

SAINT AIDAN'S

Church of England High School

HEADTEACHER GROUP 6: ISR 26-33 NOR: 840

Aspire & Believe & Succeed

Required for 1st September 2025

Dear Candidate,

Following the announcement by the current Headteacher, Mr Andy Smith, that he will be retiring at the end of this academic year, the Governors are seeking to appoint his successor.

The Governors are looking for an outstanding and experienced leader who shares the schools' vision and values, and who can inspire both staff and students to achieve their full potential, guiding our school into an exciting new era.

School life at Saint Aidan's very much reflects the words from John's Gospel—'that they might have life in all its fullness'. As a school we pride ourselves on a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum rooted within strong Christian values. The Headteacher is the prime mover in creating, inspiring and embodying the Christian character and culture of this church school.

The successful candidate will be an excellent communicator and collaborator, committed to sustaining and enhancing our highly effective partnerships with students, staff, governors, parents, local parishes, and the Diocese, along with the Church of England and global partners.

An extensive range of information about the school is available on the website and candidates are encouraged to arrange a visit to school by contacting the Headteachers' PA, Christine Murphy via email.

Please complete the application form and provide a supporting letter that clearly sets out how your experience and achievements to date have helped prepare you for this post in a Church school. You should give a clear statement of your educational philosophy, its implementation in practice and commitment to developing the Christian character of the school. You should address areas raised in the job description and person specification presenting organised views. Please include any other information you feel would be helpful. The supporting letter should be no more than three sides of A4 please in Arial point 12.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

SiPullen.

Sue Pullen, Chair of Governors



Sue Pullen, Chair of Governors

Post: Headteacher

Line Manager:Chair of Governors

Start Date: 1st September 2025

Visits to school: email christine-murphy@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

Closing date for applications:
Friday 14th February 2025
12 noon

Interviews: 6th & 7th March 2025

Electronic applications are accepted in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Please email completed applications to recruitment@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

School Information

Saint Aidan's is a successful and popular 11-16 co-educational Church of England school with 840 students situated in a very pleasant part of the Fylde in Lancashire. We draw our students from a wide area which includes the rural area of Over Wyre, as well as a number of areas on the edge of Blackpool and Fleetwood. The school is within easy reach of the cities of Lancaster and Preston and the town of Blackpool.

Our students achieve very well, and there is a real will in the school to improve even further. In 2024 our students' Progress 8 scores were higher than those in any other Fylde and Wyre school, and our GCSE results are consistently above local and national averages.

The school's commitment to learning extends to staff as well as students; there is a well-developed structure of support for new members of staff and a culture of "lifelong learning" among our teaching and associate staff. Our inhouse CPD programme is important to us and we are continually looking to develop innovative approaches teaching and learning, with an emphasis on the use of modern technology and collaborative learning. All teaching staff have access to a Microsoft laptop, and all of our classrooms are equipped with whiteboards or interactive touch displays. Individual tablet and laptop devices are used by students in the classroom.

The school was inspected by Ofsted in October 2013 and was found to be a Good school with Outstanding Behaviour and Safety. This was confirmed by a short inspection in July 2018 and again in June 2023. Our 2023 report states, "Pupils enjoy coming to school" and, "Staff appreciate leaders' consideration of their workload and wellbeing." An inspection by SIAMS in October 2024 states, "Inspired by the Christian vision, a highly nurturing permeates throughout culture school. Caring and loving relationships ensure that students and staff know they will be listened to and their voices heard."

The school is full or nearly full in all year groups, and is regularly oversubscribed for entry into Year 7. The majority of our students travel to us by bus and choose Saint Aidan's over schools nearer their homes because of our individual care for students, our calm and purposeful atmosphere, our high academic standards and our Christian ethos.

As a church school we have a strong emphasis on the provision of a stimulating, secure and caring environment within which all members of our community can develop their potential to the full. Relationships within the school community are characterised by mutual respect; this creates a safe environment where young people can grow and develop, and where learning is valued. There is a strong "vertical" pastoral structure, built around forms that contain students from all five year groups. Our collective worship draws staff and students together and encourages them to explore life's big issues. The school's ethos is distinctively Christian but is also inclusive of those of other faiths or none. This gives us a great responsibility as for many of our children Saint Aidan's provides their only experience of worshipping and growing within a Christian community.

