

Old Heath Community Primary School



Appointment of Headteacher

Information for Candidates



Essex County Council



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Appointment of Headteacher

School	Old Heath Community Primary School
Telephone	01206 794334
Website	www.oldheath.com
School Group Size	Group 2 NOR 210
Salary Range	L15 – L21 £73,105 - £84,699
Start Date	01 September 2026

Selection Arrangements - The Process

Thank you for your interest in the post of Headteacher at Old Heath Community Primary School.

Please apply for this post on-line. You can access the website from any device, complete and save your application in full confidence that it cannot be seen or accessed until you finish your application form and press the 'Apply' button.

When you apply on-line the school's Recruitment Team will be sent an email automatically and you will receive an email via the system confirming that your application has been received.

Applying on-line is straightforward:

- Click [here](#) to register and create a profile
- When you have created your profile, please click the 'Apply' button at the foot of the online advertisement and complete your details.

Prior to appointment, the successful candidate will need Occupational Health medical clearance which will be arranged by the school.

A childcare disqualification form and a SD2 criminal convictions will need to be completed and returned to us at the shortlisting stage and these forms will be provided.

As part of the shortlisting process the school will be carrying out an online search using a simple search engine as part of their due diligence on the shortlisted candidates.

We look forward to receiving your application; please do not hesitate to contact Liz Whitelock on 03330130777 if you have any queries.

Closing date: Monday 19th January 2026

Shortlisting: Wednesday 21st January 2026

Interview date: Thursday 5th February 2026

Please be aware that as the applicant you are responsible for ensuring that your application reaches us before the stated closing date, as late applications may not be accepted.

Referees

In order to comply with the guidance on safer recruitment, you are requested to provide referees in line with the following guidance:

- Existing Headteachers or Acting Headteachers currently employed in a community or voluntary controlled school are required to provide:
 - One reference from the Chair of Governors of their current school
 - One reference from the Authority
 - One reference from their previous employer if employed by them within the last 5 years.
- Existing Headteachers or Acting Headteachers currently employed in an academy, foundation or voluntary aided school are required to provide:
 - One reference from the Chair of Governors/Chair of Trustees of their current school
 - One reference from their previous employer if employed by them within the last 5 years, otherwise one from another professional.
- Existing Deputy Headteachers and others currently employed in any school or academy, are required to provide:
 - One reference from their current headteacher
 - One reference from their previous employer if employed by them within the last 5 years, otherwise one from another professional.





Old Heath Community Primary School,
Old Heath Road,
Colchester,
Essex
CO2 8DD
Telephone: 01206 794334
Email: office@oldheath.essex.sch.uk

Dear Candidate,

November 2025

Thank you for your interest in becoming the new leader of the Old Heath School family and community. We sincerely hope that you will find both our person specification and the information available on our website valuable as you learn more about the role and about Old Heath Community Primary School.

During our most recent OFSTED inspection in December 2021, Old Heath School was described as a **“happy, hard-working school community.”** The inspection reaffirmed our commitment to maintaining high standards across all aspects of school life, and we are proud to have retained our “good” grading. This recognition reflects the positive atmosphere, dedication, and effort demonstrated by both our children and staff.

At Old Heath School, we take great pride in fostering strong, respectful and caring relationships throughout our entire school community. Our children are known for being happy, polite and hardworking, and they are supported by a team of staff who are not only talented and enthusiastic, but also highly experienced and deeply committed to the well-being and success of every child. The school motto, 'Tell the truth & show respect, think of others & try our best', is evident in everything we do. This ethos can be felt as you walk around the school, where the positive atmosphere created by both children and staff is clear to see. I warmly encourage prospective applicants to visit Old Heath School to witness first-hand the vibrant and supportive environment that our pupils and staff create each day.

We are an inclusive school. Welcoming children from a broad spectrum of backgrounds, cultures, and individual needs. Our commitment is to ensure that every child receives the support and encouragement they require to reach their full potential. From the very outset, our strong Early Years practice lays the foundation for each child's educational journey. We offer a creative and engaging curriculum that is specifically designed to nurture confidence in key areas such as reading, writing, and mathematics.

We firmly believe that the well-being of both children and staff is central to the learning process. By prioritising well-being, we create a positive and supportive atmosphere that benefits every member of our school community. This commitment will continue to underpin all that we do, ensuring that the well-being of all stakeholders remains at the heart of Old Heath School's ethos going forward.

