



Head of Mathematics  
Key Stage 2/3  
Full time, Permanent  
Candidate Information Pack



Small enough to care, big enough to deliver a positive impact

## Executive Headteacher's welcome

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Thank you for your interest in this opportunity to join Seaton Sluice Middle School as a **Head of Mathematics**. This is a new post for the school and is a very important part in our continued development. The post is a permanent, full- time, position, commencing September 2021. This candidate information pack will tell you much more about the school and the role. Whilst you will lead the Maths team and provision at SSMS, you will be expected to work closely with the other maths leads in the federation to ensure that the maths provision in the federation is the very best it can be.

Seaton Sluice Middle School is one of three schools within the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools, together with Astley Community High School and Whytrig Middle School. We share a single governing body.

I am immensely proud to be Executive Headteacher of all three schools. We strive for excellence in the education we provide for our students and are a focal point for the local community. I strongly believe that the relatively small size of our schools provides a great environment in which to know our young people well, so that we are able to understand and respond to each individual's needs and enable them to succeed.

Seaton Sluice Middle School serves the local villages of Seaton Sluice, New Hartley and Seghill, we also have pupils attending from outside our catchment in areas such as Blyth and Cramlington.

We believe pupils can only achieve their potential academically if they are happy and feel cared for. Our pastoral systems are constructed around this belief. We support all pupils as individuals and reward them for their efforts.

Our staff are very focused on ensuring students achieve their best without losing sight of those individual needs. We are always keen to learn from other professionals and have developed an excellent relationship with other schools across the north-east to ensure teachers have access to a strong Continuous Professional Development programme. Building up the skills and capacity of support staff is also a key priority.

I hope that the information within this pack will encourage you to apply for this opportunity. If you would like an informal discussion about the post or want to organise a visit then please contact **Karen McSparron, Head of School - SSMS** on **0191 237 0629**.



**John Barnes, Executive Headteacher – Seaton Valley Federation of Schools**

## Our ethos and values

### Our Vision:

- To be exceptional in everything that we do.
- To ensure that everyone attends a school where they are safe, happy, successful and have lots of opportunities.
- To provide a positive learning environment which allows everyone to achieve their potential.

### Our Ethos:

1. To be a school that knows each child really well both academically and pastorally as a complete young person.
2. Everyone within the school is treated with respect and we expect that respect to be mutual.
3. We expect and strive for everyone associated with the school to be as good as they possibly can in all areas of school life. We do not accept not trying and we are never ashamed of doing well and being proud of doing well.

Our schools are small enough to care but big enough to deliver a positive impact.



All three schools in the Seaton Valley Federation share a set of core values. We expect that all members of our school community will:

- develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence
- respect the laws of England and will know right from wrong and ensure their actions reflect this
- accept responsibility for their behaviour
- show initiative and contribute in a positive way to the school community, the local community and society in general
- show respect for each other and all other people
- show tolerance and respect for different cultures and traditions and will never act in such a way that these cultures or traditions are abused or attacked
- show respect for the rule of democracy and respect for the democratic principles of England.

## About our schools

School	Age range	Total number of pupils	Number in sixth form
Seaton Sluice Middle School	9-13	316	N/A
Whytrig Middle School	9-13	247	N/A
Astley Community High School	13-18	564	166

## About our performance

School	Overall effectiveness	Last Ofsted inspection
Seaton Sluice Middle School	Good	January 2018
Whytrig Middle School	Requires Improvement	June 2018
Astley Community High School	Good	November 2019

