

Woodham Walter C of E Primary School

'To know, value and nurture God's world and one another'



Appointment of Headteacher

Information for Candidates



Contents

Letter from Chair of Governors

Selection Arrangements

Job Description

Person Specification

Recruitment and Selection Policy Statement



Woodham Walter C of E (VC) Primary School

The Street, Woodham Walter, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6RF

Telephone: 01245 223264

Email: admin@woodhamwalter

Website: www.woodhamwalterschool.co.uk

Dear prospective candidate,

I am delighted that you have expressed an interest in joining Woodham Walter Cof E Primary School. Our wonderful school has had stable leadership for many years but after our very long serving Headteacher retired last year, we appointed another Head who most unfortunately became unwell and so we are seeking her replacement. Our rural school has thrived and grown significantly over the years and we are looking for an inspirational leader to take us further forward in the development of the school, always keeping the welfare of the children front of mind in all that the school does.

We are a church school with strong links to the church and the rural community within which we are situated. Many of our children attend the school from outside of the village because they, and their parents, like the rural setting and the 'family feel' that the school has. You will have read our 'strapline' which encapsulates our vision '**To know, value and nurture God's world and one another**'. This is the cornerstone around which we all operate and distinguishes us from some other schools. We are committed to recognising the beauty in each child and in our environment.

We are a school built on Christian foundations. We nurture every child to be safe, to have fun, to enjoy learning and to fulfil their potential, academically, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We are dedicated to ensuring that they have every opportunity to grow into happy, secure, fulfilled adults.

Our location is a major benefit as it adjoins a forest and is surrounded by farmland and woodland. This gives the children the opportunity to learn about the countryside through Forest School and from our neighbouring farmers. If you want to see the school setting, do look at our short film on Youtube which has excellent drone shots of the surrounding area. Beyond this, we are proud of our curriculum, tailored specifically to the needs of the children, capturing their imaginations and enabling them to enjoy learning and to become successful and engaged young people. We believe in making the learning journey an exciting adventure of discovery, celebrating the progress of our pupils, and encouraging them to share in that joy.

Our last Ofsted rating was Good with some Outstanding elements and we expect a further inspection in the next 18 months or so. We are confident based on our most recent school results that outcomes continue positively. The school's leadership personnel and other staff are a great team who work very well with the Governing Body to ensure the school continues to thrive. Our budget for the forthcoming financial year is balanced although, as with all small schools, we suffer from financial pressures. We would want to explore with the successful candidate the opportunities for favourable partnerships with other schools in the future to try to offset some of these financial pressures through exploiting economies of scale.

We are now seeking an experienced teacher to assume the role of Headteacher and leader. If you believe your qualifications and experience fit you for this, we would be delighted to receive your application.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes,

Geoff Hicks

Chair of Governors

Appointment of Headteacher

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| School | Woodham Walter C of E Primary School |
| Telephone | 01245 223264 |
| Website | www.woodhamwalterschool.co.uk |
| School Group Size | Group 1 NOR 115 |
| Salary Range | L8 to L14 £56,078 – £64,998 |
| Start Date | September 2024 |

Selection Arrangements - The Process

Thank you for your interest in the post of Headteacher at Woodham Walter C of E Primary School.

Please apply for this post on-line, as feedback from colleagues and candidates for other roles have told us that using the Essex schools' website to apply for posts that they are interested in is easy and fast. You can access the website from any device, complete and save your application in full confidence that it cannot be seen or accessed until you finish your application form and press the 'Apply' button.

When you apply online the school's Recruitment Team will be sent an email automatically and you will receive an email via the system confirming that your application has been received.

Applying on-line is straightforward and the first step is to create your own profile, please follow the instructions below to apply for this post:

- Click [here](#) to register and create a profile
- When you have created your profile, please click the 'Apply' button at the foot of the online advertisement and complete your details.

Prior to appointment, the successful candidate will need Occupational Health medical clearance which will be arranged by the school.

A childcare disqualification form and a SD2 criminal convictions will need to be completed and returned to us at the shortlisting stage and these forms will be provided.

We look forward to receiving your application. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office 01245 223264 if you have any queries.

Closing date: Friday 19th April 2024 (midday)

Interview date: Monday 29th April 2024

Please be aware that as the applicant you are responsible for ensuring that your application reaches us before the stated closing date, as late applications may not be accepted.

