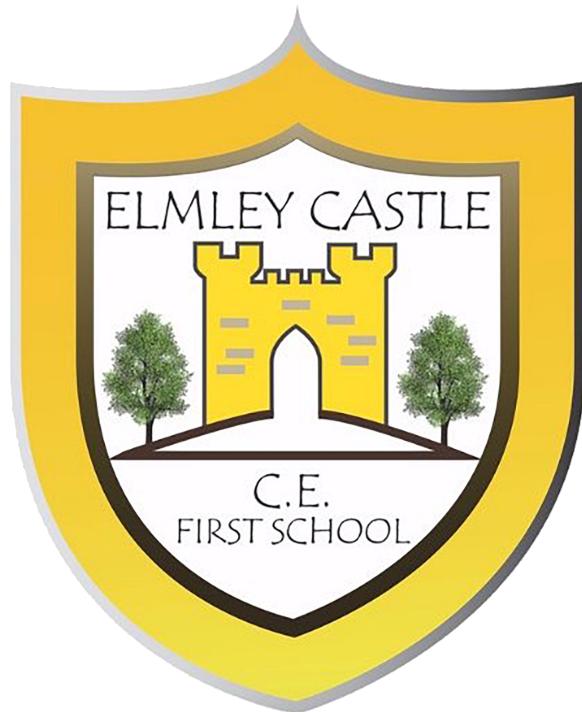


Elmley Castle C.E. First School



HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT PACK

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

The Governing Body at Elmley Castle C.E. First School are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Headteachers must ensure that the highest priority is given to following the Guidance and Regulations to safeguard children and young people. The successful candidate will be required to undergo an enhanced check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Candidate,

We are writing to you in our capacity as the Co-Chairs of Governors of Elmley Castle C.E. First School. Thank you for your interest in the Headteacher position. We hope you find this pack informative, and we look forward to receiving your application in due course. We are recruiting a Headteacher to succeed our current interim leadership team. The commencement date is set for 1st January 2027, although we will consider an earlier start date where appropriate.

We take great pride in our school and OFSTED (June 2022) continued to rate the school as 'Good' in all areas, stating "the school's [previous] vision of creating 'a little piece of heaven on earth' is reflected in all aspects of school life." When visiting in February 2025, Dame Harriet Baldwin MP described Elmley Castle First School as "buzzing" and "the smallest school in my patch and yet it has a giant reputation".

We are seeking to appoint a candidate who is innovative, able to work collaboratively with strategic direction whilst keeping the children, staff and community of Elmley Castle at the forefront of planning and delivery of education. We are seeking an applicant who can build on the school's many successes; someone who will continue to inspire, motivate and drive the strategic direction of Elmley Castle and its highly, committed and passionate staff team. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to providing inclusive education and actively uphold the Christian ethos of the school, consistently aligning with our recently updated vision and values as they are integrated throughout all facets of school life.

The Governing Body work closely with the school and are passionate about supporting the strategic planning and direction of Elmley Castle. They strive to ensure that the school leaders feel supported whilst maintaining the purpose and requirements of school Governance. We encourage you to visit the school website at www.elmleycastle.school.co.uk and where possible, we would love you to visit the school and see for yourself what a very special place it is; where children's minds are engaged, their curiosity encouraged, their potential unlocked, their imagination ignited, and their lives enhanced.

We look forward to receiving your application for the post of Headteacher at Elmley Castle C.E. First School.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Cornish & Emma Robinson

Co-Chair of Governors

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL: KEY INFORMATION

Elmley Castle C.E. First School is a happy, caring and supportive small village school, situated in the beautiful rural Cotswold village of Elmley Castle, sitting at the foot of the beautiful Bredon Hill, equidistant between the towns of Pershore and Evesham.

Our School caters for children aged from 3 to 10. We welcome children into our vibrant Preschool and then from Reception through to Year 5. We group our classes by year, combining Pre-school and Reception into Acorns, Years 1 and 2 into Oak Class, Years 3 and 4 into Apple Class, and Year 5 into Elm Class. The total number of students enrolled is just under 100.

The leadership team now includes the Executive Head and Head of School, who teaches 0.2. Previously, the structure had a Headteacher with a 0.3 teaching load and a Deputy Headteacher responsible for SENDco duties. The Staff Team consists of 4 Teachers, 1 teacher for PPA cover, Support Staff, 2 Administrative Support Staff, 1 pre-school Support Staff, 1 Lunchtime Supervisors and Wrap Around Care Staff. Some staff have many roles within this structure.

