



EARL STERNDALE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
EARL STERNDALE
BUXTON
DERBYSHIRE
SK17 0BS
Headteacher: Mr D Holden

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Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Earl Sterndale CofE Primary School, a 'unique' rural primary school nestled in the heart of the Peak District National Park and close to the beautiful spa town of Buxton.

We are a small school with an incredibly positive and happy school community and are proud of the welcoming family atmosphere throughout the school. We are also proud of the engaged, happy, motivated children and staff. The school has a strong, nurturing ethos based on Christian principles and strong partnerships between, staff, Governors, pupils, and parents. Our pupils are actively encouraged to be caring and considerate of each other and the older children act as positive role models for the infants. This can be evidenced in our school vision 'Making Good Decisions Together'.

We provide an excellent education across all sectors of the curriculum including a broad range of hands-on experiences for all of our children. We also pride ourselves on the variety of extra-curricular activities provided by the school and supported by our Fund Raising Committee.

Our current Headteacher will be retiring at the end of the school year. Under his leadership, the school has achieved ratings of 'Good' at the previous Ofsted inspections with the most recent being in December 2024 where we were deemed to have room for improvement. Initially our main focus will be towards achieving a more robust and precise curriculum across the mixed multiyear groups. We would like to work with the successful candidate who can mould and shape the future of the school, really putting their own stamp on the curriculum, without losing the ethos that makes the school what it is.

We are extremely fortunate to have a capable and motivated team of staff. They work well together, supporting each other and the Head by always going the extra mile to ensure that the children get the best possible opportunities and pastoral care whilst in school.

We are a supportive Governing body who actively engage with the school in a number of ways, such as helping with reading and numeracy in the classroom as well as assisting with setting the budget and promoting the school externally. The Governors are positive about the opportunity to appoint a new Headteacher and are looking forward to working in partnership with them to further develop and improve the school. As a body we will support

and challenge the candidate and are committed to their wellbeing and professional development.

The school has limited grounds and resources, featuring hard surfaced play area and an early years garden area but we make the most of our unique rural location and the recreation area across the road. We have locations around the village where we are able to implement our 'Forest Schools' programme. There are close links with the neighbouring church and its worshippers in both collective worship, seasonal performances and the broader life of the school.

We are looking for somebody special with the kind of warm enthusiasm that motivates and inspires people around them, a clear vision, and the ability to juggle the delivery of long-term goals whilst making sure that the day-to-day running of the school operates smoothly.

If, having read this letter, the letter from our children and the information enclosed with it, you think that you are the person to move the school forward we would be most interested to hear from you. The closing date for applications is 11th May 2025 and interviews will be conducted on 22nd & 23rd May 2025 with the hope that the applicant is ready to join the team at the beginning of the next school year.

We hope that you are interested in applying for the post of Headteacher and would highly recommend a preliminary visit to see for yourself our school and the family.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Paul Swindell
Chair of Governors