy, kind, safe and well-rounded character, able to self-regulate, who has been encouraged, supported and challenged in school to maximise opportunities in all areas. They will be able to make confident, positive and informed choices about their life and role in British society beyond Wanstead High School.
- A Wanstead High parent/carer will support the school at all times and be secure in the knowledge that their child will be treated as an individual, exposed to knowledge, skills and character development in an innovative and forward-thinking way and will be supported on the journey from childhood to a confident, successful and happy adult life.
- A Wanstead High School staff member will be given the opportunities, space and support to become reflective, passionate, energetic and positive about their role, always looking to collaborate, grow and develop and expand their experiences both inside and beyond our learning community.
- A Wanstead High School Governor will be enthusiastic, well-informed and motivated to challenge and support our learning community to deliver our vision and values in a productive, successful and collaborative way.

School Ethos

We expect our staff to:

- Play a full part in the life of the school community, supporting its distinctive vision and ethos and leading staff and pupils in doing the same
- Actively support the school's corporate policies and aspirations
- Adhere to the staff professional code of conduct as developed collectively by staff
- Comply with the school's Health and Safety Policy and undertaking risk assessments as appropriate
- Check emails on a daily basis to keep up to date with issues communicated within the school.

All staff are expected to behave in accordance with the school values and a culture of high challenge and low threat.

School Site and Accessibility

Wanstead High School is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible environment for all members of our community. We recognise the importance of diversity and strive to create an atmosphere that accommodates individuals of varying abilities.

While we are actively working towards improving accessibility, it is important to note that currently, certain areas of the school are not wheelchair accessible. We estimate that approximately 70% of the school premises may pose challenges for individuals using wheelchairs.

We encourage candidates to inform us of any specific accommodation needs during the application process. We are committed to working collaboratively to provide reasonable accommodation that facilitate equal participation in the recruitment and employment process.

Wanstead High School is an equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from individuals of all backgrounds, including those with disabilities.

Safeguarding

Wanstead High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment. This post will be subject to an enhanced DBS check and Overseas Police checks, if applicable. Online searches will also be carried out for shortlisted candidates.

Successful candidates will undergo full Safer Recruitment checks including, if applicable, Children's Barred List check, Right to Work check, Qualifications check, Section 128 check, Prohibition from Teaching check and Professional References.

Shortlisted candidates are aware that their applications and data submitted will be kept on file for a period of 6 months and will not be disclosed to any third parties without their consent.



Job title	Cover Supervisor	Grade	LBR 5, Scale 12-15 (£32,535 - £33,987 FTE) £25,045 - £26,163 actual salary
School	Wanstead High School		
Reports to	Senior Cover Supervisor		
Responsible for	N/A		
Hours	32.5 hours a week (08.25-15.30), including a 40 minute unpaid lunch break Monday to Friday, Term-time only (including INSET days)		

Purpose of job

To supervise whole classes during the absence of the class teacher under the guidance of teaching/senior staff, including implementing lesson plans and / or schemes of learning, managing pupil behaviour and assisting pupils in relevant activities in line with the school's policies and procedures.

Main duties and responsibilities

Support for Pupils:

- respond to pupils' individual needs and promote the inclusion and acceptance of all pupils in the classroom
- provide feedback to pupils in relation to progress and achievement
- carry out work of Teaching Assistant or admin staff if not required to provide cover for a lesson
- be a member of a year team and have shared responsibility with a teacher for a tutor group if required

Support for the Teacher/Department:

In line with school policies and procedures:

- supervise pupils undertaking work which has been set
- manage pupil behaviour and deal promptly with conflict and incidents
- deal with any immediate problems or emergencies
- monitor and evaluate pupils' responses to learning activities through observation and recording of achievement and provide feedback/reports as required
- use ICT and software effectively to access information, keep records, support learning activities and develop pupils' competence and independence in its use
- liaise sensitively and effectively with parents/carers as agreed with the teacher or as per relevant policies
- undertake activities as directed by the teacher, with whole classes, individuals or small groups of pupils
- fully engage and participate in professional development opportunities offered as part of the school's teacher development and CPD.

Support for the Curriculum:

- Be responsible for the organisation, classroom maintenance, setting out, clearing away and care of resources to create a purposeful and attractive learning environment.
- To demonstrate creativity in assisting with the practical resourcing of the classroom

Support within the wider Administration Team:

- General administration including sending letters, filing and making telephone appointments
- Cover the Reception area if required

Minute taking of meetings conducted by the Senior Leadership Team if required

Support for the School:

- follow the school policy documents and medium term plans and keep updated with school and National Curriculum documentation
- support teachers in selecting and preparing teaching resources that meet pupils' needs and interests.
- under teacher's overall control, accept shared responsibility for the creation of a safe environment for pupils' within and outside the classroom and comply with the appropriate policies and procedures, reporting all concerns to an appropriate person
- under the supervision of the Head Teacher or other designated teachers, to invigilate internal and external examinations.
- be a member of break and lunch or other duty teams and, in negotiation with Line Manager.
- attend and participate in regular meetings and participate in training and other learning activities as required.

The above-mentioned duties are neither exclusive or exhaustive and the post holder may be required to carry out other duties as required by the service.

Name of post holder:

Date:

Signature:

**PERSON SPECIFICATION
COVER SUPERVISOR**

London Borough of

Redbridge



Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE Maths and English, minimum grade C, or equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid Qualification/ training Evidence of recent professional development
Experience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of working successfully as part of a team Relevant, recent experience in an 11-16 school in a similar position or extensive experience working with young people in another setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of successful impact on pupil progress and classroom behaviour Experience of managing whole classes effectively, in a mixed ability setting, across the curriculum Evidence of experience of working with pupils with a variety of behavioural & educational needs and having successful outcomes Experience of SIMS, or similar Management Information System Evidence of CPD in a relevant area
Skills, Knowledge and Understanding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good knowledge of strategies and techniques in behaviour management Ability to effectively communicate with staff and pupils in a professional, confidential and compassionate way Ability to prepare reports, profiles and maintain clear and comprehensive records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An awareness of the range of strategies to address the differing needs which exist in the mixed ability classroom A basic command of data and how to use it effectively to narrow the gap Experience of devising and implementing successful strategies to raise achievement
Personal Qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to maintain professional integrity, even when under pressure Ability to inspire, challenge and motivate others An absolute commitment to the belief that every child deserves the very best education An ability and desire to work in a high challenge and low threat way to ensure improvement in all areas Ability to prioritise and manage time effectively Capacity and enthusiasm for hard work and challenge Emotional intelligence Capacity to reflect on practice Able to work as part of a team whilst also being self-motivated Flexibility, reliability, honesty and trustworthiness, demonstrating highest professional standards Ability to work in a solution focussed way Ability and confidence to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing A commitment to on-going personal development and willingness to undertake appropriate training Evidence of commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children 	