Our dedicated and effective board of governors is seeking to appoint a visible and approachable Headteacher with clear and consistent leadership skills. The ideal candidate will be able to build upon the school's teaching and learning achievements, ensuring continued progress and development.

If you want to be part of the happy and hard-working community at Old Heath school. Please contact the School Business Manager, Tamora Flowers on 01206 794334 to arrange a visit. I would also encourage you to explore the Old Heath School Association pictures on our website as a window into our school community.

Thank you again for your interest in our school. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Emilie Askew
Chair of Governors
Old Heath Community Primary School

Our Vision Statement

Our children have all sorts of dreams and ideas about their future. As a school community we want to help every child on their path to their future.

Our children believe...

We want to be kind-hearted, patient, trust-worthy and have a sense of humour!

We understand the importance of equality, including others and being included ourselves.

We want to feel safe and protected and for others to feel the same too. Treating others as we would expect to be treated.

We need to be hard working to learn and be proud of our achievements, working together to have fun and always trying our best!

To make sure that we are bold in speaking up for ourselves but that we can also listen to others and their ideas and opinions.

We need to develop our capability to persevere with challenges and be resilient.

Be creative and learn from our mistakes. Take a risk, have a go and be adventurous!

Throughout our school years and into our futures we want to be brave, confident, determined and to be positive about our amazing selves!



Old Heath Community Primary School Headteacher Job Description

Core Purpose

The Headteacher will be responsible for the internal organisation, management and control of the school in accordance with applicable legislation, the policies of the governing body (including its annual budget) and the instrument and articles of governance of the school.

The Headteacher, working with the governing body, senior leadership team and School staff, will provide overall strategic leadership for the school. The Headteacher will:

- lead, develop and support the direction, vision, values and priorities of the school
- develop, implement and evaluate the school's policies, practices and procedures
- lead and manage teaching and learning throughout the school
- ensure accurate School self-evaluation to inform School improvement planning
- have overall responsibility and accountability for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils within the school.

The job description should be read in conjunction with the contractual requirements and responsibilities of headteachers set out in the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document.

Principal Accountabilities:

Safeguarding

Fulfil personal responsibilities, and secure compliance by those working in school, for safeguarding as set out in the Children's Act, Statutory Guidance and by the Local Children's Safeguarding Board. These include:

- Operating a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, both in individual decisions and the development of services,
- Operating clear whistleblowing procedures,
- Sharing information, with other professionals
- Assigning a designated professional lead for safeguarding / take responsibility as the designated professional lead for Safeguarding
- Operating safe recruitment practices
- Ensuring appropriate supervision and support for staff, including undertaking Induction, safeguarding training and reviews of practice
- Establish, operate and monitor clear policies for dealing with allegations against people who work with children.

Qualities and Knowledge

1. Hold and articulate clear values and moral purpose, focused on providing a world-class education for the pupils they serve.
2. Demonstrate optimistic personal behaviour, positive relationships and attitudes towards their pupils and staff, and towards parents, governors and members of the local community.
3. Lead by example - with integrity, creativity, resilience, and clarity - drawing on their own scholarship, expertise and skills, and that of those around them.
4. Sustain wide, current knowledge and understanding of education and school systems locally, nationally and globally, and pursue continuous professional development.
5. Work with political and financial astuteness, within a clear set of principles centred on the school's vision, ably translating local and national policy into the school's context.
6. Communicate compellingly the school's vision and drive the strategic leadership, empowering all pupils and staff to excel.

Pupils and Staff

1. Demand ambitious standards for all pupils, overcoming disadvantage and advancing equality, instilling a strong sense of accountability in staff for the impact of their work on pupils' outcomes.
2. Secure excellent teaching through an analytical understanding of how pupils learn and of the core features of successful classroom practice and curriculum design, leading to rich curriculum opportunities and pupils' well-being.
3. Establish an educational culture of 'open classrooms' as a basis for sharing best practice within and between schools, drawing on and conducting relevant research and robust data analysis.
4. Create an ethos within which all staff are motivated and supported to develop their own skills and subject knowledge, and to support each other.
5. Identify emerging talents, coaching current and aspiring leaders in a climate where excellence is the standard, leading to clear succession planning.
6. Hold all staff to account for their professional conduct and practice.
7. Lead and manage the staff with a proper regard for their well-being and legitimate expectations, including the expectation of a healthy balance between work and other commitments.

Systems and Process

1. Ensure that the school's systems, organisation and processes are well-considered, efficient and fit for purpose, upholding the principles of transparency, integrity and probity.

