



**Braithwaite CE Primary School**

Braithwaite  
Keswick  
Cumbria  
CA12 5TD

Telephone: 017687 78356

Fax: 017687 78206

Braithwaite CE Primary School is part of The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust  
(company number 934137)

Email [admin@braithwaite.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@braithwaite.cumbria.sch.uk)

Website [www.braithwaite.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.braithwaite.cumbria.sch.uk)

Dear enquirer,

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**FULL TIME HEAD OF SCHOOL POST**

Thank you for your interest in this post which is offered from September 2021; this is a permanent, full time post with a significant teaching commitment (approx. 0.7). It is a fantastic opportunity to join a dedicated team and take our caring, learning-centred school forward, building on our current strengths and successes to help our pupils learn and grow together to be the best that they can be.

The application pack includes a job profile and person specification, background information (overleaf), a leaflet about the school and an application form. Please complete the application form and return it to us by 10am on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, either by post or electronically to [admin@braithwaite.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@braithwaite.cumbria.sch.uk), including a letter (not exceeding 2 sides of A4) outlining how you meet the requirements of the job profile and person specification. You must use the most recent version of the Trust application form as in the application pack; CVs or other attachments / information will not be accepted.

We are planning on shortlisting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April with interviews planned for Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April; the details of this will be confirmed to shortlisted candidates but it is anticipated that there would be some 'on site' elements along with some use of technology; these dates and arrangements are subject to change in line with Covid-19 guidelines.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in its care and expects all staff to share this commitment. The school recognises that an important element in keeping children safe from harm is to ensure that unsuitable people do not have access to the school. The successful applicant will be appointed subject to an enhanced DBS check, excellent professional references, pre-employment ID and medical checks. The successful candidate will be expected to both lead and follow the school's policy for Child Protection (available from the school and on the school website). All disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria in the person specification will be interviewed. All applicants will be considered on the basis of suitability regardless of sex, race, gender, religion or belief, marital status or disability.

The successful candidate will have a teaching commitment which is likely to be mainly in Key Stage 2 but could also include teaching EYFS/Key Stage 1 pupils. This is a rare opportunity; vacancies do not come up at our school very often since our staff are happy working here and tend not to move elsewhere! The current post-holder is taking early retirement after more than 20 years working at the school. The school is an academy as part of the 'Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust'. The successful candidate's employment would be with the Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust although the terms and conditions would be comparable to Cumbria County Council. The Head of School will be well supported within the Trust as part of a collaborative group of leaders (including Heads of School, Headteachers and Executive Headteachers) and within the school by the Executive Headteacher (on site 2 days per week) and experienced staff team.

Please get in touch to find out more about this opportunity; we look forward to your application.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Laker  
Executive Headteacher

## **Context of the school**

### **Our Vision:**

We are a small family with big, caring hearts, striving to be the best we can be, treating each other with respect and, knowing God is always with us on our learning journey.

Braithwaite Primary School & Nursery is located within The Lake District National Park, in the village of Braithwaite (just west of Keswick along the A66) and our catchment area includes the villages of Braithwaite and Thornthwaite along with the Newlands valley. We also have a significant number of pupils who come to the school from out of the catchment area, particularly from Portinscale and the nearby town of Keswick. We currently have 40 pupils on roll (including 2 Nursery pupils); numbers have reduced over recent years and this is thought to be as a result of numerous factors including a high level of holiday accommodation in the village. The school was established in 1842 and has good links with the village and church community.

The school is spacious and in good condition, inside and outside. There are four classrooms, a large central hall, head's and secretary's offices, staff room, kitchen and a library, along with 2 small group rooms. We have two hard surfaced play areas, at the front and rear of the school; one is equipped as an early years outdoor area and the other opens out onto our large school field with play facilities and a further Forest Schools area which is used by each class for at least half a day per week. We have 2 teachers (plus Head of School) and 7 support staff. Mrs Jo Laker has been in post as Headteacher since 2007, but since September 2019 has been working at both Braithwaite and Dean Primary Schools as Executive Headteacher. The most recent OFSTED inspection (June 2018) judged our school as Good. We were expecting a SIAMS inspection this academic year but this has not taken place due to inspections being suspended.

One of the factors that makes our school special is that staff know the children so well and there is continuity throughout the school day and from year to year, so the same small team will care for children from 8am to 5:30pm, from age 3 to 11. We have a higher than average number of pupils with Special Educational Needs (including with Education Health and Care Plans) and these pupils tend to find the consistency and continuity that our small size allows particularly supportive. We work closely with Specialist Advisory Teachers, our Educational Psychologist, Speech Therapists and other professionals to ensure that our pupils with SEN are well supported and make the best progress possible. The emphasis on wellbeing and outdoor learning helps to nurture all our pupils and the 'building learning power' approach seeks to build confident and independent learners.

We offer a broad but rigorous curriculum to ensure children have good solid teaching alongside rich and memorable learning experiences through residential in the local area (usually to Bassenfell Manor Christian Centre), as well as further afield to Liverpool or London. In addition, we offer numerous educational visits, specialist teaching in Sport and Music and try to make the best of the area we live in by organising walks up Barrow and Catbells, visits to Whinlatter forest and opportunities for ghyll scrambling with local outdoor activity providers. We ensure we value each individual child and that our Christian ethos and vision pervades all areas of school life. We have strong links to St Herbert's Church, Braithwaite and work with various local clergy and church leaders. Our committed Local Governing Body plays an active role in the school's ongoing development and is supported in this by the Good Shepherd Trust through regular Headteacher meetings, support for the LGB and termly School Effectiveness Officer visits. This work is guided by the School Action Plan which forms the backbone of the school's strategy for continual improvement. There is a supportive 'Friends of Braithwaite School' group which has raised significant funds and provides a wide range of events and activities. We have taken an active part in national charity campaigns such as Toilet Twinning and Children in Need, as well as supporting local charities such as the Calvert Trust. We offer an extended day with 'Early Birds' from 8am, a fantastic range of after school clubs such as cookery, rugby, nature, film club, board games and gardening (to 4:20pm) with a further option to stay until 5:30pm if required.