



## **BISHOP BEWICK CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST**

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for applying for the position of Headteacher at one of our Bishop Bewick CET schools. This position has arisen following the retirement of the Headteacher whose leadership and vision and has successfully led a management team, staff and governing body. Included with this application pack is a statement from the Chair of Governors to give you her perspective on the school. For further information on St Benet Biscop Academy School, please refer to the schools' websites.

As a Headteacher within the Bishop Bewick Trust you will be well supported by a professional Trust team across all areas of headship from finance to school improvement. We pride ourselves on the way all our schools work so closely together. As a Trust we have two key values that bind our 39 schools as one. Firstly, we recognise that we serve a diverse Catholic community with some areas of disadvantage amongst our families. For many of our children education is the crucial factor that will enable them to lead successful and fulfilling lives. We truly believe 'a great education has the power to transform lives', and this is the mission that drives the work we do. We also recognise that together we are more powerful. By working in deep partnership, we become so much more than 39 individual schools and are 'greater than the sum of our parts'. If you are interested in joining our Trust, these are two key values that we would want you to share and take forward.

Finally, if you would like to discuss the position of Headteacher further, or arrange a visit to the school, please contact Sarah Shaw [sarahshaw@bishopbewickcet.org](mailto:sarahshaw@bishopbewickcet.org).

More information on Bishop Bewick can be found on our Trust website [www.bishopbewickcet.org](http://www.bishopbewickcet.org).

With best wishes,

Anita Bath  
Chief Executive  
Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust



## St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for the position as Headteacher at St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy. Our school is recognised for providing a welcoming atmosphere and a positive environment for all students and their families, for all who are part of our team and all who visit in any capacity. The school is located close to the Parish Church of St Bede's.

St Benet Biscop is the only Catholic Secondary school in Northumberland. Our students come not only from the local Bedlington area but also students choose to attend our school from more distant communities.

Our whole school family is proud of the many improvements that have been made in recent years and is committed to providing an outstanding education experience for all our students. We are seeking leadership that will continue all the positive progress of our school.

The Local Governing Committee members bring a breadth of knowledge and experience and are committed in their support for the continuing development of St Benet Biscop.

In partnership with Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, the Governors are looking for an inspirational Headteacher who, with Christ at the centre of everything we do, prioritises the wellbeing and development of all our students. A successful candidate will be a leader who can inspire and motivate at all levels; who has high expectations for students and for staff; who can build relationships and who has ambition to develop the positive direction for the school.

Everyone interested will experience a very warm welcome when you visit St Benet Biscop.

Kind Regards

Christine Mills

Chair of Local Governing Committee St Benet Biscop

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*For more information, please email:*  
[recruitment@bbcet.org](mailto:recruitment@bbcet.org)



# Job Description

## Headteacher

St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy

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### Introduction

The school has been designated by the Secretary of State as a school with a religious character. Its instrument of government states that it is part of the Catholic Church and is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with canon law, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and the trust deed of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The post therefore requires a practising Catholic who can show by example and from experience that he or she will ensure that the school is distinctively Catholic in all its aspects.

This appointment is with the board of the school under the terms of the Catholic Education Service contract signed with the board as employers. It is subject to the current conditions of service for headteachers contained in the *School Teachers' Pay and Conditions* document and other current education and employment legislation. In carrying out his/her duties the headteacher shall consult, when appropriate: the board, the Diocese, the local authority, the staff of the school, the parents of its pupils, the parish(es) served by the school and other local Catholic schools, particularly where collaboration or federation is being developed.

This job description is based on the key areas identified in the *Headteachers' Standards* published by the Department for Education (2020).

The board and the diocese acknowledge the importance of the role of the Catholic headteacher and will actively offer long term support, encouragement, affirmation and realistic challenge to the successful candidate.