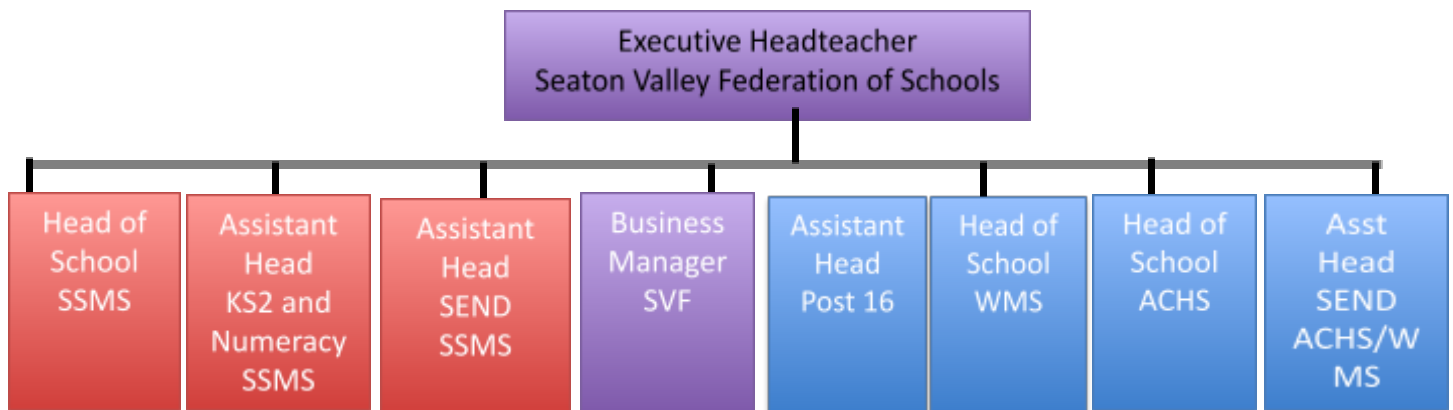
### Latest Ofsted report for Seaton Sluice Middle School

Achievement of pupils	Good
Quality of teaching	Good
Behaviour and safety of pupils	Good
Leadership and management	Good

“Overall behaviour across the school is very good. Leaders and staff set pupils clear expectations and make effective use of the school’s behaviour management systems, including the merits rewards. Pupils engage well in lessons, are pleased to share their learning and work collaboratively with their peers. Pupils behave well at lunchtimes and break times, socialising well with friends. Movement between lessons is orderly and pupils arrive promptly and ready to work hard.” Ofsted, 2018



## About our structure



## About our school

Over the next few pages you will find the advert, job description and person specification for the post of Head of Maths but we know that you will want to know more about our school and the team.

The Head of Mathematics post is seen as a very important part in the next stage of our development as a school. We are looking for the right person, with a desire to lead a maths team and take our maths provision to the next level.

We are a popular and thriving school with 316 pupils across 13 classes. One of our key priorities is to keep class sizes small as we believe this gives pupils – and staff – the best chance to succeed. We are very proud of our pupils, and do our very best to nurture and develop them as they grow.

In Key Stage 2 there is a definite 'Primary' feel to the pupils' learning, although they do have access to specialist teachers in French, PE, music and technology. This continues throughout Key Stage 3, enabling a smooth transition to high school.

Academic success is important and pupils achieve very well during their time here however we also offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Some are well-established such as sports clubs, computing, cooking, gardening and astronomy, others are new initiatives such as coding club. The school year is peppered with many events our students look forward to: the Fun Run, Year 8 showcase, School Production, Food-theme days, Charities Day and Awards Ceremonies.

**Karen McSparron, Head of School – Seaton Sluice Middle School**





### **Seaton Sluice Middle School**

Alston Grove  
Seaton Sluice  
Tyne and Wear  
NE26 4JS  
0191 237 0629

### **Head of Maths**

**1.0 FTE**

Full-Time, Permanent (required from September 2021)

Main/Upper Pay Ranges: £25,714 - £41,604 per annum plus TLR 2.2

### **Small enough to care, big enough to make a positive impact**

As a successful school in south east Northumberland with good standards of teaching and behaviour and a strong commitment to improvement, we believe passionately that every student should be enabled to succeed in all aspects of school life. We have a requirement for an excellent practitioner with a passion for Maths and a strong track record in delivering in middle schools, to take on the role of Head of Mathematics. Are you the person to take maths to the next level at SSMS?

You will join a fantastic team who work together to inspire our KS2 and KS3 pupils to develop their love of learning. You will have a desire to challenge every student to exceed their expectations and bring innovative approaches to your teaching, whilst embracing the ethos of our school.

Our candidate information pack will tell you much more about this vacancy and the school. Visits to the school are also warmly welcomed and encouraged. Please contact Karen McSparron, Head of School on 0191 2370629 to make an appointment.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. It is essential that all staff and volunteers share this commitment. An enhanced criminal records check from the Disclosure and Barring Service is required for all posts.