Referees

In order to comply with the guidance on safer recruitment, you are requested to provide referees in line with the following guidance:

Existing Headteachers currently employed in a community or voluntary controlled school are required to provide:

- One reference from the Chair of Governors of their current school
- One reference from the Authority
- One reference from their previous employer if employed by them within the last five years.

Existing Headteachers or Heads of School currently employed in an academy, foundation or voluntary aided school are required to provide:

- One reference from the Chair of Governors/Chair of Trustees of their current school
- One reference from their previous employer if employed by them within the last 5 years, otherwise one from another professional.

Existing Deputy Headteachers and others currently employed in any school or academy, are required to provide:

- One reference from their current headteacher
- One reference from their previous employer if employed by them within the last 5 years, otherwise one from another professional.



Woodham Walter C of E Primary School

Headteacher Job Description

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| Post Title: | Headteacher |
| Salary/Grade: | Leadership Group 1 within the range L8 – L14 |
| Schools: | Woodham Walter C of E (VC) Primary School |
| <p>The post holder will be committed to the role of Headteacher of Woodham Walter Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School. This will entail managing time and having a significant profile in school in order to carry out the duties outlined in this job description, which are in addition to those covered by the latest School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. It may be modified by the Governing Body, in consultation with you, to reflect or anticipate changes in the job, commensurate with the salary and job title.</p> | |
| Character of the School: | <p>As the Headteacher of Woodham Walter C of E Primary School you are required to have regard to the Christian character of the school and to actively work to promote and strengthen this.</p> <p>To pursue the vision and values of the school and the Church of England Vision for Education</p> <p>You are required to take lead and take part in regular acts of collective worship of a broadly, mainly Christian character.</p> |
| Responsible for: | <p>The professional leadership and management of the school.</p> <p>Promoting a secure foundation from which to achieve high standards in all areas of the school's work.</p> <p>Gaining success by establishing high quality education by effectively managing teaching and learning.</p> <p>Creating an environment that fosters excellence, equality, and high expectations for every student.</p> |
| Reports to: | Governing Body |
| Liaison with: | External agencies and the community the school serves. |
| Purpose: | <p>The Headteacher, who is accountable to the Governing Body, will ensure the school has a Christian ethos, provides vision and leadership for the school, ensuring that it is managed and organised to meet its aims and targets.</p> <p>The Headteacher will be committed to safeguarding and the welfare of all pupils, in a nurturing and inclusive environment, where discipline and good behaviour underpin the school vision for pupils to participate, learn, enjoy and achieve.</p> <p>The post holder will be an inspirational and dynamic leader with the vision, drive and passion to build upon school strengths and high expectations, and</p> |

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| | lead the school to the next phase of development. |
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| <p>Duties</p> | <p>Leadership in Shaping the Future</p> <p>The Headteacher, working with the Governing Body, staff, pupils, and parents, will:</p> <p>Create and uphold a shared vision and strategic plan, which inspires and motivates pupils, staff and all other members of the community. The vision should be rooted in Christian values, core educational values and moral purpose.</p> <p>Plan strategically to sustain school improvement and ensure that the school moves forward for the benefit of its pupils.</p> <p>Ensure that the RE programme is given full regard both in terms of classroom religious education and the overall programme of the school. To lead by example, providing inspiration and motivation for pupils, staff, Governors and parents, demonstrating the vision and values in everyday work and practice in order to create a shared culture and positive climate in pursuit of excellence.</p> <p>Work within the school community to translate the vision into agreed objectives and operational plans which promote and sustain school improvement, establishing a reputation of excellence.</p> <p>Assist in creating and implementing a strategic plan, underpinned by sound financial planning, which aims for school improvement by identifying priorities and targets to ensure that pupils achieve high standards and make good progress.</p> <p>Develop and maintain the educational partnership currently existing between the school and parents, Governing Body, Diocese, the Local Authority, the local community, and other agencies including the health authority and social services.</p> <p>Leading Teaching and Learning</p> <p>The headteacher, supported by the Governing Body, has a central responsibility for ensuring the quality of teaching and learning and pupil achievement. This implies enabling pupils to achieve their potential, setting high expectations and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of learning outcomes. The headteacher will:</p> <p>Create and maintain an environment which promotes and secures creative, responsive and effective approaches to learning and teaching, high expectations, high standards of achievement and good behaviour.</p> <p>Determine, organise and provide equal access to a diverse, flexible and relevant curriculum which values and challenges all children, including those with Special Educational Needs and English as an additional language, and to ensure that appropriate provision is made for the more able pupils.</p> <p>Establish and maintain effective systems of planning, assessment for learning, recording and reporting, using data and national benchmarks to monitor progress in every child's learning. Monitor and evaluate curricular provision, regularly review classroom practice and the achievement of all pupils in order to set and meet challenging, realistic targets for improvement.</p> <p>Manage regular reviews of all aspects of the curriculum, to initiate and encourage new and</p> |
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effective ideas, taking a strategic role in the development of emerging technologies to enhance and extend the learning experience of all pupils.

