

Head of School Job Description

Salary: Leadership Pay Scale Point 13 -17

Responsible to: Acting Executive Principal

Responsible for: [to be defined]

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This appointment is with the directors of the academy under the terms of the Catholic Education Service contract signed with the directors as employers. The directors will appoint a practising Catholic who, by personal example and professional leadership, will ensure that the Catholic ethos, rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, permeates all aspects of the life of the school¹.
- 1.2 The appointment is subject to the current conditions of service contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and other current education and employment legislation.
- 1.3 This job description may be amended at any time, following consultation between the Board of Directors, Local Academy Committee, Executive Principal and the Head of School, and will be reviewed annually.

2 Core Purpose of the Head of School

- 2.1 To set the context, the core purpose of the Head of School is to work with the Acting Executive Principal and Leadership Team to provide leadership for the school and Academy which secures its success and continuous improvement, ensuring high quality education for all its pupils and the highest standards of learning and achievement in accordance with statutory requirements. The Head of School will work alongside the Executive Principal to establish a culture that promotes excellence, equality and high expectations of all pupils.
- 2.2 The core purpose of the Head of School is to work with the Executive Principal in ensuring that:
- the school is conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church and Canon Law, and in accordance with the Trust Deed of the Archdiocese of Birmingham;
 - religious education is in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and particular norms of the Catholic Church;
 - religious worship is in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church;
 - the school provides high quality teaching and learning that leads to successful outcomes for pupils in terms of spiritual and moral growth, achievement, attitudes to learning, behaviour and personal development;
 - the school will promote and safeguard the welfare of all children, enabling every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; achieve economic well-being; recognise their own dignity and the dignity of others as children of God;
 - all statutory requirements are met and the work of the school is effectively monitored, evaluated and reviewed.

¹ In order to avoid confusion between the 'Multi-academy Company and the individual academies that make up the company, the term school is used throughout to describe the individual institution.

3 General Duties and Responsibilities

3.1 To be met in accordance with the provisions of the School Teachers' Pay and conditions Document and within the range of teachers' duties set out in that document and the professional standards for teachers

Key Areas of Responsibility

4 Shaping the Future

4.1 The 'preferred future', expressed in the strategic vision and development of a Catholic school, stems from the educational mission of the Church, which is reflected in the school's mission statement and school improvement plan.

Actions

The Head of School works alongside the Executive Principal to:

- Ensuring the vision for the school is clearly articulated, shared, understood and acted upon effectively by all.
- The vision must reflect its distinctive Catholic character, in accordance with the provisions of the Diocesan Trust Deed, based on what it means to be fully human as revealed in the person, life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Working within the school community to translate the vision into agreed objectives and operational plans, which will promote and sustain school improvement.
- Establishing a commitment amongst pupils, staff and parents to the school's mission in partnership with the governors² and through the example of personal conviction.
- Demonstrating the vision and values in everyday work and practice. Motivating and working with others to create a shared culture and positive climate.
- Creating a distinctively Catholic ethos that is inclusive and applies Catholic values, attitudes and practices in all aspects of school life, and that life is lived explicitly and consciously in the presence of God.
- Ensuring there is planned worship, and appropriate liturgy in accordance with the rites, practices, discipline and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.
- Ensuring creativity, innovation and the use of appropriate new technologies to achieve excellence.
- Ensuring that the strategic planning takes account of the diversity, values and experience of the school and community at large.

² The term 'governors' is used to describe all those involved in the governance of the school – the board of directors and the local academy committee representatives.

5 Leading Learning and Teaching

5.1 In a Catholic school the search for excellence is expressed in learning and teaching, which responds to the needs and aspirations of its pupils and acknowledges their individual worth as children of God.

Actions

The Head of School works alongside the Executive Principal to:

- Ensuring a consistent and continuous school-wide focus on pupils' achievement, using data and benchmarks to monitor progress in every child's learning.
- Ensuring that learning is at the centre of strategic planning and resource management.
- Securing high quality religious education for all pupils in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.
- Ensuring high quality Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.
- Ensuring quality provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education in line with the distinctive Catholic nature, purposes and aims of the school.
- Establishing creative, responsive and effective approaches to learning and teaching.
- Creating and maintaining an effective partnership with parents to support and improving pupils' achievement and personal development and furthering the distinctive Catholic nature, purposes and aims of the school.
- Developing effective links with the parish and wider Catholic community, including local partnership arrangements, to extend the curriculum and enhance teaching and learning.
- Ensuring a culture and ethos of challenge and support where all pupils can achieve success and become engaged in their own learning.
- Demonstrating and articulating high expectations and setting stretching targets for the whole school community.
- Implementing strategies that secure high standards of behaviour and attendance.
- Determining, organising and implementing a diverse, flexible curriculum and implementing effective assessment framework.
- Taking a strategic role in the development of new and emerging technologies to enhance and extend the learning experience of pupils.
- Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing classroom practice and promoting improvement strategies.
- Challenging underperformance at all levels and ensuring effective corrective action and follow-up.

