New head at Downs School in New Year

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THE new headmaster at The Downs School, Compton, who takes over on January 1, is Mr Wilton Wills, at present deputy headmaster of Maiden Erlegh school, near Reading.

Mr Wills, 40, is married with two sons, who both attend his present school. He has been at Maiden Erlegh, a comprehensive school with 1,500 pupils, for the last five years. Before that he was a civil servant attached to the Schools Council, a London-based body which sponsors development in curriculum and examinations.

Prior to being a civil servant, Mr Wills taught in a grammar school for five years, and also in a comprehensive. He comes originally from the Swansea valley.

Mr Wills said "I have had a happy five years at this school, and am very fond of the children, but I feel that it is time to move on to pastures new. I have already made a number of visits to the Downs School, and have got to know the staff and children. Downs has definite advantages. With only 500 pupils, the whole approach to teaching can be more personal. I seem to have come full circle — I started in a small school, and now I'm going back to one."

Mr Wills and his wife Lorna are undecided on whether to move to Compton, but are looking for a house in the area. Mrs Wills is secretary to the head of the Department of Computer Science at Reading University.

"The school has a very active and enthusiastic parents' association, and I am looking forward very much to working with them," said Mr Wills. "I am ambitious for the progress of the children, and believe in a school where the priority is given to hard work."

Mr Wills takes over from Mr Philip Bowden, who retires on December 31.

Mr Wilton Wills, headmaster designate of The Downs School, Compton.

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