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Dear Applicant,

Thank you for responding to our advertisement seeking a teacher for Oakgrove Integrated Primary School and Nursery. I attach a job description and application form for your consideration, also a summary below of the origin and aims of our school.

The idea of starting an integrated school in the City was launched at a public meeting on 9 November, 1990. Afterwards, parents and local people, helped by the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, formed a Charitable Trust, which became Foyle Trust for Integrated Education. The aim of this Trust is to promote integrated education by establishing nursery, primary and secondary-level integrated schools in the north west of Northern Ireland.

Oakgrove Integrated Primary School was the first fruit of this initiative. The school opened in September 1991 with an enrolment of 68 pupils and grew rapidly: it now has an enrolment of over 400 pupils. This was followed by Oakgrove Integrated College in September 1992, and Oakgrove Nursery in September 1993.

Oakgrove is an integrated co-educational school, which welcomes, respects and cherishes children of all faiths and none, whilst retaining its Christian character. It is committed to educating Protestant and Catholic children together, and maintains a balanced enrolment, with a minimum of 40% of pupils from the Protestant tradition and 40% from the Catholic tradition. A similar balance exists among staff and governors.

Our purpose is to provide child centred education in an integrated environment. We involve pupils, families and the wider community, regardless of creed, race, gender or ability. We embrace difference, actively celebrate diversity and learn together for life.

At Oakgrove we are keen to challenge our children and staff and the rest of our school community. Exposure to a variety of experiences and challenges helps children, staff, families and ultimately our community to grow.

Integrated schools want to lead the way for education in Northern Ireland. 94% of the children in our country are educated in a school system where their peers are of the same religious and cultural background. We want to challenge this, on a local and global level.

Our close links with Oakgrove Integrated College gives pupils the opportunity to enjoy integrated, coeducational all-abilities education throughout their school lives.

Further information about the school and its activities and achievements can be found on our website at www.oakgroveschool.co.uk/

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Gray

Chair, Board of Governors

Quercus modo est glans quae in loco propriis stetit