We work closely with our local primary schools, sixth forms, FE providers and universities. Students can participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and educational visits in this country and further afield. All staff are encouraged to contribute to this programme.

Our school 'motto' is taken from John 10 v 10 -"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness". All we do at Saint Aidan's is aimed at making this a reality for our students and staff.



Ofsted say that Saint Aidan's is a good school where the behaviour of pupils is outstanding.



"The long established Christian vision of 'life in all its fullness' drives leaders' decisions and actions. This creates a culture of high aspiration and care. Understated in the way it is displayed around school, the words of the vision are however powerfully evident in loving relationships. It is a lived experience which recognises the deep worth of each individual in a tangible ethos of togetherness. Students and adults are proud to belong to the nurturing St Aidan's family."

(SIAMS 2024)



"My daughter loves her new school, she looks forward to going every morning and comes home with a smile on her face every night. Thank you to all concerned, you have done a brilliant job."

(Year 7 parent)



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STUDENT LEADERSHIP LETTER JANUARY 2025

Dear Candidate

Firstly, thank you for taking an interest in the position of Headteacher at Saint Aidan's. Prior to your formal application we write to provide you with further information of our school from the students' perspective.

At Saint Aidan's we are always celebrating our achievements whether they are in sport, the arts, food technology or the grades that students are obtaining year on year. We are known for the support of our students, which is reflected through the high attendance of students across the school, and we encourage them to enjoy their time whilst they are here.

Our school has a reputation for a great ethos, with a positive atmosphere. We are a Church of England school: we portray our faith through lessons, through our assemblies and especially during our Eucharist where the whole school community come together to celebrate each term.

At Saint Aidan's we believe that there should be mutual respect between students and staff. We have a strong student-teacher relationship with students and teachers respecting one another during and after lessons; this helps provide a great learning environment for everyone.

As a school we provide fantastic opportunities to all students with recent school trips to places such as New York, Iceland, Paris and the Belgian Battlefields.

We run many extra- curricular activities ranging from athletics to photography, language clubs to our school musical (Matilda), karaoke to sign language. The facilities we provide are respected and clean, they have no graffiti or vandalism. We are constantly updating our technology so that we have the best available to enhance learning for everyone.

In closing, we would like to thank you for taking time to read our letter and we hope that you will consider applying for the role of Headteacher at our school.

Yours faithfully,

The Student Leadership Team



Job Description—Headteacher

This job reflects the Headteacher's Standards (2020). The standards are built upon the Teaching Standards (2012) which apply to all teachers, including Headteachers.

This appointment is made by the Governing Board of the school and is subject to the current conditions of employment of Headteachers, contained in the Schools Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and other current educational and employment legislation.

The Governing Board and the Diocese acknowledge the importance of the role of a Christian Headteacher and will actively offer continuing support, encouragement, affirmation and realistic challenge to the successful candidate.

The Governing Board is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Headteacher must ensure that the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations relating to safeguarding and child protection. Appointment is conditional upon receipt of satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks in relation to criminal and child protection matters.

The Core Purpose of the Headteacher in a Church school

The Headteacher is the prime mover in creating, inspiring and embodying the Christian ethos and culture of this Church school, securing its Mission Statement with all members of the school community and ensuring an environment for teaching and learning that empowers both staff and students to achieve their highest potential.

The core purpose of the Headteacher is to provide professional leadership and management of the school. This will promote a secure foundation from which to achieve high standards in all areas of the school's work. To gain this success the Headteacher must have the highest expectations and aspirations for the whole school community, creating a culture that promotes excellence and equality, ensuring an ambitious curriculum which enables all students to excel.

The Headteacher must establish a high quality education by effectively managing teaching and learning to realise the potential of all students. This must be rooted within a strong Christian ethos to enable students to 'live life in all its fullness'. In leading this Church school, the Headteacher will ensure that it is educating for wisdom, knowledge and skills; for hope and aspiration; for community and living well together and for dignity and respect (Church of England's Vision for Education).

