



Post: Estates Technician, Grounds

Reporting to:

1. Assistant Estates Manager, Grounds and Gardens
2. Estates Manager

Prior Park Schools

Prior Park Schools is a family of Christian schools based in Bath and Gibraltar. Together, the Schools offer education for pupils aged between 3 and 18. Since the establishment of Prior Park College in 1830, the family has grown, with The Paragon School joining in 2006, and Prior Park School Gibraltar being opened by Prior Park Schools in 2016.

The Schools' Mission is to steward a thriving family of communities with love for the young people they serve at their heart. These vibrant communities cultivate creativity, foster integrity, and transform lives.

Across three sites, the Schools educate over 1100 young people of all faiths and none. The values underpinning the Mission and the Schools' educational offerings are Curiosity, Generosity, and Courage. The Schools believe that quality education changes lives and that outstanding schools are engines for positive social transformation.

Our Schools provide excellent teaching, equipping our young people to leave for a variety of exciting destinations. The success of what the Schools do in the classroom is intertwined with their co-curricular offerings. The young people undertake a wide variety of activities, which, in addition to being fun, challenge them to persevere to succeed. We work together imaginatively and courageously to hone the skills our young people need to forge their place in the world.

Prior Park Schools (PPS) have long been renowned for the quality of their pastoral care. Grounded in the love that sits at the centre of our Mission, our pastoral ethos allows young people to feel safe and secure to challenge themselves, to learn who they want to be, and to discover the difference they want to make.

Each of the Schools' Heads are supported by a Leadership Team, who together lead the day-to-day educational business of their respective schools. The Board of Trustees provides governance and support for the Heads and their schools via a number of Advisory Committees which include Local Boards for each of the schools, the Finance, Audit, Investment & Risk Committee (FAIR), an Education Committee and Safeguarding oversight.

The Executive management of the schools is devolved to the Prior Executive Board (PEB), the standing members of which are the Heads of each constituent school and The Director of Operations & Finance. The PEB drives the strategic development of PPS, ensuring that it is on track to deliver its vision and thereby remains a market leader in independent education.

Purpose of the Role

The Estates Technician, Grounds (ETG) is a key role responsible for carrying out estate maintenance work and preparation of sports surfaces for both Prior Park College and the Paragon School.

Contacts

The ETG can expect to have a wide range of contacts with stakeholders both within and beyond the organisation.

The Estates Department

The Estates Department maintains the buildings, grounds and gardens at both Prior Park College and the Paragon school reporting to the Estates Manager. The team consists of general builders, plumbers, carpenter, electrician and apprentice. This team maintains the schools' general maintenance, ensuring compliance and carrying out small capital works. The grounds and gardens side consists of gardeners, grounds persons specialising in sports preparation and grounds presentation.

The Role

The ETG will report directly to and be line-managed by the Assistant Estates Manager, Grounds and Gardens. In their work the post holder will have day to day responsibility for their own work priorities and maintenance of high standards of pitch presentation and the daily maintenance of equipment to maintain the grounds / sports pitches.

The role is based predominantly at Prior Park College and The Paragon School but travel to other locations may be required as part of wider Prior Park Schools work.

The main areas of responsibility are:

- Daily maintenance of grounds, marking out all sports pitches and preparation of all playing surfaces using appropriate methods and machinery.
- Daily/weekly work at the Paragon school grounds, in addition to the main site.
- Cut grass to specified standards in non-sports areas.
- Operate machinery, ride on mowers, power tools, drive tractors and associated plant.
- Carry out daily checks and basic maintenance on the ground's equipment.
- Carry out all general ground's tasks, including turfcare, planting, shrub and tree pruning, maintenance of ditches, paths and removal of grass clippings and leaves.
- Maintain watercourses, assist with tree lopping, repairs to hard landscape areas including small projects, repairs to dry stone walls, etc.
- Help to repair and maintain machines and plant. Help to maintain and repair gates, fences and grounds/garden huts and outbuildings.
- Carry out weed spraying, application of fertilisers, chemicals, etc.
- Attend appropriate training courses to allow safe use of chainsaws and other power equipment, if required and as agreed with the Estates Manager.
- Assist with erection and dismantling of sports equipment, goal posts, etc.
- As part of the Estates team, from time to time they will be expected to help with the general organisation of school events and also to help the maintenance team.

Line Management

The ETG has no direct line management responsibilities.

The tasks listed above are not exhaustive and other additional, reasonable duties falling within capabilities of the post holder may be required, depending on the needs of PPS.

JD reviewed February 2023

Professional Specification and Personal Attributes

The post holder will be a good communicator, have the ability to follow work routines and instructions, work as part of a team and work unsupervised.

	Essential	Desirable
Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical spraying licences (PA1, PA2 and PA6) • NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture or equivalent qualification • a Full clean driving licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPTC Cross Cutting and felling Licence • First Aid qualification (or willingness to gain one)
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience of maintaining grounds in an establishment with multiple types of sports • Experience of marking out sports pitches and preparing playing surfaces • Experience of operating machinery, ride on mowers, power tools, tractors and associated plant. • Experience of working with chemicals, fertilisers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience of working in a school or other educational establishment
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good understanding of current legislation and trends within groundsman ship • Awareness of the responsibilities of working in an environment with young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and experience of artificial sports surfaces • Good knowledge and experience of Cricket Groundsman ship
Skills and competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competent in the setting out and marking of sports pitches • Ability to prioritise and organise work commitments • A good sense of humour • Excellent level of interpersonal skills to enable liaison with staff and external organisations • Excellent organisational skills, able to work to strict and often conflicting deadlines • A flexible attitude towards duties and working patterns to fulfil the requirements of the role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable of adjusting the height and cutting cylinder on mowers



Child Protection

All staff employed by Prior Park Educational Trust must be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people across our 3-18 Trust, both in and out of our Schools. All staff are expected to adhere to and always ensure compliance with the Trust's Child Protection Policy Statement. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Data Protection

In the course of employment at Prior Park Educational Trust, staff may have access to confidential information relating to pupils and their families and are required to exercise consideration in the way they use such information. Staff should not act in any way which might be prejudicial to the interests of any school within the Trust. Information which may be included in the category covers both the general business of the school and information regarding specific individuals. A strict code of confidentiality must always be adhered to. The Trust's schools operate under the Data Protection Act 2018 and implements policies that meet General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Staff must not at any time use the personal data held by the school or disclose such data to a third person.

Special Working Conditions

Prior Park Schools operates a policy under which smoking, including e-cigarettes or vaping, is not permitted anywhere onsite.

Schools are physically demanding environments and the ETG can expect to be involved in activities which may require physical exertion, e.g. as and when required, always observing health and safety regulations and practices.

We offer a supportive working environment, a competitive salary as well as free lunch each day the kitchen is operational. We also offer 33 days holiday (including bank holidays), access to other benefits including free parking onsite, generous fee remission for eligible children, a contributory pension scheme and complimentary gym membership.