

Application Information

Head of Music

Full time, Permanent position

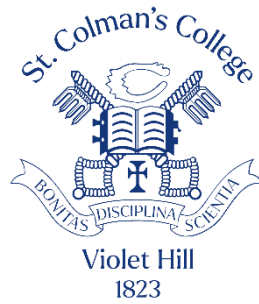
Commencing at the beginning of Academic Year 2026/2027

Thank you for your interest in the position of **Head of Music** at St Colman's College.

We are pleased to provide details on the position, the responsibilities it entails and the criteria for selection in the Job Description and Person Specification within this pack.

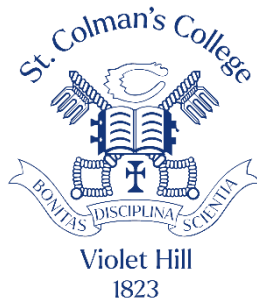
We are also pleased to enclose Application Guidance for your information, and we encourage you to consider this before submitting your application.

Should you have any queries, please email jmcgrath229@c2ken.net and mark *FAO Principal's Office – Recruitment*



Job Information

Job title:	Head of Department – Music
Responsible to:	Principal and Vice Principal – Curriculum
Terms and Conditions:	As set down in the 1987 Terms and Conditions of Service Agreement
Management Allowances:	2 teaching allowances as Head of Department 1 teaching allowance for Extracurricular Music
Purpose:	To carry out the professional duties of a teacher and assist the Principal, Vice Principals in the effective leadership, management and administration of their area of responsibility within the College, always reflecting the College's motto <i>Bonitas, Disciplina, Scientia – Kindness, Self-discipline, Knowledge.</i>



Application Guidance

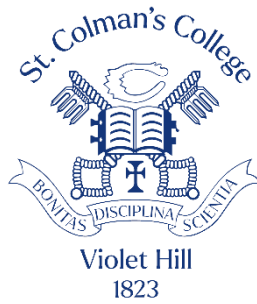
The following Application Guidance should be considered before completing and submitting your Application for this position.

1. The application form should be completed in Font 11, Black, Arial
2. The application form should be completed maintaining the original formatting.
3. Closing date for the receipt of completed applications **12 noon on Thursday 5th March 2026**
4. Completed applications should be marked FAO The Principal's Office - Recruitment, and sent to:

Post: St Colman's College, Violet Hill, 46 Armagh Road, Newry, Co. Down BT35 6PP

Email: jmcgrath229@c2kni.net

5. Email applications should be sent in PDF format to the email in 4.
6. Late applications will not be considered.
7. CVs will not be accepted.
8. Additional pages must not be added.
9. You must demonstrate in the Application form how you meet the criteria detailed in the Person Specification for this role. Please note that criteria may be enhanced. The Board of Governors of St Colman's College reserves the right to enhance any or all the essential or desirable criteria, and/or apply any or all the desirable criteria to facilitate short listing; and/or not appoint to the post.
10. Applications will be considered from applicants with relevant formal qualifications considered by the selection panel to be of an equivalent or higher standard to those stated above. If putting forward an equivalent qualification, please detail the type of qualification and date awarded. The date awarded is the date on which you were notified of your result by the official awarding body. If you believe your qualification is equivalent to the one required, please ensure that you demonstrate to the panel why you feel it is equivalent, with details of modules/ subjects studied etc. so that a well-informed decision can be made.



OUR VISION

Our 200-year legacy of educational excellence leads the way at St. Colman's College, with the highest standards of learning, teaching, and innovation to ensure pupils are truly **supported** and **nurtured** to reach their individual potential.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to ensure every St Colman's College pupil is happy and fulfilled during their time at Violet Hill, as they grow to become **accomplished** young adults.

By offering a broad range of subjects and extra-curricular activities, we **inspire** pupils to be fearless in their pursuit of knowledge and the development of their individual talents and interests. Guided by our Catholic faith and values, we, as the College community, work together to foster a welcoming and transformative environment for all.

Our Values:

We encourage pupils to live by our core values: Bonitas, Disciplina and Scientia, or Kindness, Self-Discipline and Knowledge in every aspect of their school lives. This is the St. Colman's Ethos.

Bonitas:

Kindness

Instilling Christian values, we teach our pupils to do the right thing, to be kind to themselves and to others, creating a community where everyone feels valued. Treating each other with respect is an integral part of life at St. Colman's College.