2. Provide a safe, calm and well-ordered environment for all pupils and staff, focused on safeguarding pupils and developing their exemplary behaviour in School and in the wider society.
3. Establish rigorous, fair and transparent systems and measures for managing the performance of all staff, addressing any under-performance, supporting staff to improve and valuing excellent practice.
4. Welcome strong governance and actively support the governing board to understand its role and deliver its functions effectively – in particular its functions to set School strategy and hold the Headteacher to account for pupil, staff and financial performance.
5. Exercise strategic, curriculum-led financial planning to ensure the equitable deployment of budgets and resources, in the best interests of pupils' achievements and the school's sustainability.
6. Distribute leadership throughout the organisation, forging teams of colleagues who have distinct roles and responsibilities and hold each other to account for their decision making.
7. Develop clear arrangements for linking appraisal to pay progression and advise the relevant body on pay recommendations for teachers.
8. Consult and communicate with the governing body, staff, pupils, parents and carers.
9. Lead and manage/be responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

The Self-Improving School System

1. Create outward-facing schools which collaborate with other schools and organisations - in a climate of mutual challenge - to champion best practice and secure excellent achievements for all pupils.
2. Develop effective relationships and collaborate effectively with fellow professionals and colleagues in other public services to improve academic and social outcomes for all pupils.
3. Challenge educational orthodoxies in the best interests of achieving excellence, harnessing the findings of well evidenced research to frame self-regulating and self-improving schools.
4. Shape the current and future quality of the teaching profession through high quality training and sustained professional development for all staff.
5. Model entrepreneurial and innovative approaches to school improvement, leadership and governance, confident of the vital contribution of internal and external accountability.
6. Inspire and influence others - within and beyond schools - to believe in the fundamental importance of education in young people's lives and to promote the value of education.
7. Participate in arrangements for their own further training and professional development and appraisal and review of own performance.

Old Heath Community Primary School Person Specification

Requirement	Essential	Desirable
Qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If NPQH is not held alternative suitable academic and professional qualifications • Evidence of continuing professional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPQH • Senior Leader for Mental Health
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience across the primary age range • Proven record of successful classroom teaching • Proven record of successful experience as a Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher • Competent ICT skills and knowledge • Involvement in school self-evaluation and development planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience as an AHT, DHT, Head of School • Involvement in managing safeguarding provision in a school • Involvement in managing and delivering SEND provision • Liaison with external agencies
Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent successful leadership and management experience in a school • A clear vision of excellence in education • A proven ability to raise educational standards and a commitment to high standards of achievement • Understanding of school improvement planning and subsequent budget planning • Understanding of the strategic role of the Governing Body and ability to work effectively with Governors • Ability to delegate, monitor and evaluate information • Evidence of good working relationships with parents and the wider school community • Experience of Performance Management of both teaching and support staff • Commitment to the continuing professional development of all staff • Demonstrable experience of successful line management and staff development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of project management and dealing with finance and premises issues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to lead by example and inspire others to achieve positive results • Ability to initiate and manage change sensitively in pursuit of strategic objectives • A commitment to the protection and safeguarding of young people and an up-to-date knowledge of Child Protection procedures • Knowledge of current Health and Safety Regulations 	
Knowledge and Skills/Teaching and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to demonstrate knowledge of current curricular and educational issues/relevant legislation • Clear knowledge and understanding of assessment and monitoring procedures and ability to implement these • Commitment to inclusion and equality of access to educational provision for all children • An understanding of consistent approaches to behaviour management • Clear understanding of what is effective teaching and learning • A high regard for the personal achievement of each child • Ability to communicate a vision and inspire others • Ability to lead by example and inspire others to achieve positive results • Understanding of high-quality teaching and the ability to model this for others and support others to improve • Effective communication and interpersonal skills • Ability to build effective working relationships • Data analysis skills, and the ability to use data to set targets and identify weaknesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative and creative approach to teaching and learning • An understanding of what good Early Years practice looks like • Recognition of the importance of learning outside the classroom

<p>Personal Qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong interpersonal and communication skills • Adaptable and flexible approach • Desire to promote respect between children, staff, parents and governors • A well organised person able to manage time effectively, to delegate, to prioritise and to meet deadlines • Ability to recognise and utilise staff strengths • Ability to build, support, motivate and work as part of a high performing team • Ability to inspire children and staff and a commitment to getting the best outcomes for all children and promoting the ethos and values of the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved in any job that needs doing at school • Love a residential
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Recruitment and Selection Policy Statement