Interested in applying? A completed application form and criminal records declaration form must be submitted **by 12 noon Wednesday 14th April 2021 on by e-mail to [vacancies@svf.org.uk](mailto:vacancies@svf.org.uk) quoting Head of Mathematics.**

It is expected that shortlisting will take place on Thursday 15 April and interviews will be held on Tuesday 20 April. Please note that we will only notify shortlisted applicants.

Further information about all of our current vacancies is available at [www.svf.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.svf.org.uk/vacancies)

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL  
JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Post Title:</b> <b>Head of Faculty – Years 7-13</b>	<b>School:</b> Seaton Sluice Middle School
<b>Payscale:</b> Main/Upper Range + TLR 1.1 or TLR 2.3 as relevant	<b>Date:</b> September 2015
<b>Responsible to:</b> Identified member of SLT and to relevant Student Progress Leader/Assistant Headteacher – Student Support as a form tutor	<b>Responsible for:</b> SSMS Teaching Staff, SSMS Technicians (where relevant)
<p><b>Job Purpose:</b> To be accountable for the progress and attainment of students across the Faculty from Years 5-8 through effective leadership and management of the Faculty team. To be accountable for the progress and attainment of own classes of students through effective teaching and learning and consistent implementation of school policies and departmental guidelines.</p>	
<p><b>Duties and key result areas:</b></p> <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out the professional duties of a teacher as set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document. Carry out teaching duties in accordance with relevant policies, departmental guidelines, schemes of work and the National Curriculum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lead Teaching and Learning Responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead learning within a designated faculty for years 5 to 8 by developing and implementing assessment strategies, data analysis and appropriate intervention programmes to ensure that identified standards of learner achievement are met.</li> <li>Lead, develop and enhance the teaching practice of others through monitoring/evaluation and promoting improvement and feedback strategies to secure effective teaching and learning for learners.</li> <li>Lead, manage and develop one of the Faculties to provide programmes/activities that match pupil aspirations and potential and enable the attainment and progress of all pupils.</li> <li>Line manage a number of staff including the effective recruitment, appraisal and development of its members in order that the team's objectives are achieved and set/monitor a departmental budget plan to ensure available resources are utilised effectively within agreed financial constraints.</li> <li>Facilitate an ethos within the Faculty team which encourages staff to work collaboratively, share knowledge and understanding, celebrate achievements and accept accountability for outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Generic Teaching and Learning Responsibilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a purposeful and safe learning environment and manage learners' behaviour constructively by establishing and maintaining a clear and positive framework for discipline and a supportive culture in line with the agreed behaviour policy.</li> <li>Plan effectively in the short, medium- and long-term and prepare effective learning sequences, lessons and work across a series of lessons to ensure coverage of the curriculum and that the needs of all learners are met. Plan and prepare homework and other out of class work.</li> <li>Be aware of and apply a range of teaching and learning approaches which identify, build upon and develop pupil learning styles, and the ability to learn independently.</li> <li>Teach across a range of abilities and ages commensurate with the teacher's experience and skills.</li> <li>Assess, record and report on the development, progress and attendance of learners and analyse relevant data to promote the highest possible aspirations for learners and target expectations and actions to raise learners' achievements. Set accurate targets for pupil improvement and monitor progress towards these. Provide timely, accurate and constructively feedback on learners' attainment progress and areas for development.</li> </ul>	

- Liaise effectively with parents/carers through informative oral and written reports on pupils' progress and achievements according to the agreed assessment and reporting schedule. Discuss appropriate targets with parents/carers and encourage them to support their child's learning, behaviour and progress.
- Demonstrate ongoing development and application of teaching practice, expertise and subject competence to enrich the learning experience within and beyond the teacher's assigned classes or groups of learners.
- Attend continuous professional development activities when required to update knowledge of the National Curriculum, syllabus changes and national initiatives which impact upon teaching, pastoral and other responsibilities.
- Communicate effectively and work collaboratively within and beyond the classroom with support staff (including directing their day-to-day work and planning lessons), teachers, other professionals, parents, carers, agencies and communities, to enhance teaching and learning and promote the positive contribution and wellbeing of learners.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of priorities, policies and activities in order to enable school development plan priorities to be achieved.
- Promote and implement policies and practices that encourage mutual tolerance, respect for diversity and the core values of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools.
- Undertake the role of form tutor, if required to do so, and follow the guidance given by the Head of School, SLT and heads of year.
- Carry out supervisory duties before school, at break or after school as required.
- Attend department and other school meetings as required

