



# St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

*where everyone can succeed*



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

mail@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

## Executive Headteacher's Introduction

Thank you for your interest in our Assistant Headteacher post which, I believe, is a great opportunity to join St Mary's at a very exciting time. The role of Assistant Headteacher in a Catholic school is a vitally important one. It is a challenging but very rewarding job. The successful applicant really will be at the heart of the leadership of the school, with specific lead responsibilities but also with significant involvement in every aspect of school life. As our advert makes clear, we are very keen to hear from candidates seeking their first assistant headship but also from serving Assistant Headteachers looking to take on a fresh challenge. We are genuinely open minded about this and are just looking for the best candidate for the job.

This post arises as a result of the continued growth of the school roll, as well as increasing responsibilities placed on us to lead school-to-school support regionally. Our current leadership team members have experience in various aspects of school life and are flexible about lead responsibilities. Indeed, this flexibility is an important requirement of the job of a senior leader in our school. Thus, the lead responsibilities of the post will be agreed with the successful candidate, on appointment, taking into account their experience and expertise, as well as the needs of the school. Ideally, however, the successful candidate would be able to provide strong and effective leadership in some or all of the following areas: Teaching School, Post 16, Raising Achievement and the Catholic Life of the School. The successful candidate should also be able to play a leading role in School to School support and MAT developments within the Catholic Sector. Generic leadership qualities are just as important and our key priority, therefore, is to recruit the best senior leader at this important time in the school's continued development. The Job Description outlines the main generic responsibilities of the post and the Person Specification summarises the key qualities required.

St Mary's is a great place to work, first and foremost because of our fantastic students. The majority come from our nine Catholic partner primaries and a sizeable minority from other schools across the city and beyond, including some from overseas. The majority are Catholics but we welcome equally students from many Faith backgrounds. There is an excellent ethnic, socio-economic and academic mix in the school. Whilst the vast majority of students are English, children from 30+ countries are on roll, with 30+ mother tongues spoken, though the vast majority of these EAL students have excellent English. This diversity within the student body is one of the many positive features of St Mary's and it is very rewarding to serve these wonderful students in a happy and inclusive community. The school roll has grown from around 1100 five years ago and is expected to be around 1450 by September 2019, with 5 year groups of 240. The Sixth Form will have around 250 students in September 2019, but will grow to around 300 in the next couple of years, as the larger and strongly academic year groups move up into Sixth Form.

St Mary's benefits from having excellent staff, both teaching and support. The staff are the school's greatest asset and, therefore, the task of appointing staff to new roles is always given great importance. Governors are really committed to the school and are very supportive of staff, as are parents. We also enjoy a very strong partnership with our family of primaries, all of whom are fully supportive of St Mary's. Links with parishes are strong, as is our partnership with Diocesan and Local Authority schools.

St Mary's was judged Outstanding by Ofsted and the Diocese in 2009 and again in our 2016 Diocesan inspection. Since our last full inspection, our School Improvement Partner's Annual Reports to Governors have continued to grade all aspects of the school as Outstanding. The DfE recognised St Mary's work by naming us as a National Support School in 2011. We were designated as a Teaching School in July 2017 and since then, we have continued to develop all strands of Teaching School work. I would encourage you to read our inspection reports and the school prospectus, to get a sense of some of the school's many strengths.

National Teaching School  
designated by



National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



Our students' progress and attainment are excellent, among the very best in the north-east and UK.

- In 2018, 76% of pupils achieved a Standard Pass (level 4) or better in English and Maths GCSE
- 55% of pupils achieved a Strong Pass (level 5) or better in English and Maths GCSE
- +0.67 Progress 8 score in 2018 was in the UK top 10%. This has been the case in 4 of the last 5 years
- Attainment 8 score of 55.01 in 2018 was also one of the very highest regionally and nationally
- 43% of A Level grades in 2018 were A\*-A, with 68% at A\*-B. 100% pass rate. All records for the school

High standards of academic achievement are, however, just one element of our mission to provide our students with the best possible holistic education. Their all-round development is vitally important. As a Catholic school, nurturing children's spiritual development is central to everything we do. This aspect of school life is flourishing. Teachers and school leaders need to be committed to understanding and actively promoting the school's distinctive Catholic/Christian ethos in their daily work. We have an excellent climate for learning in school. Students are extremely well behaved in and out of lessons. This is a further key ingredient in the school's on-going success and popularity with parents.

Detailed information about the school can be found on the school website at <http://stmarysnewcastle.co.uk>. As well as links to past inspection reports and current school policies, you will find here the school's latest Prospectus which gives lots of information about our ethos, academic achievement, primary school links, school climate, the taught curriculum and extra-curricular activities, as well as the spiritual life of the school. A separate Sixth Form Prospectus and school Newsletters can also be found on the website.

I hope that once you have had the chance to read the information in this pack and find out more about the school, you will be keen to apply. Should you be successful, I can assure you that you will be given wide-ranging responsibility and unstinting support. To apply, please complete the CES application form, and include a supporting letter outlining the experience, skills and attributes which you will bring to the post. Your letter should be no more than 1,300 words. **Please note there is no need to complete section 8, the supporting statement section of the application form, as your supporting letter should outline your suitability for the post. Could I ask all applicants to include in the qualifications section of the form, details of their degree class and division, as well as A Level grades, as the CES form, which we cannot alter, does not make this clear.**

Your completed application form and letter, along with your completed disclosure form, should be returned by post or emailed to Julie Patterson (Executive Headteacher's P.A.) by **9.00am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**

John Foster  
Executive Headteacher  
March 2019