After Elmley Castle, most children attend Bredon Hill Middle School for years 6 to 8, then continue to Prince Henry's High School in Evesham for years 9 to 13.

Category	Information
Type of School	Maintained Voluntary Controlled Church of England First School
Number of pupils on roll	91
% of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium	7%
% of pupils with EAL	4%
% of pupils with SEND	15%
2024/25 EYFS GLD	86%
2024/25 Y1 Phonics Check	90%
Attendance EOY 2024/25	96.81%
Latest Ofsted Inspection Grade	Good
Latest SIAMs Inspection Grade	Excellent

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL: VISION AND VALUES

"Let Your Light Shine!"

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Matthew 5:14

"At Elmley Castle C of E First School, we believe that every child is a light in the world. We love one another, inspire growth, and serve our community with kindness. We embrace resilience, learning from our mistakes and growing stronger together. Each day, we strive to shine in all that we do, creating a safe and welcoming space where everyone can grow in faith, knowledge, and community. Together, we light the way for a brighter future, serving as beacons of hope and love to all."

BLISS

Believe in yourself

Love one another

Inspire greatness

Shine with kindness

Serve with a heart of compassion

Our Core Values:

THANKFULNESS, COMPASSION, RESPECT, FORGIVENESS, GENEROSITY AND PERSEVERANCE.

Local Links: St Mary's Church, Elmley Castle, Diocese of Worcester.

Our relationship with the churches in our local area is very strong; they provide regular worship sessions through 'Open The Book' and together we celebrate all-age services and important milestones in the church itself. It was over 150 years ago that the church saw the need for our school and they have enabled the school to become the heart of the community that it is today. Children attend St Mary's Church for Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter where parents, Governors and the community attend.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL: INSPECTIONS

OFSTED 2022

Ofsted inspected Elmley Castle C.E First School in June 2022 and have rated the school 'Good' in all areas.

Some highlights from the report are:

- Pupils welcome visitors and treat each other with kindness and respect
- Pupils are happy and excited to be at school. They talk with great pride about their positive relationships with their friends and teachers
- Staff enjoy working at the school, they are positive about their experiences at work. Morale is high and staff support one another.
- Teachers have high expectations for every child. They are ambitious for pupils to succeed in their learning as well as their personal development.
- Leaders have high aspirations for pupils. They ensure that the school provides a broad and well-rounded education for all.

SIAMS 2022

Our SIAMS inspection was carried out in March 2022 and rated the school 'Excellent':

"Elmley Castle CE First School is flourishing. This is because, through inspirational leadership, the vision is deeply embedded and intrinsic to all they do. It is lived and breathed each day through their relationships with one another and their outward facing approach to preparing pupils to live in the modern world."

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

OUTDOOR LEARNING AND FOREST SCHOOL

We are very proud of our amazing Forest School area and outside environment – and the fabulous opportunities this allows for our children. All children take part in Forest School, the philosophy of Forest School is to inspire and encourage individuals through positive outdoor experiences. By participating in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks and activities in a woodland environment each child has an opportunity to be intrinsically motivated and to develop sound emotional and social skills.

Children have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and how to use their own initiative to solve problems in cooperation with others.

Children regularly use the grounds to enhance their curriculum and support their personal development.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our unique curriculum has many opportunities to enrich the pupils' experiences and enhance their learning.

"Teachers are ambitious for pupils to succeed in their learning as well as their personal development." OFSTED 2022

PTFA

The Parent, Teachers and Friends Association at Elmley Castle are a supportive association that plans events throughout the school year. Events are well supported by the school, parents and wider community.

The PTFA have funded and purchased many projects and items for school. The PTFA have also contributed to out of school visits and for special guests to come into school to enrich the children's education.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Headteacher

Salary: Leadership Point L6 – L12

Responsible to: The Governing Body, Local Authority and Diocese

Responsible for: All staff, volunteers and children within the school

Starting date: 1st January 2027 or earlier where appropriate.

The headteacher embodies and inspires the ethos and culture of the school, securing their vision with all the members of the school community. The headteacher establishes and ensures a safe and secure environment for learning and teaching that empowers both staff and children to achieve their highest individual potential whilst giving due regard to teaching, leadership and management needs of the school. The headteacher will fully understand the current legal requirements, local and national policies and guidance on safeguarding and the promotion of the wellbeing of children and will ensure that all requirements are met.