**In addition, Upper Pay Range teachers are expected to:**

- Make significant contributions to implementing workplace policies and practice and to promote their implementation.
- Give advice on the development and wellbeing of children and young people, if required.
- Promote collaboration between colleagues and contribute to their professional development through coaching and mentoring, demonstrating effective practice, and providing advice and feedback.
- Make a significant contribution to school improvement planning and evaluation.

**Whole School Responsibilities**

- Promote the safeguarding and welfare of children and young persons the post holder is responsible for or comes into contact with. Be aware of school policies and other guidance on the safeguarding and promotion of wellbeing of children and young people. Take appropriate action where required.
- Ensure that whole school policies are effectively implemented including health and safety, equal opportunities, e-safety, confidentiality and data protection.

These schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. You are therefore under a duty to use the schools' procedures to report any concerns you may have regarding the safety or well-being of any child or young person.

The duties and responsibilities highlighted in this Job Description are indicative and may vary over time. Post holders are expected to undertake other duties and responsibilities relevant to the nature, level and extent of the post and the school: the pay level has been established on this basis.

**Work Arrangements**

Transport requirements:  
Working patterns:  
Working conditions:

None.  
As identified in the relevant School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document  
Normally based indoors other than teaching roles requiring significant work outdoors e.g. PE.



## PERSON SPECIFICATION

Post Title: Teacher		School: Seaton Sluice Middle School	
Essential	Desirable	Assess by	
Knowledge and Qualifications			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Qualified Teacher Status</li><li>• Honours degree in a relevant subject or equivalent</li><li>• Has good understanding of teaching/learning and behaviour management strategies</li><li>• Up-to-date knowledge of subject and curriculum requirements and examination/testing processes</li><li>• Evidence of relevant and ongoing professional development</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Honours degree in a relevant discipline, or equivalent</li><li>• Awareness of curriculum requirements at Key Stage 2</li></ul>	A, I, O, R	
Experience			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teaching of subject to pupils at Key Stages 3 (up to and including year 8)</li><li>• Experience of using ICT effectively to support learning and raise attainment/accelerate progress</li><li>• Demonstrable track records of improving pupil outcomes</li><li>• Proven track record of raising and sustaining achievement.</li><li>• Experience of effective leadership and management of a subject or curriculum area.</li><li>• Experience of leading and managing teaching and support staff.</li><li>• Experience of developing and delivering in-service training for staff.</li><li>• Experience of managing a departmental budget.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teaching of subject to pupils at Key Stage 2</li><li>• Experience as a form tutor and/or of pastoral work</li></ul>	A, I, R	
Skills and Competencies			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good or outstanding practitioner</li><li>• Consistently meets or exceeds the national Teachers’ Standards</li><li>• Has high expectations of pupils and is able to engage and motivate learners</li><li>• Able to set realistic and challenging pupil targets and accurately assess and review progress</li></ul>		A, I, O, R	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accepts accountability for pupil outcomes</li> <li>• Can plan, organise and manage own time effectively</li> <li>• Has positive values and attitudes in relation to self and others</li> <li>• Able to consistently implement school policies and follow departmental guidelines</li> <li>• Able to work collaboratively as a member of a team and willing to share good practice</li> <li>• Able to establish effective relationships with pupils, parents/carers, staff and external stakeholders</li> <li>• Able to safeguard children and young people</li> </ul>		
<b>Other</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has high expectations of self and others</li> <li>• Fully subscribes to the Vision, Values and Aims of the school and Federation.</li> <li>• Able to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</li> <li>• Has the motivation to work with children.</li> <li>• Able to form and maintain appropriate relationships and personal boundaries with children and young people.</li> <li>• Emotional resilience in working with challenging behaviours and attitudes to use of authority and maintaining discipline</li> </ul> <p>Willingness to be a form tutor and develop effective relationship with tutor group</p> <p>No adverse criminal record</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to support the development of performance amongst students at both schools.</li> </ul>	<b>A, I, R, C</b>

