

Sally Robinson, Director

Child and Adult Services

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Our Ref: 380
Your Ref:



January 2017

Dear Colleague

APPOINTMENT OF HEADTEACHER
WARD JACKSON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HARTLEPOOL

Thank you for expressing an interest in this exciting post.

For applicants who don't know us, I thought it would be useful to give you some information about Hartlepool local authority (LA) and its approach to working with schools. Hartlepool was established as a small unitary authority in April 1996. We are now nationally recognised as a local authority committed to providing a strong and effective Children's Services Department that aims to raise the expectations of children and young people and help more of them to fulfil their potential by raising educational standards and improving rates of progress in all phases of education.

Children in Hartlepool primary schools get off to a strong start: the proportion of pupils achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of Early Years in 2016 was above the national average for the third year in a row; the proportion of pupils reaching the required standard in the Phonics Screen Check was well above the national average in 2016, again for the third consecutive year. At the end of Key Stage 2, standards in reading, writing and mathematics were either in line with or above the national average in 2016 – no mean feat given the much more challenging national tests in the summer. Our Education Improvement Strategy declares that we will offer '*A First Class Education for Every Hartlepool Learner*', across the whole council, we are committed to this aim and have made real progress in the implementation of the Strategy to realise our ambition. There are no inadequate primary schools in Hartlepool; at the end of the 2015-16 school year 90% of Hartlepool's primary schools were rated as Good or Outstanding by Ofsted (nearly a quarter graded as Outstanding), compared with England average of 89%.

Our schools view us as being supportive in the way in which we promote school self-evaluation, effective in our monitoring of school activities and appropriately challenging in order to raise expectations. As a local authority we have invested heavily in our school improvement service in the last few years in order to provide our schools with every opportunity to deliver on our promise of a first class education, and to make a reality our vision of Hartlepool as a place where:

- all children and young people find their talents and experience good and inspirational teaching every day in a climate that expects the highest standards
- the gap is closed between the achievement of children and young people from low income families and children in care and all children and young people nationally
- young people achieve the best qualifications possible, particularly in the globally important subjects of English, science, mathematics, technology, engineering and modern foreign languages, so that they can compete for the best jobs, best university places and high level apprenticeships
- children are supported from birth and throughout their childhood and adolescence by strong families and communities so that they start school with a zest for learning and grow up to have high expectations of themselves and their schools, and the optimism, confidence, values and resilience to succeed
- young people are prepared for life and work in an increasingly complex world and globally competitive economy
- school staff are highly valued and their continuing professional development a high priority.

We believe that the education of all of the children in Hartlepool is a shared responsibility and we work collaboratively with schools, academies, Dioceses and Multi-Academy Trusts to provide the best possible education offer on a whole town approach. Our ambition is that every school in the town will have an Ofsted judgment of Good or Outstanding to ensure that whichever school a child attends, they will receive the best possible education. We are well on the way to achieving this ambition with 89% of schools currently within these two judgement categories. There are no inadequate schools in Hartlepool.

We are also currently at the forefront of a collaborative project involving local authorities within the Tees Valley. The Transforming Tees project enables key partners to work together to find common solutions to shared issues that currently form barriers to the success of our learners and is developing innovative approaches to the challenges some children face across the whole of the Tees Valley.

This post offers an opportunity for the successful candidate to build upon the work currently taking place at Ward Jackson CE Primary School in Hartlepool, and to guide the school through the ever-changing educational climate in order that consistently high standards are secured for the children in the school.

I look forward to reading your application and please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Yours faithfully



SALLY ROBINSON
Director