General Duties and Responsibilities:

To carry out the duties of the headteacher as set out in the current School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document and aspire to fulfil the National Headteacher Standards (2020). These standards are built upon The Teaching Standards (2011) which apply to all teachers, including headteachers. To be Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The appointment is subject to the current conditions of employment of headteachers, contained in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions document and other current educational and employment legislation and guidance, including that of the Department for Education. In carrying out their duties, the headteacher shall consult, where appropriate, with the Local Authority, the Diocese, the governing body, the staff of the school, its pupils and the parents of its pupils.

This job description may be amended at any time following consultation between the headteacher and Governing Body. This document should be reviewed regularly, in line with the National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers, changes to the STPCD and through appraisal procedures. Shortlisted candidates will be subject to a social media check and references will be obtained prior to invitation to interview.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

To work with the Governing Body, staff, and other stakeholders to uphold a shared vision and strategic plan for the school development. Our vision expresses core educational values and moral purpose and is inclusive of stakeholders' values and beliefs. The strategic planning process is critical to sustaining school improvement and ensuring that the school moves forward for the benefit of its pupils, providing a world class education for pupils it serves.

Oversee the implementation of a newly developed curriculum and monitor its impact.

Understand the new Ofsted framework.

Ensure the clear articulation of Christian values for the school; that this is shared, understood and acted upon effectively by all.

Work within the school community including the Diocese to translate the vision into agreed objectives and operational plans, which will promote and sustain school improvement.

Demonstrate the distinctive vision and values in everyday work and practice in order to develop a shared culture and positive climate.

Ensure creativity, innovation and contemporary educational thinking to achieve excellence.

Ensure that the strategic planning takes into account the diversity, values and experience of the school and community at large whilst maintaining the distinctive caring ethos of the school.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

2. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The headteacher will provide effective organisation, leadership and management of the school and seek ways of improving organisational structures and functions based on rigorous self-evaluation. The headteacher will ensure that the school and the people and resources within it are organised, led and managed to provide an efficient, effective and safe learning environment. These leadership responsibilities are to include the monitoring of the roles and responsibilities of those adults working in the school ensuring a happy workforce where roles are clearly identified and are mutually beneficial. The headteacher will ensure that resources are deployed to achieve value for money and should also seek to build successful organisations through effective collaborations with others.

Create and maintain an organisational structure which reflects the school's values and enables the leadership systems, structures and processes to work effectively in line with legal requirements. Produce and implement clear, evidence-based improvement plans and policies for the development of the school and its facilities.

Ensure that, within an autonomous culture, policies and practices take account of the Diocesan, national and local circumstances, policies and initiatives.

Manage the school's financial and human resources effectively and efficiently to achieve the school's educational goals and initiatives, receiving training where necessary to ensure a sound understanding of educational budgets and rigorous financial management.

Recruit, retain and deploy staff appropriately and manage their workload to achieve the visions and goals of the school.

Establish rigorous, fair and transparent systems and measures for managing performance of all staff, addressing any underperformance, supporting staff to improve and valuing and sharing excellent practice.

Manage and organise the school environment efficiently and effectively to ensure that it meets the needs of the curriculum and health and safety regulations.

Ensure that the range, quality and use of all available resources is monitored, evaluated and reviewed to improve the quality of education for all pupils and provide value for money.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

3. THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

To hold central responsibility for raising the quality of learning and teaching, and for pupil achievement. This includes monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of learning outcomes as well as setting high expectations. A successful learning culture will enable pupils to become effective, enthusiastic, independent learners, committed to life-long learning. The headteacher will do this by:

- Ensuring a consistent and continuous school-wide focus on pupil achievement, using data and benchmarks to monitor progress of every child's learning.
- Ensuring a culture and ethos that challenges and supports, so that all pupils can make good progress, achieve success and take ownership of their own learning.
- Demonstrating ambitious standards for all pupils.
- Ensuring all learners receive appropriate challenge and support appropriate to their needs.
- Challenging underperformance at all levels and ensure effective appropriate action and follow-up.
- Establish creative, responsive and effective approaches to learning and teaching.
- Determining, organising and implementing a diverse and flexible curriculum and ensuring a continuous effective assessment framework.
- Ensuring that learning is at the centre of strategic planning and resource management.
- Implementing strategies which secure high standards of behaviour and attendance within the ethos of a Church school.
- Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing classroom practice and promote improvement strategies where necessary.
- Leading by example, and teaching when and where required to do so.
- Taking a strategic role incorporating new and emerging technologies (which have proven benefit) to enhance and extend the learning experience of pupils.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

4. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPING OTHERS

Effective headteachers manage themselves and their relationships with others well; building and supporting a professional learning community that helps others to achieve.