The board and the diocese are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and vulnerable adults and the headteacher must ensure that the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations to safeguard them. The successful candidate will be required to undergo an enhanced check for regulated activity from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The core purpose of the headteacher is to set and implement the strategic direction of the school and to provide professional leadership and management to drive achievement of high standards in all areas of the school's<sup>1</sup> work, particularly in ensuring the provision of sustainable outstanding education through the preservation and development of its Catholic character.

The school's objectives relate to the provision of Catholic education and the school is part of the Catholic Church and, as such, is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with canon law, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the trust deed of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle.

**Therefore, the post of headteacher must be filled by a practising Catholic<sup>2</sup> who can show, by example and from experience, that he or she will ensure that the school is distinctively Catholic in all aspects.**

### Section 1: Ethics and professional conduct

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<sup>1</sup> The term school refers to both voluntary aided schools and academies

<sup>2</sup> See *Diocesan Briefing Note On Practising Catholic*

Catholic headteachers are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of principled and professional conduct inspired by Christ and His beatitudes<sup>3</sup> and exemplified by the self-cultivation of virtues, those qualities of character fundamental to the Catholic tradition: faith, hope, love, justice, solidarity, temperance, fortitude and practical wisdom. Catholic headteachers are expected to meet the teachers' standards and be responsible for providing the conditions in which teachers can fulfil them.

In addition, Catholic headteachers uphold and demonstrate the Seven Principles of Public Life at all times. Known as the Nolan principles, these form the basis of the ethical standards expected of public office holders:

- selflessness
- integrity
- objectivity
- accountability
- openness
- honesty
- leadership

Catholic headteachers are custodians of diocesan schools and as such embody the abundant hope the Church has placed in education. Catholic headteachers are entrusted with the task of human formation in conformity with Christ and Church teaching, and so uphold ecclesial and public trust in school leadership and maintain high standards of ethics and behaviour. Both within and outside school, Catholic headteachers:

- build relationships of mutual respect rooted in the belief that all are made in the image and likeness of God<sup>4</sup> and at all times observe proper boundaries appropriate to their professional position
- show tolerance of and respect for the rights of others, recognising differences and respecting cultural diversity within contemporary Britain enabling each person to play their full part in building and sustaining the Common Good.
- uphold fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs understanding that such values are rooted in the Catholic understanding of dialogue<sup>5</sup> and the Church's Social Teaching<sup>6</sup>.
- ensure that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit their position, pupils' vulnerability or might lead pupils to break the law, but are always orientated to the service of others in light of the Gospel.

As leaders of their Catholic school community and profession, headteachers:

- serve in the best interests of the school's pupils
- conduct themselves in a manner compatible with their influential position in church and society by behaving ethically, fulfilling their professional responsibilities and modelling the virtues of a good citizen of the Kingdom of God.
- uphold their obligation to give account and accept responsibility

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<sup>3</sup> The Gospel of Matthew 5:3-12

<sup>4</sup> The Book of Genesis 1:26-27

<sup>5</sup> *Dialogue and Proclamation*, (1991) Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue, Vatican.

<sup>6</sup> *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 2004, Vatican.

- know, understand, and act within the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities
- take responsibility for their own continued professional development, engaging critically with educational research to further the Church's mission in education
- make a positive contribution to the wider education system within and without the Catholic sector

## Section 2: Headteachers' Standards

### 1. School culture

Headteachers:

- establish and sustain a Christ centred vision embodied in the school's Catholic mission, ethos and strategic direction in partnership with the parish and Trust, those responsible for governance and through consultation with the school community and diocese
- create a Christ inspired culture where pupils experience a positive and enriching school life enabling them to flourish
- uphold ambitious educational standards which reflect the distinctive characteristics of Catholic education<sup>7</sup> and which prepare pupils from all backgrounds for their next phase of education and life
- promote positive and respectful relationships across the school community and a safe, orderly and inclusive environment which recognises an individual's dignity as made in the image and likeness of God
- ensure a culture of high staff professionalism rooted in mutual respect, subsidiarity and the pursuit of excellence