Disciplina:

Self-Discipline

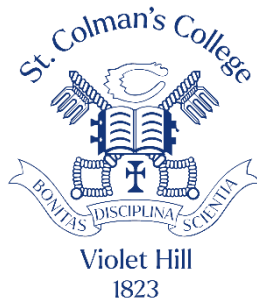
We champion the power of self-discipline for our pupils, instilling a healthy drive for excellence inside and outside of the classroom. We deliver the highest standards of learning and teaching which guide our pupils to make informed choices, act with integrity, and fulfil their potential as Violet Hill pupils.

Scientia:

Knowledge

We support our pupils to achieve their highest academic potential, and to grow as lifelong, independent learners beyond their time at St. Colman's College. We prepare each pupil to take their place in society and to become meaningful contributors to the world around them.

For more information on our Ethos, please visit <https://www.stcolmans.org.uk/about/our-ethos/>



Job Overview

The **Head of Music** is responsible for leading the provision of an innovative, dynamic and well-informed music programme from Y8 through to Y14 for both students and staff at St Colman's College.

The role has both strategic and day to day management responsibilities, and the successful candidate will be required to maintain a teaching responsibility within the role, as set out in Appendix 1. *Teaching periods will equate to that normally allocated to a teacher.*

The **Head of Music** will have a key role to play in defining strategy, leading change, and will work closely with members of the leadership team to ensure the achievement of curricular and pastoral objectives in all areas of school life.

The post requires commitment and flexibility.

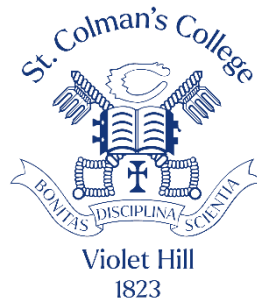
They will support the Vice Principal – Curriculum Focus through a range of strategic and day to day management responsibilities, ensuring that students at the College are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential within the distinctive Catholic ethos of genuine kindness and caring within the College.

They will lead by example and will have the ability to manage and motivate staff and students, to support their needs and to take actions that ensures the optimum educational experience within their area of responsibility.

In St Colman's College:

A Department is *"any subject (or combination of cognate subjects) with more than one permanent teacher over more than one Key Stage with a total teaching load exceeding 38 periods per week."*

A Head of Department is *"the teacher responsible for leading the teachers of their specific subject(s) and for overseeing the curricular and pastoral progress of the students in their subject(s)."*



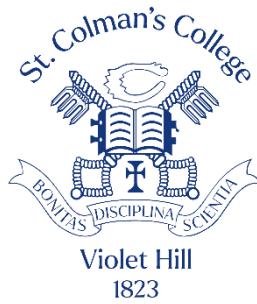
Head of Music Accountabilities

The **Head of Music** is accountable for providing leadership and management in:

- the provision of the highest standards of learning and teaching, and classroom management
- the monitoring, evaluation and review of the ongoing delivery of their subject
- the drive for improvement, innovation, raising standards, opportunity and creativity of teaching and learning in their subject
- the procedural and administration requirements of the role
- the provision of a wide range of extracurricular opportunities
- ensuring the highest standards of academic achievement are achieved
- the promotion of relevant staff professional development activities
- the contribution of the department to the aims, vision and values of the College.

They must demonstrate loyalty and promote a positive and enthusiastic learning and teaching environment for all in the College community.

They will be supported by a member of the SLT who will act as a link for specific Heads of Department and Co-ordinators.



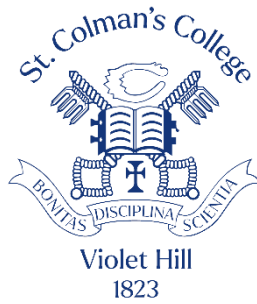
Head of Department – Curricular and Extracurricular responsibilities

(This is an exemplar of the major tasks and activities of the post. It is not intended as an exhaustive list of the post holder's duties)

- provide a range of opportunities through competitions and activities to promote the development and celebration of students' talents and successes in Music from a curricular and extra-curricular perspective
- provide/coordinate a wide range of opportunities for students to engage with Music in a group and individual basis from a curricular and extra-curricular perspective
- direct choral/orchestral groups as appropriate
- support and manage the work of EA Music Service and Private Music Tutors in the College
- produce rehearsal timetables
- organise/coordinate Music for College events
- Run Music trips and events including to workshops and concerts
- maintain good relationships with Music Awarding Bodies facilitating students in grade examinations as applicable
- have oversight of and promote involvement in Music Competitions.
- organise/produce concerts including the annual Spring Concert and Biennial Musical
- have oversight of the maintenance of the College Organ and the Organ Scholarship programme
- liaise with music-based bodies/venues regarding organisational requirements including EAMS
- contribute to the development of Music Technology
- maintain links with Universities, Colleges, music groups, Feisanna and employers.
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General Head of Department Responsibilities