The Headteacher is the leading professional in the school. Accountable to the Governing Board, the Headteacher provides leadership and direction for the school and ensures it is managed and organised to meet its aims and targets. The Headteacher, working with others, is responsible for evaluating the school's performance to identify priorities for continuous improvement and raising standards; ensuring equality of opportunity for all; developing policies and practices; ensuring that resources are efficiently and effectively used to achieve the school's aims and objectives and for the day-to-day management, organisation and administration of the school.

The Headteacher, working with and through others, secures the commitment of the wide community to the school by developing and maintaining effective partnerships with, for example, local and wider diocesan schools, local churches, other services and agencies for children, the Local Authority, diocesan officers, higher education institutions and employers. Through such partnerships and other activities, the Headteacher plays a key role in contributing to the development of the education system as a whole and collaborating with others to raise standards locally.



Job Description—Headteacher

Headteachers are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of principled and professional conduct. They are expected to meet the teachers' standards and be responsible for providing the conditions in which teachers can fulfil them.

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 and leadership.

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Build relationships rooted in mutual respect, 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
- Uphold fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Ensure that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit their position, students' vulnerability or might lead students to break the law

School Culture

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Establish and sustain the school's ethos and strategic direction in partnership with those responsible for governance and through consultation with the school community
- Create a culture where students experience a positive and enriching school life
- Uphold ambitious educational standards which prepare students 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
- Ensure a culture of high staff professionalism

Teaching

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Establish and sustain high-quality, expert teaching across all subjects and phases, built on an evidence-informed understanding of effective teaching and how students learn
- Ensure teaching is underpinned by high levels of subject expertise and approaches which respect the distinct nature of subject disciplines or specialist domains
- Ensure effective use is made of formative assessment

Job Description—Headteacher



Curriculum and assessment

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Ensure a broad, structured and coherent curriculum entitlement which sets out the knowledge, skills and values that will be taught
- Establish effective curricular leadership, developing subject leaders with high levels of relevant expertise with access to professional networks and communities
- Ensure that all students are taught to read through the provision of evidence-informed approaches to reading.
- Ensure valid, reliable and proportionate approaches are used when assessing students' knowledge and understanding of the curriculum

Behaviour

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Establish and sustain high expectations of behaviour for all students, built upon relationships, rules and routines, which are understood clearly by all staff and students
- Ensure high standards of student behaviour 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 model and teach the behaviour of a good citizen

Additional and special educational needs and disabilities

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Ensure the school holds ambitious expectations for all students with additional and special educational needs and disabilities
- Establish and sustain culture and practices that enable students to access the curriculum and learn effectively
- Ensure the school works effectively in partnership with parents, carers and professionals, to identify
 the additional needs and special educational needs and disabilities of students, providing support and
 adaptation where appropriate
- Ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties with regard to the SEND code of practice

Professional Development

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Ensure staff have access to high-quality, sustained professional development opportunities, 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 nationally recognised career and professional frameworks and programmes to build capacity and support succession planning



Job Description—Headteacher

Organisational management

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Ensure the protection and safety of students 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
- 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
- Ensure rigorous approaches to identifying, managing and mitigating risk

Continuous school improvement

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- 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 context
- Ensure careful and effective implementation of improvement strategies, which lead to sustained school improvement over time

Working in partnership

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Forge constructive relationships beyond the school, working in partnership with parents, carers and the local community
- Commit their school to work successfully with 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 students

Governance and accountability

Within the school's Christian character the Headteacher will:

- Understand and welcome the role of effective governance, upholding their obligation to give account and accept responsibility
- Establish and sustain professional working relationship with those responsible for governance
- 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

This job description outlines the main duties of the post, but does not exclude other duties which may be undertaken to ensure the efficient operation of the school. Other duties required will be consistent with those listed above and appropriate to the title and grade of the post.

The appointment is subject to the current conditions of employment of Headteachers, contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and other current educational and employment legislation.





