



ASCENSION

CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Dear Applicant,

Many thanks for your interest in working for Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT).

I am privileged to be ACAT's CEO and thought it might be helpful if I offered a few thoughts about who we are and what we stand for.

Established in December 2022 as part of the Diocese of Westminster, we are presently a group of six schools who have come together for our mutual benefit. There are currently four primary and two secondary schools within the Diocesan local authorities of Surrey, Richmond & Hounslow. This number is likely to grow as more Catholic schools join us from those local authorities.

Currently the schools in our Trust are:

- Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary, Staines-upon-Thames
- St Ignatius Catholic Primary, Sunbury-on-Thames
- St Michael Catholic Primary & Nursery, Ashford
- St Richard Reynolds Catholic Primary, Twickenham
- St Paul's Catholic College, Sunbury-on-Thames
- St Richard Reynolds Catholic High School, Twickenham

As part of our work we are committed to recruiting, developing and retaining great teachers and leaders. Whilst the most important part of our Trust are our young people, its most valuable resource is its staff.

I am blessed to work with a group of dedicated, committed and like-minded Headteachers and staff who do a great job. We are not driven by Ofsted, but simply reference it; that said, each of our schools are good or outstanding in 'Ofsted terms' but each always continues to do better for the young people that they serve. We have a dedicated and committed Board of Directors and enjoy a good relationship with the Diocese of Westminster and the local authorities of Richmond upon Thames and Surrey.

Within and across ACAT, we believe that collaboration is the most useful and effective way to support each other and improve our schools to ensure we provide an outstanding Catholic education for all of our pupils.

We have begun to provide services centrally to liberate leaders in our schools to get on with the important part of their role, which is to ensure a great educational experience for their pupils and students. Too much time can be wasted in meetings discussing things that have little, if any, impact in the classroom and these are the tasks we are beginning to take on centrally. These central services include school finance and an increasing amount of HR. Many policies are also being written and reviewed centrally; and building work is organised and maintained centrally. A Primary School Improvement Team has also recently been created from the great practitioners that exist across our schools.

If you already work in a Catholic school you will know they are special places to work, with our faith and hope being the backbone of our broad culture. If you have never worked in a Catholic school, please **DO NOT** be put off, but come and visit us to see for yourself.

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CEO: Richard E. Burke MA

Diocese of Westminster

Please have a look at our [website](#) to find out more about ACAT and its schools.

You have made a good decision to at least consider working with us. If you do apply and are successful you will receive great support and development whilst keeping your own character and personality. We are NOT a 'one size fits all' MAT, so please do apply.

Feel free to call me at anytime on 020 8325 4630 or email me on info@ascensioncat.org if you have any questions.

I look forward to working with you.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.E. Burke', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

R.E. Burke
ACAT CEO