- carry out the professional duties of a teacher (See Appendix 1).
- play an important role in the life of the school community, to model and support its mission and ethos.
- contribute to the decision-making processes of the school, support decisions and share responsibility for them as a member of the Head of Department/Co-ordinator Team
- work alongside the wider Leadership Teams of the College to ensure the efficient running of all day-to-day aspects of school, particularly within relevant area of responsibility, through
 - effective communication
 - regular monitoring and feedback
 - regular planning meetings
 - maintaining a high-quality work environment
 - maintaining the kind and caring ethos of the school.
 - fully implementing the initiatives of the Principal
- liaise effectively with stakeholders.
- foster good relationships between all staff.
- create an environment of reflective practice and CPD.
- keep up to date with local, regional and national developments and in educational research in terms of your area of responsibility.
- maintain confidentiality, ensure communication between staff and stakeholders is appropriate and effective.



Curriculum

- promote a variety of teaching styles to enhance the quality of teaching and students' involvement in active classroom learning
- implement the College's Digital Learning Strategy within the subject area for staff and students
- engage in and promote in-service subject specific training
- relate the academic work of the department to the pastoral curriculum, children with special education needs, the College as a community and the College in the community.
- oversee the Controlled Assessment and Practical elements of the public examinations; to carry out internal standardisation of teachers' coursework marks as appropriate.
- use SIMS and any related data sources for the analysis of all results in assessment tests and in formal examinations and ensure that these results are comparable to the objective standards of GCSE, BTEC and A-Level exams. In all cases follow this with appropriate action for under-performing pupils at all levels and in all year groups (target setting and action/individual planning).
- analyse (including value added aspect) all results in external exams - GCSE, BTEC, AS and A Level setting appropriate targets for improvement.
- draw up and implement Assessment, Recording and Homework policies.

Department planning and School Development Plan

Based on the College's broad aims and objectives and the School Development Plan (SDP)

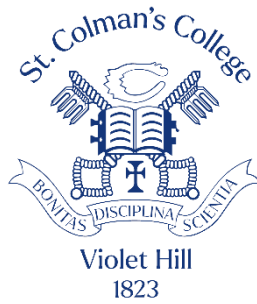
- plan the complete range of pupils' learning experiences
- define the departmental goals, aims and objectives and translate them into meaningful courses of study (Schemes of Work) monitoring their implementation.
- guide staff on the appropriate methodology and resources needed to realise departmental goals.
- monitor, evaluate and review departmental progress and priorities, communicating them to the Vice-Principal – Curriculum focus.

Resources

- effectively manage the learning environment that will create an atmosphere in which students will be stimulated and encouraged to learn
- evaluate, select and produce appropriate learning materials including electronic and e-learning resources.
- be responsible for the equipment and resources of the Department and make these available to other members of the Department as appropriate maintaining subject specific equipment and resources
- update the inventory of all departmental resources annually and draw up requisitions for the Department in consultation with the Bursar.

Pupils

- consult with the Vice Principal – Curriculum Focus regarding the organisation of pupils in appropriate learning groups and analyse underperformance and strategies for improvement.
- consult with LSC/SENCO regarding differentiation/ extra provision required for SEN pupils and the completion and review of pupil IEP's.
- be responsible for the guidance, discipline and welfare of pupils, in association with colleagues who have special responsibilities in these areas, and with particular care for pupils who have additional needs.
- monitor, assess and respond to pupils' progress and needs, in line with College policy, and to communicate with parents on these matters.



- ensure the maintenance of appropriate pupil records.

