



The best we can be

# Fylde Coast Academy Trust are appointing a Headteacher at Mereside Primary Academy



To apply scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://www.fcat.org.uk/job-vacancies>



- Welcome to our Trust
- Our FCAT Community
- About Mereside Primary Academy
- About the Role
- Why choose FCAT?
- Our Work and Wellbeing Charter
- How to Apply and More Information



Fylde Coast Academy Trust (FCAT) was established in 2012. Our trust aims to provide the best learning opportunities for young people across the Fylde Coast and across Lancashire. The trust is a team of 10 primary, secondary and all through schools who work alongside our central services and school improvement teams.

Staff development is one of our key priorities. We want colleagues to thrive and enjoy their roles, form strong foundations in their expertise and knowledge to support further development in their career.

As a school trust we work in partnership across our schools, local authorities, voluntary agencies, other trusts and schools to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, which is critical to our culture of learning and development - so that we can best meet the needs of pupils and the families we serve.

Our values of excellence, integrity and resilience guide our approach with pupils and colleagues. Pupils are at the heart of all our decisions and their outcomes and successes are what drive us.

Dean Logan  
CEO



Each of our schools has its own distinct identity, though we all share common goals and priorities. This is effective because we operate with high levels of cultural autonomy and mutual accountability.

Our schools encompass a diverse range of communities. For example, Garstang Community Academy serves a semi-rural area with a strong sense of local identity. Situated amidst picturesque countryside, Garstang offers a charming market town atmosphere with excellent local amenities.

In contrast, Hambleton, another school within the trust, provides outstanding education to pupils in a more rural setting. This offers a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of the Lancashire countryside whilst contributing to the education of young people in a different community environment.

This diversity within the trust provides a rich and rewarding experience for colleagues, allowing them to contribute to the success of schools serving different communities and gain valuable insights into the varied needs and aspirations of young people across the region.

More generally, the region itself encompasses a coastal area of Lancashire, including towns and villages along the Irish Sea. Towns within the region include Blackpool, Fleetwood, and Lytham St Annes. Each location serves a diverse population with varying socioeconomic backgrounds and cultural heritages. Blackpool, known for its tourism industry, significantly impacts the local economy and community dynamics.

Blackpool is a vibrant and diverse town, offering a unique blend of urban and coastal living. Our trust operates several schools across the borough, each serving distinct communities. Armfield and Mereside academies, located in the south of the town, cater to a diverse pupil population. Gateway Academy, situated centrally, serves a vibrant and growing community, reflecting the town's diverse cultural tapestry. In the north of Blackpool, Aspire, Westminster, Westcliff, Unity and Montgomery Academies each serve unique communities despite their proximity to each other. Each school offers distinct learning environments in response to pupils' needs. We have high aspirations of young people and have developed bespoke curriculums such as the curiosity approach and compass curriculum to meet need and raise expectations.



Mereside Primary Academy caters for children aged 2-11 in a large, modern building located in spacious grounds. Located just off the M55 junction 4 with connections to the M6 north and south, the school is easily commutable from across the North West.

As a school we seek to provide an all-round education for children in a calm and nurturing environment. We have the highest expectations of pupil attainment, teacher performance and parental involvement. We encourage all pupils to strive for excellence in order to achieve their potential.

We pride ourselves in knowing our children incredibly well and use this knowledge to motivate, encourage and care for them throughout their time at our school. Children here are at the heart of all we do and we continually strive to help each child find their strengths and talents so that they will flourish and be challenged. "The school is ambitious for pupils to achieve well" (Ofsted July 2024)

At Mereside, our mission is 'Learning Together, Achieving Together' which demonstrates our commitment with pupils, parents, staff, governors and the local community to nurture a culture of lifelong learning for all. Our children have access to creative, sporting, musical and cultural opportunities with a variety of extra-curricular activities. "This school is central to the local community that it serves. Pupils are happy and enjoy coming to school...pupils trust their teachers to care for them, including when they need comfort or reassurance" (Ofsted July 2024)