PERSON SPECIFICATION FORM		NAVE / LIFE
POST TITLE: HEADTEACHER (The supporting letter should be no more than three sides of A4 in	Essential/ Desirable	Source
Arial point 12) Christian ethos		
Full and active member of a church in membership of Churches Together in	E	F/I/R
England or Evangelical Alliance	E	F/I/K
A practising Anglican	D	F/I/R
To be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the following in the context of the Church school:		
The development of the Christian Character of the school, its students and staff	E	F/I
Leading school worship	E	F/I
Ways of developing religious education and worship	E	F/I
Ways of leading the spiritual development of all the school community	E	F/I
Strategic thinking and planning that builds, communicates and carries forward a coherent and shared vision for the Christian ethos of the school	E	F/I
How relationships should be fostered and developed between the school, local churches, other schools, its community and the Diocese of Blackburn	E	F/I
Qualifications		
Qualified Teacher Status	E	F
Degree or equivalent	E	F
Professional Development		
Evidence of regular, recent and appropriate professional development for the role of Headteacher	E	F
Has successfully undertaken appropriate safeguarding training for senior leaders, or has a commitment to do so within 12 months of taking up post	E	F
School leadership and management experience		
Recent successful leadership as a secondary school Headteacher.	D	F/I/R
Recent successful leadership as a Deputy/Assistant Headteacher in a secondary school.	E	F/I/R
To have taken an active involvement in school self-evaluation and development planning.	E	F/I/R
Knowledge and understanding of strategic financial planning in relation to their contribution to school development and pupil achievement.	E	F/I/R
Successful experience of leading the development of a whole school area e.g. learning, teaching and standards; wellbeing; incl. curriculum change, policy and implementation.	E	F/I/R
To have held responsibility for policy development and implementation.	E	F/I/R
To have experience of and ability to contribute to staff development in a secondary school (e.g. coaching, mentoring, INSET for staff).	Е	F/I/R
To have successful experience of collaborating with other schools in formal or informal structures.	D	F/I/R





PERSON SPECIFICATION FORM POST TITLE: HEADTEACHER	Essential/ Desirable	Source
Experience and knowledge of teaching		
Significant and relevant experience of teaching in the secondary phase.	Е	F
Experience of teaching in more than one school.	D	F
Evidence of students achieving excellent results in external examinations.	E	F/R
Professional attributes		
Demonstrate an understanding of the needs of the students at our school and how these could be met.	Е	F/I
Able to demonstrate a clear rationale for behaviour management and a proven track record of the effective implementation of a range of behaviour management strategies.	E	F/I
Excellent written and oral communication skills (assessed at all stages of the process).	E	F/I/R
To be a leader of learning demonstrating, promoting and encouraging outstanding classroom practice.	E	F/I/R
Show a commitment to sustained attendance at work	E	I/R
Personal Qualities		
Continue to promote our strong educational philosophy and values.	E	F/I
Inspire, challenge, motivate and empower teams and individuals to achieve high goals.	E	F/I/R
Be a positive role model at all times, a highly effective and respected representative of our school.	E	F/I/R
Be approachable, person centred.	Е	F/I/R
Build and maintain quality relationships through interpersonal skills and effective communication.	E	F/I/R
Demonstrate the Nolan principles including their own personal and professional integrity, whilst modelling Christian values and vision.	E	F/I/R
Inspire trust and confidence across the school and community.	Е	F/I/R
Think analytically and creatively and demonstrate initiative in solving problems.	Е	F/I/R
Be aware of their own strengths and areas for development and listen to, and reflect constructively and act upon as appropriate, feedback from others.	E	F/I/R
Professional skills—Students and Staff (informed from themes in the Headteacher's Standards 2020)		
Demand ambitious standards for all students overcoming disadvantage and advancing equality and equity, instilling a strong sense of accountability in staff for the impact of their work on students' outcomes.	E	F/I/R
Maintain excellent teaching by maintaining an educational culture of sharing best practice within and between schools, drawing on and conducting relevant research and robust data analysis.	E	F/I/R
Maintain an ethos within which all staff flourish, are motivated and supported to develop their skills and professional knowledge and support each other.	E	F/I/R
Identify emerging talents, coaching current and aspiring leaders in a climate where excellence is the standard, leading to clear succession planning and holding all staff to account for their professional conduct and practice.	E	F/I/R