Encourage curriculum links through learning networks with other schools in the local area and opportunities in the local community.

Developing Self and Working with Others

To establish effective relationships and communication in order to build a professional learning community, enabling others to achieve within their roles. Through performance management and effective continuing professional development practice, the Headteacher supports all staff to achieve high standards. They will:

Give a clear lead to all staff in the development and the continuing formation of the school's Church of England identity.

Create a positive and collaborative learning culture within the school by treating people fairly, equitably and with dignity and respect.

Plan, allocate, support and evaluate work undertaken by groups, teams and individuals, ensuring that there is a clear delegation of tasks and devolution of responsibilities.

Implement and sustain systems for the effective management of all staff performance, incorporating targets for future development.

Motivate and enable teachers and support staff to develop expertise in their respective roles through a wide range of high-quality induction and continuing professional development opportunities in the context of the school's agreed improvement priorities.

Positively engage with the Governing Body in the headteacher performance management process, and regularly review own practice, set personal targets and take responsibility for own personal development.

Manage their own workload and that of others to allow for an appropriate work/life balance.

Comply with individual responsibilities, in accordance with the role, for health and safety in the workplace.

Ensure that all duties and services provided are in accordance with the School's Equal Opportunities Policy.

Leading and Managing

To provide effective organisation, leadership and management of the school in order to maintain an efficient, effective and safe learning environment, the headteacher will:

Create an organisational structure which reflects the school's values, enabling the management systems, structures and processes to work effectively in line with legal requirements.

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| | <p>Produce clear, evidence-based improvement plans and policies for the development of the school and its facilities.</p> <p>Work with the Governing Body, the Senior Leadership Team and senior colleagues to recruit, retain and deploy staff appropriately, managing their workload to achieve the vision and goals of the schools.</p> <p>Manage and organise the facilities effectively and efficiently to ensure that it meets the needs of the curriculum and health and safety regulations.</p> <p>Promote an attractive environment which stimulates learning and enhances the appearance of the school.</p> <p>Manage, monitor and review the range, quality, quantity and use of all available resources in order to improve the quality of education, improve pupils' achievements, ensure efficiency and secure value for money.</p> <p>Securing Accountability</p> <p>The school is accountable for ensuring that pupils benefit from a high quality education, promoting collective responsibility across the school community. The headteacher will:</p> <p>Provide high-quality information, objective advice and support to the Local Schools Board to enable it to meet its responsibilities for monitoring and securing school improvement and standards of achievement and for achieving efficiency and value for money.</p> <p>Create and develop a school ethos which enables everyone to work collaboratively, share knowledge and understanding, celebrate success and accept responsibility for the outcomes.</p> <p>Ensure individual staff accountabilities are clearly defined, understood and agreed and are subject to regular review and evaluation.</p> <p>Present regular, coherent and accurate accounts of the school's performance in a form appropriate to a range of audiences, including the Governing Body, the local community, OFSTED, SIAMS and others, to enable them to play their part effectively.</p> <p>Reflect on personal contribution to school achievement and take account of feedback from others.</p> <p>Ensure that parents/carers and pupils are well informed about the curriculum, the attainment and the progress of pupils.</p> |
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Strengthening Community

To work collaboratively at both strategic and operational levels with all connected with the school communities, for the well-being of all children. The headteacher will:

Recognise that the school is part of the Church locally and seek to promote the partnership between the parish, home, Diocese of Chelmsford, and other church schools.