Our school values are driven through our Mereside Way which both children and staff live by: 'Be kind, Be safe, Be ready' This is further supported by our very strong pastoral team who ensure that the care, guidance and support our children receive is second to none and enables all children to be ready for their next stage of education. "Pupil behave well during lessons and around school. Staff encourage them to behave sensibly and to treat others with respect...pupils' behaviour is addressed sensitively and effectively" (Ofsted July 2024)

**If you would like to arrange a visit, please contact Sarah Bamber, FCAT Director of Primary at [sarah.bamber@fcatschools.org.uk](mailto:sarah.bamber@fcatschools.org.uk)**





As the Headteacher you will be the driving force behind the school's development and success. Your role will be to inspire, innovate and lead with a clear vision. You will be responsible for setting the strategic direction of the school, ensuring an ambitious and engaging curriculum so that every pupil has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. Fostering a culture of continuous improvement and providing unwavering support to the talented and dedicated team of teachers and support staff. You will be the champion of the school's mission and values, ensuring they are at the heart of everything you do, from the classroom practices to the community engagement.

Your leadership will be both hands-on and strategic. You may start the day greeting pupils and families so as to build positive relationships and set a positive tone for the day. You'll spend time in classrooms, engaged in teaching and learning to ensure high quality teaching and learning is taking place. A significant part of your role will involve developing the school strategically, leading professional development plans and collaborating with the governing body and Trust to make key decisions. You will also be the main point of contact for stakeholders, celebrating our successes and addressing any challenges. This role is a great opportunity to shape the future of Mereside Academy, providing a nurturing and stimulating environment where both pupils and staff can flourish.

In addition, as a Headteacher working within our trust you will be part of a supportive leadership group of 10 headteachers and have direct support from the Director of Primary Education. You'll be joining an experienced and dedicated team, you won't be on your own especially when difficult decisions need to be made, ensuring you have access to a range of expertise and experience when you need it.

Our central team provides expert support operationally and strategically in School Improvement, HR, Finance, Governance, Estates, Marketing and Communication, IT. We're here to help you deliver school improvement.