Staff

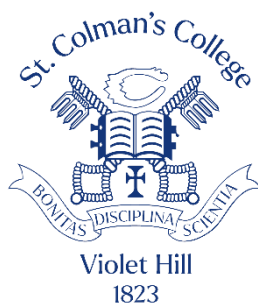
- lead and develop a committed, dedicated team of teaching and support staff.
- assist the Vice Principal – Curriculum Focus on the deployment of departmental staff and to provide advice on timetable planning.
- induct new staff and assess their progress in association with colleagues who have special responsibilities in this area.
- guide and support teachers in the completion of their Early Professional Development
- monitor the quality of work of teachers within the department, including student teachers, provide support and guidance liaising as appropriate with the relevant member(s) of the Senior Leadership Team
- promote the professional development of all departmental staff through the provision of appropriate opportunities for responsibility and participation in the work of the department
- ensure that, in the event of the absence of any teacher in the department, work is available to be carried out by the substitute teacher to the extent that this is possible.
- review departmental staff annually through PRSD.

Undertake any other reasonable duties as requested by the Principal in the understanding that such duties may change over time to meet the future needs of the school.

Follow all relevant and subject specific health and safety requirements.

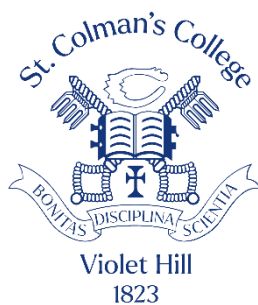
This roles and responsibilities for this position will be reviewed from time to time according to circumstances and the changing needs of the school and considering any further review of the College's Salary and Management Structure.

Posts involving work in educational establishments are subject to the provision of the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003.

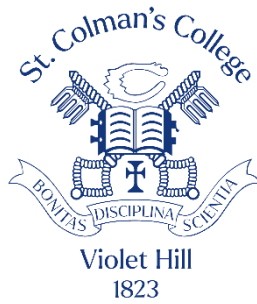


Person Specification – Head of Music

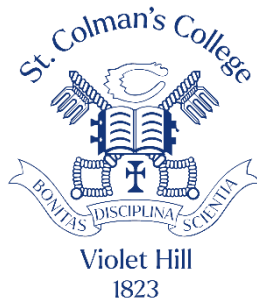
	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A qualified teacher recognised by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland to teach in a post primary school in Northern Ireland on the commencement of the position. • A good Honours Degree that includes Music as the major or joint component. • Grade 7 level or above in a musical instrument or voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Honours Degree (2:1 or above) that includes Music as the major or joint component.
Experience/ Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of teaching Music for a minimum of two years in a post primary school • Experience of teaching Music to GCSE for a minimum of two years in a post primary school • A record of high standards of pupil success in public examinations • Proven ability to foster a passion for music within a school community, nurturing and enhancing students' musical skills and talents • Experience in the delivery of extra-curricular music including leading choral and/or orchestral groups • Knowledge and experience of assessment procedures • Knowledge and experience of curriculum development • Experience in strategic planning and day to day management responsibilities including the management of people and resources • The application of knowledge and understanding of pastoral responsibilities of a teacher/form teacher • Knowledge of current educational issues and/or research in relation to learning, teaching and pastoral provision • Experience of working in partnership with parents/guardians and external agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of teaching Music to A Level in a post primary school • Experience of producing or involvement in the production of musical concerts and/or stage musical productions



<p>Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent classroom management to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ability to create an energetic, stimulating and interactive learning environment with demonstrable impact and presence in the classroom. ▪ experience of/ability to set targets, implement action plans, evaluate progress and provide constructive feedback to pupils. ▪ experience of/ability to manage a range of resources and teaching methodologies. • Strong management and leadership skills with the ability to motivate staff and students, to support their needs and to deal with challenging situations. • Excellent time management skills; with excellent organisational skills in the delivery of curricular and extra-curricular music • Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team as well as ability to work on own initiative, with; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ability to lead and motivate. ▪ ability to value contribution of pupils and colleagues. ▪ ability to perceive needs and concerns from differing viewpoints. • Well-developed interpersonal and communication skills; a high level of written/oral communication and presentation skills using a range of media. • Excellent use of Digital Technology with experience of using the MIS (SIMS) system • Strong attention to detail • Ability to promote, monitor and evaluate effective teaching, learning and pastoral care. • Leadership both in school and within the wider community including the ability to lead and implement significant programmes of change. • Experience of developing policies within a school setting, and subsequently setting of action plans that ensure delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keyboard/piano skills
<p>Personal Qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a student-centred approach. • Passion and enthusiasm for music 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to College/pupil involvement in music related events and competitions, delivering extracurricular activities in music across all aspects of College life. • Commitment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the Christian and Catholic aims and values of the College ▪ teaching additional subjects as needed by the College. • Demonstrate a clear vision for music in school and act as an exemplar role model. • Pleasant and courteous with the ability to demonstrate compassion and sensitivity. • Ability to lead by example showing flexibility and reliability • Dynamic, Innovative and Creative thinking • Demonstrate an ability to promote the school's profile in the community. • Enthusiasm, good judgement, loyalty and a sense of humour 	
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Appendix 1 Job Description of Teacher