### 2. Teaching

Headteachers:

- establish and sustain high-quality, expert teaching across all subjects and phases, built on an evidence-informed understanding of effective teaching and how pupils learn
- ensure teaching is underpinned by high levels of subject expertise and approaches which respect the distinct nature of subject disciplines or specialist domains, and demonstrate how each discipline and domain contributes to the Christian vision of human flourishing to live life to the full.<sup>8</sup>
- ensure effective use is made of formative assessment

### 3. Curriculum and assessment

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<sup>7</sup> The distinctive characteristics of Catholic education are 1. The search for excellence, 2. The uniqueness of the individual, 3. The education of the whole person, 4. The education of all and 5. Moral principles

<sup>8</sup> The Gospel of John 10:10

Headteachers:

- ensure a broad, structured and coherent curriculum entitlement rooted in the distinctive characteristics of Catholic education which sets out the knowledge, skills, values and virtues that will be taught
- establish effective curricular leadership, developing subject leaders with high levels of relevant expertise with access to professional and diocesan networks and communities
- ensure that all pupils are taught to read through the provision of evidence-informed approaches to reading, particularly the use of systematic synthetic phonics in schools that teach early reading
- ensure valid, reliable and proportionate approaches are used when assessing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the curriculum

## 4. Behaviour

Headteachers:

- establish and sustain high expectations of behaviour for all pupils, rooted in love, justice and reconciliation and built upon relationships, rules and routines, which are understood clearly by all staff and pupils
- ensure high standards of pupil behaviour through the promotion of the virtues and courteous conduct in accordance with the school's behaviour policy
- implement consistent, fair and respectful approaches to managing behaviour
- ensure that adults within the school lead by example and model and teach the virtues characteristic of a good citizen

## 5. Additional and special educational needs and disabilities

Headteachers:

- ensure the school holds ambitious expectations for all pupils with additional and special educational needs and disabilities in light of the principles of Catholic Social teaching<sup>9</sup>
- establish and sustain ethos, culture and practices rooted in the distinctive characteristics of Catholic education that enable pupils to access the curriculum and learn effectively
- ensure the school works effectively in partnership with parents, carers, parish and professionals, to identify the additional needs and special educational needs and disabilities of pupils, providing support and adaptation where appropriate
- ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties with regard to the SEND code of practice

## 6. Professional development

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<sup>9</sup> The relevant principles being: the Dignity of the Human Person, the Call to Community and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities, the Preferential Option for the Poor and Solidarity.

Headteachers:

- ensure staff have access to high-quality, sustained professional development opportunities in all key and distinctive aspects, aligned to balance the priorities of whole-school improvement, team and individual needs
- prioritise the professional development of staff, ensuring effective planning, delivery and evaluation which is consistent with the approaches laid out in the standard for teachers' professional development
- ensure that professional development opportunities draw on expert provision from beyond the school, as well as within it, including diocesan and nationally recognised career and professional frameworks and programmes to build capacity and support succession planning

## 7. Organisational management

Headteachers:

- ensure the protection and safety of pupils and staff through effective approaches to safeguarding, as part of the duty of care
- prioritise and allocate financial resources appropriately, ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and probity in the use of public funds reflecting the school's Catholic mission
- ensure staff are deployed and managed well with due attention paid to workload
- establish and oversee systems, processes and policies that enable the school to operate effectively and efficiently and that are rooted in a clear understanding of the Church's mission in education
- ensure rigorous approaches to identifying, managing and mitigating risk

## 8. Continuous school improvement

Headteachers:

- make use of effective and proportional processes of evaluation to identify and analyse complex or persistent problems and barriers which limit school effectiveness, and identify priority areas for improvement
- develop appropriate evidence-informed strategies for improvement as part of well-targeted plans which are realistic, timely, appropriately sequenced and suited to the school's Catholic context
- ensure careful and effective implementation of improvement strategies, which lead to sustained school improvement over time