Through performance management and continuing professional development (CPD), the headteacher will support staff to achieve high standards.

To manage the complexity of a school environment, be committed to their own continuing professional development, including distinctive training and development as appropriate for Church school leadership.

Always treat people fairly, equitably and with dignity and respect, to create and maintain a positive school culture.

Commitment to uphold the 7 principles of public life (the [Nolan principles](#)) at all times.

Build a collaborative learning culture within the school and actively engage with other schools to build effective learning communities.

Instil a strong sense of accountability in staff for the impact of their work on pupils' outcomes.

Develop and maintain effective strategies and procedures for staff induction, professional development and appraisal.

Acknowledge the responsibilities and celebrate the achievement of individuals and teams.

Ensure effective planning, allocation, support and evaluation of work undertaken by teams and individuals, ensuring clear delegation of tasks and devolution of responsibilities.

Develop and maintain a culture of high expectations for self and for others and take appropriate action when performance is unsatisfactory.

Regularly review own practice, set personal targets and take responsibility for own personal development.

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

Continue to build on the development of Courageous Advocacy.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

5. VISION, ETHOS AND COMMUNITY

Schools exist in a distinctive social context, which has a direct impact on what happens inside the school. The headteacher is committed to engaging with the internal and external school community to secure equity and entitlement. They will collaborate with other schools in order to share expertise and bring positive benefits to their own and other schools. They should work collaboratively at both strategic and operational levels with parents and carers and across multiple agencies for the well-being of all children. The headteacher shares responsibility for leadership of the wider educational system and should be aware that school improvement and community development are interdependent.

To continue and develop the school ethos, culture and curriculum which takes account of the richness and diversity of the school's communities, whilst maintaining the distinctive nature of the school.

Ensure learning experiences for pupils are linked into and integrated with the wider community, including the Church community.

Ensure a range of community-based learning experiences, building on links with the Church and the Diocese of Worcester.

Create and maintain an effective partnership with parents and carers to support and improve pupils' achievement and personal development.

Seek opportunities to invite parents and carers, community figures, businesses or other organisations into the school to enhance and enrich the school and its values within the wider community.

Contribute to the development of the education system by, for example, sharing effective practice, working in partnership with other schools and promoting innovative initiatives.

Collaborate with other agencies in providing for the academic, spiritual, moral, social, emotional and cultural well-being of pupils and their families.

Co-operate and work with relevant agencies to protect children.

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

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

6. SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND SAFER RECRUITMENT

Elmley Castle C.E. First School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Headteacher will be the Designated Safeguarding Lead. They are expected to demonstrate this commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. They will be expected to hold all staff, volunteers and governors accountable for their contribution to safeguarding regulations. Specifically:

- To ensure any policies and procedures adopted by the Governing Body are fully implemented and followed by all staff.
- Sufficient resources and time are allocated to enable a designated person, deputies and other staff to discharge their responsibilities, including taking part in strategy discussions and other inter-agency meetings and contributing to the assessment of children.
- Ensure compliance with statutory "Keeping Children Safe in Education" requirements.
- Ensure compliance with Prevent duty guidance.
- Ensure staff and volunteers feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice in regard to children and such concerns are addressed sensitively and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with agreed whistle-blowing practices.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

7. WORKING WITH GOVERNORS AND WIDER STAKEHOLDERS

Schools exist in a distinctive social context, which has a direct impact on what happens inside the school. The headteacher is committed to engaging with the Governors and wider school community to secure equity and entitlement. They will collaborate with other schools in order to share expertise and bring positive benefits to their own and other schools. They should work collaboratively at both strategic and operational levels with parents and carers and across multiple agencies for the well-being of all children.

The headteacher shares responsibility for leadership of the wider educational system and should be aware that school improvement and community development are interdependent.

Continue to develop the school ethos, culture and curriculum which takes account of the richness and diversity of the school's communities, whilst maintaining the distinctive nature of the school and preschool.

Ensure learning experiences for pupils are linked into and integrated with the wider community, including the Church community.

Ensure a range of community-based learning experiences, building on links with the Church and the Diocese of Worcester.

Create and maintain an effective partnership with parents and carers to support and improve pupils' achievement and personal development.

Seek opportunities to invite parents and carers, community figures, businesses or other organisations into the school to enhance and enrich the school and its values within the wider community.

Contribute to the development of the education system by, for example, sharing effective practice, working in partnership with other schools and promoting innovative initiatives.