Create and promote positive strategies for challenging prejudice and dealing with bullying and racial harassment.

Ensure that learning experiences for pupils are linked into opportunities provided in the wider community.

Create and maintain a positive and effective relationship linking home and school in a supportive, working partnership to encourage and improve pupils' achievement and personal development.

Seek opportunities to invite parents and carers, community figures including farmers, businesses and other organisations into school to enhance and enrich the school and its value to the wider community.

Liaise with the Parish Council as a partner of the local community.

Safeguarding

Woodham Walter C of E Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young persons at all times.

The Headteacher will:

Be responsible for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of all children for whom he/she is responsible, or with whom he/she comes into contact, in accordance with the Safeguarding policies.

Undergo designated person child protection training and be responsible for child protection and safeguarding and become the safeguarding and child protection lead for the school.

Person Specification

| Requirement | Essential | Desirable |
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| Qualification | <p>Qualified Teacher Status</p> <p>Evidence of continuing professional development</p> | <p>NPQH or working towards</p> <p>NPQEL or working towards</p> |
| Experience | <p>Relevant senior leadership and management experience.</p> <p>Evidence of improving teaching and learning and raising achievement for all pupils including those with special educational needs.</p> <p>Experience of monitoring and evaluating teaching and learning across year groups.</p> <p>Experience of working in a Church School context</p> | <p>Experience as Headteacher, Head of School, Assistant or Deputy Head</p> <p>Experience of working as a SENCo</p> <p>Experience of teaching across the whole primary sector</p> <p>Experience of successful change management including changing cultures and expectations.</p> <p>Experience of working effectively with school governance.</p> |
| Leadership and Management | <p>Proven leadership and management skills</p> <p>Leading acts of collective worship</p> <p>A clear vision of excellence in primary education</p> <p>Their vision of the school as a community, where every child receives an education suited to their needs and enables them to reach their full potential</p> <p>A proven ability to raise educational standards and a commitment to high standards of achievement</p> <p>An understanding of school improvement planning and subsequent budget planning</p> <p>An understanding of the strategic role of local governance and ability to work effectively with members of a local governance board.</p> | <p>Prior involvement with SEF and SDP</p> <p>Experience of project management and dealing with finance and premises issues</p> <p>Experience of Performance Management of both teaching and support staff.</p> |

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| | <p>The ability to delegate, monitor and evaluate information</p> <p>Commitment to the continuing professional development of all staff</p> <p>The ability to lead by example and inspire others to achieve positive results</p> <p>A commitment to the protection and safeguarding of young people</p> <p>An up to date knowledge of Child Protection procedures</p> | |
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| Communication | <p>Consult, actively listen, negotiate and influence.</p> <p>Communicate effectively through a variety of media, inspiring confidence and sharing commitment</p> <p>Promote a positive image of the school in the community.</p> <p>Evidence of good working relationships with parents and the wider school community</p> | <p>Work in partnership with other education professionals and other school groups/networks etc.</p> <p>Develop high level networking skills</p> |
| Knowledge and Skills/ Teaching and Learning | <p>The ability to demonstrate knowledge of current curricular and educational issues/relevant legislation</p> <p>A clear knowledge and understanding of assessment and monitoring procedures and ability to implement these</p> <p>A commitment to inclusion and equality of access to educational provision for all children</p> <p>An understanding of consistent approaches to behaviour management.</p> <p>Clear understanding of what is effective teaching and learning</p> <p>A high regard for the personal achievement of each child</p> | <p>Innovative and creative approach to teaching and learning</p> |

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| Personal Qualities | <p>Sympathy with and actively supportive of the Christian foundation of the school</p> <p>Strong interpersonal and communication skills</p> <p>Have an adaptable and flexible approach</p> <p>Have a desire to promote respect between children, staff, parents and governors</p> <p>Be a well organised person able to manage time effectively, to delegate, to prioritise and to meet deadlines</p> <p>Remain positive whilst under pressure</p> <p>Be able to recognise and utilise staff strengths</p> <p>Be able to build, support, motivate and work as part of a high performing team</p> <p>Have the ability to inspire children</p> <p>Be approachable and sensitive and maintain integrity when dealing with others</p> | |
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Recruitment and Selection Policy Statement

1. The Governing Board is committed to:

- safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety, and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, of children and young people;
- promoting equality of opportunity and community cohesion where the diversity of different backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued;
- promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs and expects all staff, volunteers and other workers to share this commitment. It is recognised that this can only be achieved through sound procedures, good inter agency co-operation and the recruitment and retention of competent, motivated employees who are suited to, and fulfilled in the roles they undertake.