6 Developing Self and Working with Others

6.1 In a Catholic school the role of Head of School is one of leadership of a learning community rooted in faith. The Head of School's leadership should take Christ as its inspiration. The Head of School's management of staff should demonstrate an awareness of their unique contribution as individuals, valued and loved by God.

Actions

The Head of School works alongside the Executive Principal to:

- Treating people fairly, equitably and with dignity and respect to create and maintain a positive school culture consistent with the Catholic ethos of the school and its mission.
- Building a collaborative learning culture within the school and actively engaging with other schools to build effective learning communities.
- Developing and maintaining effective strategies and procedures for staff induction (including understanding the nature of the school as a Catholic community), professional development and performance review.
- Ensuring effective planning, allocation, support and evaluation of work undertaken by teams and individuals, ensuring clear delegation of tasks and devolution of responsibilities.
- Acknowledging the responsibilities and celebrating the achievements of individuals and teams.
- Developing and maintaining a culture of high expectations for self and for others and taking appropriate action when performance is unsatisfactory.
- Regularly reviewing own practice, setting personal targets and taking responsibility for own personal development.
- Managing own workload and that of others to allow an appropriate work/life balance.

7 Managing the Organisation

7.1 In a Catholic school all deployment of staff, finance, material resources, time and energy should promote the common good of the community in accordance with the school's mission.

7.2 The Head of School helps provide effective organisation and management of the school and seeks ways of improving organisational structures and functions based on rigorous self-evaluation. The Head of School also helps deploy people and resources efficiently and effectively to secure the school's aims and mission through meeting specific objectives in line with the school's strategic plan and financial objectives.

Actions

The Head of School works alongside the Executive Principal to:

- Creating an organisational structure which reflects the school's values, and enabling the management systems, structures and processes to work effectively in line with legal requirements.
- Producing and implementing clear, evidence-based improvement plans and policies for the development of the school and its facilities.
- Ensuring that, within the Catholic ethos, policies and practices take account of national and local circumstances, policies and initiatives.
- Managing the school's financial and human resources effectively and efficiently to achieve the school's educational goals and priorities.
- Recruiting, retaining and deploying staff appropriately and managing their workload to achieve the vision and goals of the school, implementing successful performance management processes with all staff.

- Managing and organising the school environment efficiently and effectively to ensure that it meets the needs of the curriculum and health and safety regulations.
- Ensuring that the range, quality and use of all available resources is monitored, evaluated and reviewed to improve the quality of education for all pupils and provide value for money.
- Using and integrating a range of technologies effectively and efficiently to manage the school.

8 Securing accountability

8.1 In a Catholic school the Head of School fulfils his/her responsibilities in accordance with the mission of the school. The Head of School supports the governors in fulfilling its responsibilities under Canon Law to the Diocesan Trustees and in accordance with national legislation.

Actions

The Head of School works alongside the Executive Principal to:

- Fulfilling commitments arising from contractual accountability to the Executive Principal
- Developing the Catholic ethos so that everyone understands the mission of the school, which enables everyone to work collaboratively, share knowledge and understanding, celebrate success and accept responsibility for outcomes.
- Ensuring individual staff accountabilities are clearly defined, understood and agreed and are subject to rigorous review and evaluation.
- Working with the governors (providing information, objective advice and support) to enable it to meet its responsibilities, including securing the distinctive Catholic character of the school.
- Developing and presenting a coherent, understandable and accurate account of the school's performance to a range of audiences including directors, parents and carers.
- Reflecting on personal contribution to school achievements and take account of feedback from others.

9 Strengthening Community

9.1 In a Catholic school there is a special relationship with the parish and the church, as well as the local community with its distinctive social context.

Actions

The Head of School works alongside the Executive Principal to:

- Building a school culture and curriculum, based on Gospel values and the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, which takes account of the richness and diversity of the school's communities.
- Building a relationship with the local church and parish communities, seeing participation in the celebration of the Eucharist as a crucial point of reference and stability.
- Creating and promoting positive strategies for challenging racial and other prejudice and dealing with racial harassment.
- Ensuring learning experiences for pupils are linked into and integrated with the wider community and promote commitment to serving the common good and communion with the wider-world.
- Ensuring a range of community-based learning experiences.
- Collaborating with other agencies in providing for the academic, religious, spiritual, moral, social, emotional and cultural well-being of pupils and their families.

- Creating and maintaining an effective partnership with parents and carers, as the prime educators, to support and improve pupils' growth in the knowledge and love of God and neighbour, their achievement and personal development.
 - Seeking opportunities to invite parents and carers, the parish, community figures, businesses or other organisations into the school to enhance and enrich the school as a faith community and its value to the wider community.
 - Contributing to the development of the education system by, for example, sharing effective practice, working in partnership with other schools and promoting innovative initiatives.
 - Co-operating and working with relevant agencies to protect children.

10 Safeguarding Children & Safer Recruitment

10.1 This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people as required under the Education Act 2002 and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Actions

The Head of School works alongside the Executive Principal to:

- The policies and procedures adopted by the governors are fully implemented and followed by all staff.
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable the designated person and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings, and contributing in the assessment of children.
- All staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children, and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed disclosure policy.