Collaborate with other agencies in providing for the academic, spiritual, moral, social, emotional and cultural well-being of pupils and their families.

Co-operate and work with relevant agencies to protect children.

Promote positive strategies for challenging racial and other prejudices.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Please see below the qualities we are looking for in our new headteacher. Evidence for these will be gathered from the application (A), during the interview (I) and from tasks undertaken on the day of interview (T). Each is categorised as essential (E) or desirable (D).

	E	D	Evidence
QUALIFICATIONS			
QTS with degree level education or equivalent			A
Commitment to own continuing professional development in school leadership and management			A
National Professional Qualification for Headteachers			A
SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE			
Having been a successful Senior Leader in an education setting			A I
Have high organisational skills appropriate to both the daily running and strategic development of the school.			A I T
Experience of leading development, encouraging innovation and supporting others to this end.			A I
Demonstrable ability to analyse pupil attainment and progression data, and to use this to improve standards of learning and teaching.			A I T
Having held the position of headteacher in primary education.			A I
STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND DEVELOPMENT			
Ability to develop, communicate and implement a coherent and robust vision for the school in consultation with stakeholders.			I
Ability to guide, motivate, inspire and challenge others to achieve agreed aims.			A I
Experience of school self-evaluation, improvement, monitoring and planning			A I T
GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE			
Ability to work with the Governing Body and an understanding of its statutory duties.			I
Commitment to being transparent and accountable to parents, governors, external bodies and the local community.			I
Experience of financial planning and budget management			A I

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Ability to lead, inspire and develop the talents and abilities of staff		A I
Effective communication skills for a range of audiences		A I T
Evidence of make a key contribution to school improvement		A I
Ability to demonstrate innovative approaches to school improvement, leadership and governance.		A I

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

A highly effective teacher with proven strong teaching in the primary classroom.		A I
Experience of setting and achieving challenging goals for children of all abilities		A I
Experience of analysing pupil performance data to improve learning and teaching outcomes		A I T
Experience of delivering the National Curriculum and related assessment materials		A I
Ability to challenge underperformance in teaching outcomes and support improvements		I
Commitment to a curriculum that is balanced, creative; one that motivates the interests of all children.		A I

SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF PUPILS

Experience of and total commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of pupils.		A I
Ability to support an environment which encompasses all aspects of safety and wellbeing		A I

WORKING WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Commitment and ability to work in partnership with parents		A I
Commitment and ability to work in partnership with the local church and community organisations.		A I

PERSONAL QUALITIES

A clear enthusiasm for and love of learning		A I
Passionate about ensuring each and every child flourishes		A I
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills working with a range of audiences		A I

A positive, proactive mindset with the ability to deal with challenging circumstances and issues		A I T
To have high expectations of all children, regardless of starting points or barriers to learning		A T

VALUES, ETHOS AND COMMITMENT

A commitment to the Christian ethos and values of the school and its close link to the Parish Church.		A I T
An understanding and sympathy with the Church of England, and with those with other faiths or none.		A I T
A commitment to the highest educational and personal achievement of every child.		A I
An understanding of the headteacher's position as role model for both staff and pupils		A I
Commitment to inclusion and equal opportunities for all staff and pupils		A I

VISITS TO THE SCHOOL, INTERVIEWS AND SALARY

School visits are strongly encouraged. Please call 01386 710279 to book a slot on one of the dates: Tuesday 24th February 2026 or Tuesday 3rd March 2026.

The deadline for applications is **12 Noon on Monday 9th March 2026**. All applications must be made on the Worcestershire County Council application form. CVs will not be accepted.

Applications must be sent to office@elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk.

Shortlisting will take place on Tuesday 10th March 2026.

Successful candidates being invited to interview on Tuesday 17th March 2026.

The successful candidate would be expected to take up the post in January 2027 at the start of the Spring Term. We will consider an earlier start where appropriate.

The pay scale for this post is L6- L12 dependent on experience and qualifications.

All applicants will be subject to a full Disclosure and Barring Service check before appointment is confirmed.

SAFEGUARDING

"Elmley Castle is an equal opportunities employer and we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share these values".

CONTACT DETAILS

Office Administrator: Mrs Kirsty Hay

Elmley Castle C.E. First School

Main Street, Elmley Castle

Worcestershire, WR10 3HS

Telephone: 01386 710279

Website: www.elmleycastleschool.co.uk

To request an application form, please email: office@elmleycastle.worcs.sch.uk