PERSON SPECIFICATION FORM POST TITLE: HEADTEACHER	Essential/ Desirable	Source
Professional skills—Qualities and Knowledge (informed from themes in the Headteacher's Standards 2020)		
Sustain wide, current knowledge and understanding of education and school systems locally, nationally and globally, and work with political and financial astuteness to pursue continuous improvement in the context of our school.	Е	F/I
Communicate compelling the school's vision, values and moral purpose and drive the strategic leadership, empowering all students and staff to excel.	E	F/I/R
Professional skills—Systems and Processes (informed from themes in the Headteacher's Standards 2020)		
Through distributed leadership, ensure that the school's systems, organisation and processes are well considered, efficient and fit for purpose, upholding the principles of transparency, integrity and probity.	E	F/I
Provide a safe, calm and well-ordered environment for all students and staff, focused on safeguarding students and developing their exemplary behaviour in school and in the wider society.	E	F/I/R
Welcome strong governance and actively support the Governing Board to understand its role and deliver its functions effectively.	E	F/I/R
Professional skills—The Self-Improving School Systems (informed from themes in the Headteacher's Standards 2020)		
Develop effective relationships with fellow professionals and colleagues in other public services to improve academic and social outcomes for all students.	Е	F/R
Challenge educational orthodoxies in the best interests of achieving excellence, harnessing the findings of well-evidenced research to frame self-regulating and self-improving schools.	E	F/I/R
Model innovative approaches to school improvement, leadership and governance.	E	F/I/R
Demonstrate understanding of the readiness for external inspection and regulation, including OFSTED, SIAMS etc	E	F/I/R
Confidential References		
Positive and supportive faith reference from the priest/minister where the applicant regularly worships. (Candidates who do not use their parish priest/minister must give an explanation in the letter of application)	E	
Positive recommendation from all referees, including current employer.	E	

KEY	
E -	Essential
D -	Desirable
F-	Application Form
I -	Interview
R -	References



SAINT AIDAN'S

Church of England High School

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Safeguarding

At Saint Aidan's, the welfare of the child is paramount. The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. School will carry out an online search as part of the due diligence for shortlisted candidates and the successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS clearance.

All staff should understand their responsibility towards safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Staff are responsible for their own actions and behaviour and should avoid any conduct which would lead any reasonable person to question their motivation and intentions. Staff should work, and be seen to work, in an open and transparent way.

Attitudes towards promoting the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people will be scrutinised during the selection process for the post that you have applied for.

Attendance

Saint Aidan's is committed to achieving and maintaining a high level of attendance from all employees through the application of good management practice. All employees must recognise the importance of good attendance and ensure that any sickness absence in kept to a minimum.

Whilst supporting employees during periods of sickness, the School Management Team monitors levels of sickness absence in school regularly and takes action in accordance with the Guidelines adopted by the school to deal with unacceptable levels and frequency of sickness.

Good attendance enhances the service delivered by schools, minimises staffing difficulties and ensures best value to the school. All employees in this school must understand the importance of good attendance to the operation, performance and image of the school and must show a commitment to achieving and maintaining a high level of attendance.

Data Protection

As part of your application to join us, we will gather and use information relating to you, known as "personal data". This information will be retained inline with the schools retention policy which has been adopted from the Information Management Toolkit for Schools.

If you are unsuccessful we will hold your personal data only for six months, after which time it is securely deleted/destroyed.

Our School Values

We aspire

 to give each one of our students the best possible education to prepare them for a successful and fulfilling life

 to build a community based on mutual respect and tolerance

 to open minds and provide a rich experience inside and beyond the classroom

We believe

- in a school with the Christian faith and Christian values at its heart
- in the God-given potential of each of our students
- in the value of every member of our school community of all faiths and none

We succeed

- by excellence in teaching and learning
- by fostering a purposeful and disciplined atmosphere where all can thrive
- by students, staff, parents and the wider community working together





Ofsted say that relationships between students and with adults are first rate.



What the students say...

"The lessons are all absolutely brilliant! My favourite has got to be IT because we research all sorts of fun and fascinating things and I am learning so much."

(Year 7 student)



"Saint Aidan's is a very welcoming environment where nobody is lost and we are all treated as one. It has provided me with many opportunities to push myself, not just academically but with self confidence too."

(Head Girl)

"I have come that they may have life in all its fullness".

All we do at Saint Aidan's is aimed at making this true for our students and staff.