1. The Governing Board is committed to:
 - safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety, and the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, of children and young people.
 - promoting equality of opportunity and community cohesion where the diversity of different backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and positively valued.
 - promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

and expects all staff, volunteers and other workers to share this commitment. It is recognised that this can only be achieved through sound procedures, good inter-agency co-operation and the recruitment and retention of competent, motivated employees who are suited to, and fulfilled in the roles they undertake.
2. The Governing Board recognises the value of and seeks to achieve a diverse workforce which includes people from different backgrounds, with different skills and abilities. We are committed to ensuring that the recruitment and selection of all is conducted in a manner that is systematic, efficient, effective and promotes equality of opportunity. Selection will be on the basis of merit and ability, assessed against the qualifications, skills and competencies required to do the job. We will uphold obligations under law and national collective agreements to not discriminate against applicants for employment on the grounds of the protected characteristics of age, sex, sexual orientation, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, gender re-assignment, disability or health, race (which includes colour, nationality and ethnic origin), religion or belief.
3. We will implement robust recruitment procedures and checks for appointing staff and volunteers to ensure that reasonable steps are taken not to appoint a person who is unsuitable to work with children, or who is disqualified from working with children, or does not have the suitable skills and experience for the role.
4. We will ensure that the terms of any contract with a contractor or agency requires them to adopt and implement measures described in this procedure. We will monitor the compliance with these measures and require evidence that relevant checks have been undertaken for all workers deployed.
5. The following pre-employment checks will be required where applicable to the role and settling:
 - receipt of satisfactory references*
 - verification of identity
 - a satisfactory DBS disclosure if undertaking Regulated Activity
 - verification that you are not on the DBS Children's barred list and therefore not barred from working with children
 - verification that you are not prohibited from teaching
 - verification of medical fitness
 - verification of qualifications
 - verification of professional status where required e.g. QTS status
 - the production of evidence of the right to work in the UK
 - verification of successful completion of/exemption from statutory induction period

- verification that you are not subject to any s128 directions preventing you from holding a management position within a school
- a declaration that you are not disqualified from working with children by virtue of the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 or that you have provided a disqualification waiver from Ofsted

NB It is illegal for anyone who is barred from working with children to apply for or undertake Regulated Activity.

*In exceptional circumstances, where you have good reason not to want your referees to be contacted prior to interview, you should set out your reasons with your application form. Where it is agreed to defer, referees will be contacted immediately after interview before an offer of employment is made.

6. We will keep and maintain a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks, in line with the current DfE requirements.
7. All posts/voluntary roles that give substantial unsupervised access to children and young people are exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and therefore all applicants will be required to declare spent and unspent convictions, cautions and bind-overs (save for those offences that are subject to filtering by the Police).

Applicants will be required to sign a DBS consent form giving consent for the DBS certificate to be copied and shared (within strict guidelines) for the purposes of considering suitability for employment and consent for an online status check to be carried out in the event that the applicant subscribes to the DBS update service.

The Governing Board is committed to ensuring that people who have convictions / cautions / reprimands on their record are treated fairly and given every opportunity to establish their suitability for positions. Having a criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position, except in the case of school settings covered by the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 where certain convictions, cautions or warnings will mean an individual is disqualified from working in that setting and will prohibit employment at the school (unless a waiver can be obtained from Ofsted).

Positive disclosures will be managed on a case-by-case basis considering the nature, seriousness and relevance to the role. The following factors will be considered in each case:

- The seriousness/level of the disclosed information e.g. was it a caution or a conviction.
- How long ago did the incident(s) occur?
- Whether it was a one-off incident or part of a repeat history/pattern.
- The circumstances of the offence(s) being committed and any changes in the applicant's personal circumstances since then.
- The country where the offence/caution occurred.
- Whether the individual shows or has shown genuine remorse.
- If the offences were self-disclosed on the SD2 form or not (non-disclosure could, in itself, result in non-confirmation of employment on the grounds of trust, honesty and openness).

When making a recruitment decision The Governing Board will disregard any filtered convictions/cautions/reprimands which were disclosed in error.

A previously issued Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate will only be accepted in certain restricted circumstances or where you subscribe to the DBS update service and the appropriate online status checks have been satisfactory.

The Disclosure and Barring Service has published a Code of Practice and accompanying explanatory guide. This Governing Board is committed to ensuring that it meets the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service in relation to the processing, handling and security of Disclosure information.

A copy of our Recruitment Procedure is available upon request.