Key to assessment methods; (a) application form, (i) interview, (r) references, (t) ability tests (q) personality questionnaire (g) assessed group work, (p) presentation, (o) others e.g. observation, case studies/visits, (c) recruitment and vetting checks e.g. DBS criminal record check

## Working in the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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We always look to strengthen our highly dedicated team of staff with people who have high expectations of students and themselves, can work cooperatively and make a positive contribution to the life of the school. In return we can offer:

- opportunities for continuing professional development
- membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (for teachers and tutors) or the Local Government Pension Scheme (for support staff), which the school also contributes to on your behalf
- between 25 and 30 days' annual leave for support staff who work full year
- good transport connections from the A1 and A19 for easy access to Seaton Delaval and Seaton Sluice

## Living and working in Northumberland

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If you are new to the area, we can assure you that south east Northumberland is a great place to live and work. Seaton Sluice overlooks the coast with its beautiful sandy beaches and we have our own National Trust property, Seaton Delaval Hall. It is only a short drive from the Seaton Valley area to enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Cheviot and Simonside Hills and the Northumberland National Park beyond. We are also conveniently located within ten miles of both Newcastle City Centre and Newcastle Airport.



Take a look at [www.visitnorthumberland.com](http://www.visitnorthumberland.com) for more information.

## **Our commitment to professional development**

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We are committed to the continuing professional development of all of our staff.

- There is a weekly session for teachers to undertake Continuing Professional Development focused on teaching and learning. These sessions are led by internal and external providers and we expect all teachers to contribute to these sessions so that we can share and build upon good practice and innovative ideas.
- We hold joint training days for the three schools in the Seaton Valley Federation to facilitate an integrated approach across all phases and stages.
- Staff are given the opportunity to work in other schools at specific times of the school year to develop their skills and knowledge of other key stages.
- We provide opportunities for teaching staff to observe at least one other colleague of their choosing during the school year to support staff to reflect on their own practice.
- North-east teaching schools and Durham County Council provide a range of CPD opportunities so that we can learn from, and develop our professional practice with, other professionals.
- Each member of staff has a CPD plan to address areas for development identified through the annual appraisal process and we support staff to develop their skills and knowledge.
- There are many examples of how we have enabled teaching and support staff to undertake courses of further study either through financial assistance or time off.

## **Our commitment to equal opportunities**

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We seek to employ a workforce which reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. We understand and value the added contribution that individuals can make when we recognise and embrace individual differences in age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

Our recruitment and selection process is designed to be fair and avoid discrimination. Our Equality and Diversity in Employment Policy is available from:

[www.svf.org.uk/policies](http://www.svf.org.uk/policies)

## Our commitment to safeguarding children and young people

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Keeping our children and young people safe and secure is crucially important. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

It is important during the recruitment process that we ensure candidates support this commitment. We will ask all applicants to tell us in confidence about any criminal convictions they have and the successful candidate will also need to obtain an enhanced certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). This does not mean that you cannot work here if you have a criminal conviction as we will take into account factors such as the age of the conviction, its relevance to the job and any mitigating factors before making a decision.

However we are aware that not everyone who is a risk to children will have a criminal conviction and therefore you should expect at interview that we will explore any gaps in your employment record, your motivations for working with children and young people and your ability to keep them safe from harm. We will also check this information in any references we receive, one of which must be from your current or last employer.

## How to apply

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Please read the job description and person specification for the post and the application form guidance notes carefully before completing an application form.

Your completed application form including the names and contact details of two referees and your criminal record declaration form must be **e-mailed by 12 noon on Wednesday 14th April 2021** to: [vacancies@svf.org.uk](mailto:vacancies@svf.org.uk) . **Please ensure the subject/title of your e-mail is Head of Mathematics.** In exceptional cases we will accept applications by post however please contact us to discuss this in advance.

Please note that we do not accept CVs.

## Contact us

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Address: Seaton Sluice Middle School, Alston Grove, Seaton Sluice NE26 4JS  
Telephone: 0191 237 0629  
Website: [www.svf.org.uk](http://www.svf.org.uk)