## 9. Working in partnership

Headteachers:

- forge constructive relationships beyond the school, working in partnership with parents, carers, the Parish, Trust, diocese and the local community
- commit their school to work successfully with other Catholic schools and other schools and organisations in a climate of mutual challenge and support
- establish and maintain working relationships with fellow professionals and colleagues across other public services to improve educational outcomes for all pupils

## 10. Governance and accountability

Headteachers:

- understand and welcome the role of effective governance, rooted in strategic stewardship of the Catholic mission in education, upholding their obligation to give account and accept responsibility
- establish and sustain a professional working relationship with those responsible for governance which is inspired by a Christ centred vision of human formation
- ensure that staff know and understand their professional responsibilities and are held to account
- ensure the school effectively and efficiently operates within the required regulatory frameworks and meets all statutory duties

*Based on the 2020 DfE Headteachers' Standards published to articulate the additional responsibilities of headship in addition to the requirements of the teachers' standards but reflecting the ethos of the Catholic school and the vocational role of a Catholic headteacher in upholding the mission of the Church*



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**  
DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION



# Person Specification - Headteacher

## Headteacher

Essential Criteria	Criterion No.	Attribute	Stage Identified
FAITH COMMITMENT	E1	A practising Catholic (fulfilling the requirements of the Diocesan Briefing Note)	A/I/R
	E2	Secure understanding of the distinctive nature of the Catholic school and Catholic education	A/I/R
	E3	Understanding of the leadership role in spiritual development of pupils and staff	A/I/R
	E4	Experience of leading school worship	A/I
QUALIFICATIONS	E5	Qualified teacher status	A/CC
	E6	Degree	A/CC
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	E7	Evidence of appropriate professional development for the role of headteacher	A
	E8	Evidence of professional development relating to Catholic ethos, mission and religious education	A/I/CC
	E9	Evidence of recent leadership and management professional development	A
	E10	Evidence of working with other schools/organisations/agencies	A/I/CC
	E11	Evidence of appropriate safeguarding training at senior leadership level	A/I/CC
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE	E12	Ability to articulate and share a vision for education within the context and mission of a Catholic school	A/I/R
	E13	Ability to inspire and motivate staff, pupils, parents and the board to achieve the aims of Catholic education	A/I/R
	E14	To have successful experience as an effective deputy headteacher	A/I/R
	E15	To have taken a key role in school self-evaluation and development planning	A/I/R
	E16	An understanding of the relationship between the headteacher and the board in a Catholic school	A/I/R
	E17	Experience of working constructively with parents	A/I/R
	E18	Experience of monitoring staff performance	A/I/R
	E19	Thorough knowledge and understanding of current educational issues	A/I/R

EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF TEACHING	E20	Secure understanding of the requirements of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory and the National Curriculum	A/I
	E21	Secure knowledge of statutory requirements relating to the curriculum and assessment	A/I
PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES	E22	To have excellent written and oral communication skills (which will be assessed at all stages of the process)	A/I
APPLICATION FORM AND SUPPORTING STATEMENT	E23	The form must be fully completed and legible	A
	E24	The supporting statement should be clear, concise (within the required word count) and related to the specific post	A

Desirable Criteria	Criterion No.	Attribute	Stage Identified
FAITH COMMITMENT	D1	Involvement in parish community	A/I
QUALIFICATIONS	D2	Postgraduate level qualification	A/CC
	D3	National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH)	A/CC
	D4	Successful completion of Diocesan leadership programme	A/CC
	D5	CCRS/CTC (or equivalent) or commitment to obtaining the certificate	A/CC/I
SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE	D6	Recent experience in a Catholic school	A/I
	D7	Understanding of budget planning, staff deployment and effective use of resources	A/I

KEY – STAGE IDENTIFIED	
A	Application Form
I	Interview
R	References
CC	Checking Certificates