2. The Governing Board recognises the value of, and seeks to achieve a diverse workforce which includes people from different backgrounds, with different skills and abilities. We are committed to ensuring that the recruitment and selection of all is conducted in a manner that is systematic, efficient, effective and promotes equality of opportunity. Selection will be on the basis of merit and ability, assessed against the qualifications, skills and competencies required to do the job. We will uphold obligations under law and national collective agreements to not discriminate against applicants for employment on the grounds of the protected characteristics of age, sex, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, gender re assignment, disability or health, race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic origin), religion or belief.

3. We will implement robust recruitment procedures and checks for appointing staff and volunteers to ensure that reasonable steps are taken not to appoint a person who is unsuitable to work with children, or who is disqualified from working with children, or does not have the suitable skills and experience for the role.

4. We will ensure that the terms of any contract with a contractor or agency requires them to adopt and implement measures described in this procedure. We will monitor the compliance with these measures and require evidence that relevant checks have been undertaken for all workers deployed.

5. The following pre-employment checks will be required where applicable to the role and settling: receipt of satisfactory references*

- verification of identity
- a satisfactory DBS disclosure if undertaking Regulated Activity
- verification that you are not on the DBS Children's barred list and therefore not barred from working with children
- verification that you are not prohibited from teaching
- verification of medical fitness
- verification of qualifications

- verification of professional status where required e.g. QTS status • the production of evidence of the right to work in the UK
- verification of successful completion of/exemption from statutory induction period
- verification that you are not subject to any s128 directions preventing you from holding a management position within a school
- a declaration that you are not disqualified from working with children by virtue of the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 or that you have provided a disqualification waiver from Ofsted

NB It is illegal for anyone who is barred from working with children to apply for or undertake Regulated Activity.

*In exceptional circumstances, where you have good reason not to want your referees to be contacted prior to interview, you should set out your reasons with your application form. Where it is agreed to defer, referees will be contacted immediately after the interview before an offer of employment is made.

6. We will keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks, in line with the current DfE requirements.

7. All posts/voluntary roles that give substantial unsupervised access to children and young people are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all applicants will be required to declare spent and unspent convictions, cautions and bind-overs (save for those offences that are subject to filtering by the Police).

Applicants will be required to sign a DBS consent form giving consent for the DBS certificate to be copied and shared (within strict guidelines) for the purposes of considering suitability for employment and consent for an online status check to be carried out in the event that the applicant subscribes to the DBS update service.

The Governing Board is committed to ensuring that people who have convictions / cautions / reprimands on their record are treated fairly and given every opportunity to establish their suitability for positions. Having a criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position, except in the case of school settings covered by the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 where certain convictions, cautions or warnings will mean an individual is disqualified from working in that setting and will prohibit employment at the school (unless a waiver can be obtained from Ofsted).

Positive disclosures will be managed on a case-by-case basis considering the nature, seriousness and relevance to the role. The following factors will be considered in each case:

- The seriousness/level of the disclosed information e.g. was it a caution or a conviction.
- How long ago did the incident(s) occur?
- Whether it was a one-off incident or part of a repeat history/pattern.

- The circumstances of the offence(s) being committed and any changes in the applicant's personal circumstances since then.
- The country where the offence/caution occurred.
- Whether the individual shows or has shown genuine remorse.
- If the offences were self-disclosed on the SD2 form or not (non-disclosure could, in itself, result in non-confirmation of employment on the grounds of trust, honesty and openness).
- When making a recruitment decision The Governing Board will disregard any filtered convictions/cautions/reprimands which were disclosed in error.

A previously issued Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate will only be accepted in certain restricted circumstances or where you subscribe to the DBS update service and the appropriate online status checks have been satisfactory.

The Disclosure and Barring Service has published a Code of Practice and accompanying explanatory guide.

This Governing Board is committed to ensuring that it meets the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service in relation to the processing, handling and security of Disclosure information.

A copy of our Recruitment Procedure is available upon request