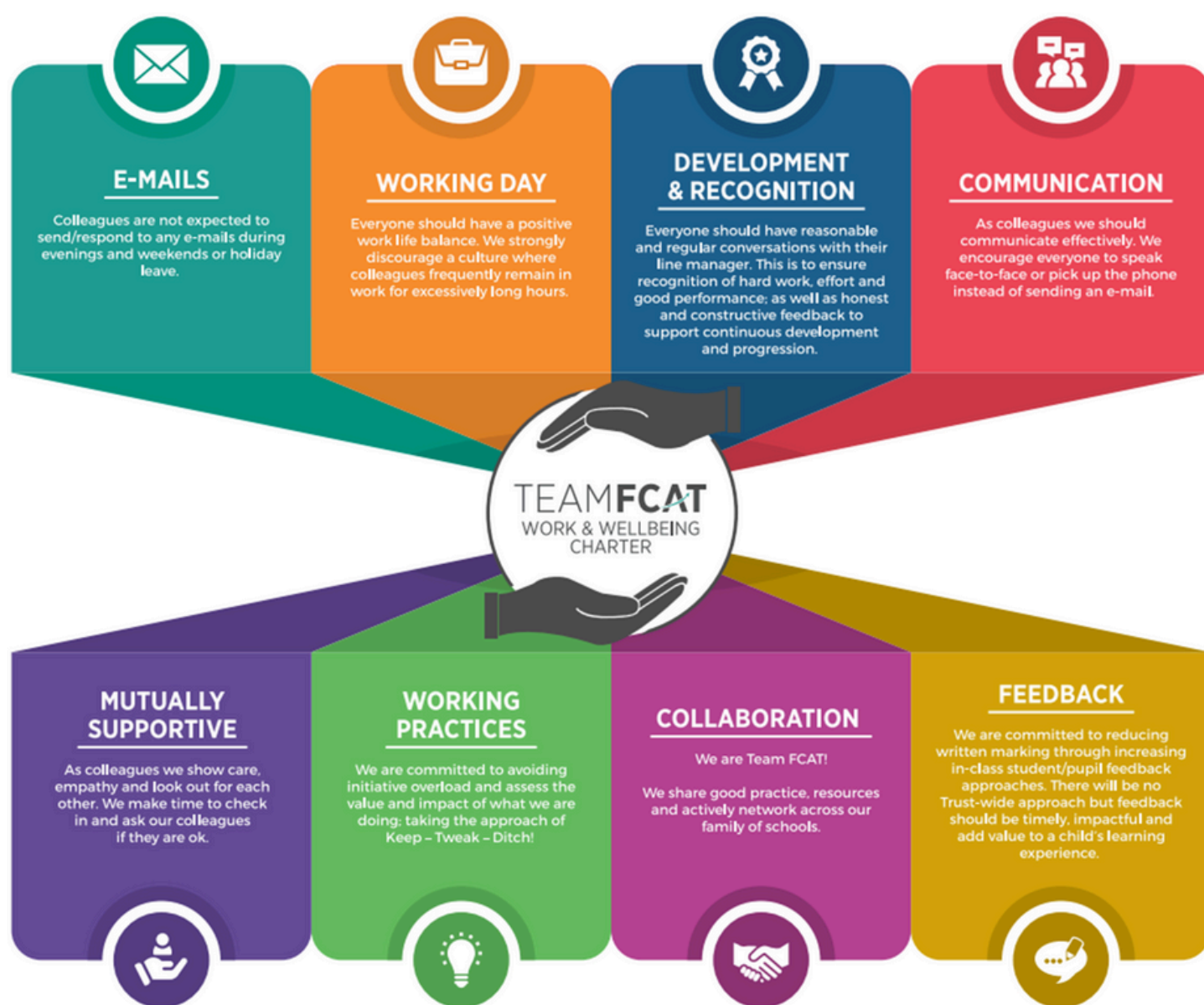
We believe in an Outward Mindset Culture - by seeing others' needs, goals and wellbeing as we see our own, we are better able to support each others' success. Understanding our impact on others is a key aspect of this role.

Ongoing development and support - you will have the opportunity to work with a leadership coach to develop your leadership expertise and support your wellbeing.



- ✓ A supportive, friendly and welcoming team
- ✓ Leadership Development support opportunities including: Developing and Implementing an Outward Mindset, leadership coaching, NPQ
- ✓ Automatic annual pay progression for all teachers
- ✓ **New** - 25% discount for FCAT in house Breakfast and After School Club provisions
- ✓ 24/7 access to free health support services via Smartclinic including physiotherapy, online GP, counselling, CBT and much more.
- ✓ Cycle to work scheme
- ✓ Free annual flu vaccine
- ✓ Blackpool Council travel 10% discount
- ✓ Childcare voucher scheme
- ✓ Free eye tests
- ✓ Membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)
- ✓ Supportive parental leave and flexible working schemes

A few years ago, our work and wellbeing staff group created our Team FCAT Work and Wellbeing Charter. This encourages and reminds us all to think about how we can help and support each other every day to improve our working practices, wellbeing and work-life balance.





Scan the QR code to apply or visit  
[www.fcat.org.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.fcat.org.uk/job-vacancies)



Closing time and date for applications is 9am on  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025


Interview and Assessment date will be Friday 26/9/25 or  
Monday 29/9/25

For any questions regarding this vacancy or for an  
informal conversation with Sarah Bamber, FCAT  
Director of Primary Education; please use the following  
contact details:

## CONTACT US

@ sarah.bamber@fcat.org.uk

 [www.fcat.org.uk](http://www.fcat.org.uk)

 01253 207709

The Fylde Coast Academy Trust is committed to equality of opportunity for all. Fylde Coast Academy Trust is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all learners, staff and visitors. All staff will be carefully selected using recruitment and selection procedures designed to emphasise our commitment to safeguarding. All posts, including volunteers, are subject to enhanced DBS clearance.