As Teacher you will be required to maintain and build upon the high standards achieved at St. Colman's College, Newry through the following:

Teaching & Learning

1. To set high expectations for all pupils, to deepen their knowledge and understanding and to ensure each pupil's full potential is achieved.
2. To use positive behaviour management strategies in an environment of mutual respect which allows pupils to feel safe and secure and promotes their self-esteem.
3. To manage the pupils' learning through positive and effective teaching strategies in accordance with the relevant department's schemes of work and policies.
4. To ensure continuity, progression and cohesiveness across all teaching.
5. To use a variety of methods and approaches (including differentiation) to match curricular objectives and the range of pupil needs and ensure equal opportunity for all pupils.
6. To contribute fully to the development of departmental policies and schemes directed by the Head of Department(s) in line with statutory requirements.
7. To set homework regularly, (in accordance with the College's Homework Policy), to consolidate and extend learning and to encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning (Independent Learning).
8. To work with SEN staff and support staff, apply their specialist knowledge to maximise the potential achievements of all students within lessons.
9. To work effectively as a member of the Department team to improve the quality of teaching and learning.
10. To fully engage with remote & blended, digital learning and teaching approaches

Monitoring, Assessment, Recording, Reporting, and Accountability

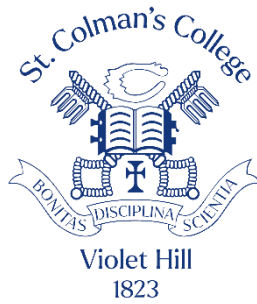
1. To be immediately responsible for the processes of assessment, recording and reporting for all pupils.
2. To assess pupils' work systematically and use the results to inform planning, teaching, target setting and curricular developments.
3. To be familiar with statutory assessment and reporting procedures and to prepare and present informative, helpful and accurate reports to parents.
4. To keep an accurate register of pupils for each lesson. Report unexplained absences or patterns of absence in accordance with the College policy.
5. Maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality about issues relating to specific individuals or groups.
6. Keep full and comprehensive relevant records and correspondence complying with the College's policy on Data Protection and Freedom of Information.

Subject Knowledge & Understanding

1. To have a thorough and up-to-date knowledge of the subjects and specifications for examination courses.
2. To have a thorough and up to date understanding of the requirements of the statutory curriculum.
3. To engage in a process of Continuing Professional Development.
4. To keep up to date with research and developments in pedagogy and the subject area.

Professional Standards & Development

1. To be a role model to pupils through professional conduct and personal presentation.
2. To arrive to class before the start of each lesson, and to begin and end lessons on time.



3. To cover for absent colleagues as is reasonable, fair and equitable in line with relevant policies.
4. To co-operate with the employer in all matters concerning Health and Safety and specifically to take reasonable care of own Health & Safety and that of others.
5. To be familiar with the College and Department handbooks and support all the College's policies, e.g., those on Pastoral Care, Child Protection, Health and Safety, Citizenship, Literacy, Numeracy and ICT.
6. To establish effective working relationships with professional colleagues and associated staff.
7. To strive for personal and professional development through active involvement in either the College's Beginning Teacher's procedures, Early Professional Development procedures or Performance Review and Staff Development procedures as applicable.
8. To be involved in extra-curricular activities such as contributing to after-school clubs and visits.
9. To maintain a working knowledge and understanding of teachers' professional duties as set out in the current School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document, and teachers' legal liabilities and responsibilities relating to all current legislation, including the role of the education service in protecting children.
10. To liaise effectively with parent/carers and with other agencies with responsibility for pupils' education and welfare.
11. To undertake any reasonable task as directed by the relevant line manager.
12. To be aware of the role of the Governing Body of the College and to support it in performing its duties.
13. To be familiar with and implement the relevant requirements of the current SEN Code of Practice.
14. To consider the needs of all pupils within lessons (and to implement specialist advice) especially those who
 - a. have SEN;
 - b. are gifted and talented.
15. To carry out pastoral duties as required.
16. To carry out any other duties which the Principal may reasonably assign.

This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks but sets out the main expectations of the College in relation to the post holder's professional responsibilities and duties.

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