**Appointment of Head teacher**

**For Appointment from 22nd February 2026**

**St Brigid’s RC Primary School**

Recruitment Timeline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Visits to the schools | By appointment on the morning of 18th July 2025 and 11th September 2025Please contact Mrs Grimshaw on 01612235538 if you would like a guided visit that day. |
| Closing Date | 16.09.25 |
| Shortlisting | 18.09.25 |
| Interviews | 25.09.25 and 26.09.25 |

Documents included within this recruitment pack

* Letter of introduction from the Chair of Governors
* Copy of the advertisement
* Job Description
* Person Specification
* National Standards of Excellence for Headteachers

You can also obtain further useful information by visiting the following websites:

<https://www.st-brigids.manchester.sch.uk/>

[www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/inspection-of-catholic-schools/](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/inspection-of-catholic-schools/)

Letter From the Chair of Governors

Dear applicant,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to thank you for your interest in the position of Headteacher at St Brigid’s RC Primary Schools.

We are a truly passionate team seeking to recruit someone who is inspirational to help us to continue to grow and live out our mission so that he children in our care can be the best that they can be.

At St Brigid’s RC Primary School, we strive to ensure that our learning is enjoyable and we try to make it as much fun and as meaningful and relevant as possible. We offer children an excellent education in a safe, calm, creative, inclusive and nurturing environment.

Every child is valued as an individual- unique and made in God’s image; we aim to grow well rounded, respectful and confident children who will develop skills for life-long learning.

We nurture our children on their journey and encourage them to be creative, unique, open-minded and independent people, respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local parish and community and the wider world.

We are deeply committed to developing children’s faith and we take our responsibility to prepare children for life in modern Britain and in the global context very seriously. We ensure that the fundamental British Values are introduced, discussed, explored and lived out through the ethos and work of our school.

The vacancy has arisen following the decision of our much loved Headteacher to retire, having successfully and inspirationally led St Brigid’s since…

Our school is a welcoming, safe, inclusive and vibrant environment where we celebrate the uniqueness of every individual and strive in every possible way for each child to achieve their potential. You can get an insight into the school from our website and from the information we have included in this pack.

Additionally, there will be an opportunity to visit the school on the morning of the 18th July and the morning of 11th September.

The person who is appointed to the role of Headteacher will have the vision and leadership to build on the existing strengths of the school. They will be committed to providing all pupils with teaching and pastoral support of the highest possible quality, within a safe and welcoming environment along with the strong Catholic ethos that encompasses the community of St Brigid’s.

We are keen to appoint a new Headteacher to start in February 2026. The closing date for applications will be 16th September and interviews will be held 25th and 26th September.

Thank you once again for your interest in our school. We hope you will be able to visit our school to see what a special place it is for the children, the staff and the parents. We look forward to meeting you and discussing how we can build on the currently excellent provision while embracing the opportunities and challenges in the future.

Liz Eccles

Chair of Governors

St Brigid’s RC Primary School

GROUP 2 HEADTEACHER

Leadership L15 to L21

Required from 22nd February 2026

(Or as soon as possible thereafter)

St Brigid’s RC Primary School is a highly successful and inclusive school within the Diocese of Salford. Due to the forthcoming retirement of our highly respected, successful and much loved Headteacher, Governors are looking to appoint a Headteacher, who is inspirational, enthusiastic with great amounts of joy, energy, kindness, love and patience to lead our school family.

Our reputation is strong, and we believe that our school belongs to the community it serves and therefore children can create legacies for each other. The school community supports the vision and Catholic ethos of the school and Christ is at the centre of all we do. At St Brigid’s our values permeate all areas of school life and are reflected by the schools simple motto: DREAM IT. BELIEVE IT. ACHIEVE IT.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a practising Catholic, who is dynamic, forward thinking and who can work in partnership with staff, children, senior leaders and governors, to drive the continued and future successes of our school.

A requirement of the post is that applicants must be practising Catholic.

We are seeking a person who has:

* will support our Catholic ethos
* has the vision and dedication to take on the challenge of leading this outstanding school
* works with mission integrity for the benefit of all within the school community
* will really care about the children in our school
* has a clear strategic direction
* will challenge and empower staff to be the best they can be
* is able to inspire and motivate our children
* will foster the fabulous learning culture across our school
* will continue to inspire learning whilst ensuring high levels of achievement
* has excellent communication skills
* is able to lead a team and be a true team player
* understands the challenges of an inner-city school
* is solution-focused and resilient
* will support the respectful and inclusive ethos of our school

In return we can offer:

* Beautiful children.
* strong support from a highly effective and supportive Governing Body who have the children at the heart of every decision, they make.
* an inclusive, highly effective, dynamic senior leadership team.
* happy, confident and enthusiastic children who enjoy learning.
* a dedicated, supportive and hard-working staff who are fully committed to achieving the best outcomes for all pupils.
* supportive parents and carers, Parish and community.
* a commitment to your wellbeing and professional development.

We are so proud of the following reports and awards:

* R.E Inspection May 2025 Outstanding
* Ofsted March 2024 Good
* Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award

Visits to our school and are most welcome and will take place on the morning of the 18th July 2025 and 11th September 2025, please contact the School Business Manager Mrs Grimshaw to make an appointment.

Applications must be made on a CES application form. Completed application forms should be returned via email to recruitment@st-brigids.manchester.sch.uk no later than noon on September 16th 2025.

St Brigid’s RC Primary School is committed to safeguarding, to promoting the welfare of children and adhering to the Equality Act 2010. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check and health clearance by the 8 Local Authority. To comply with the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 all prospective employees will be required to supply evidence of eligibility to work in the UK. By engaging in this recruitment process, shortlisted candidates consent to an online search in line with the Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance 2024.

Applications Open: 5th July 2025

Closing date for applications: 16th September 2025 at noon

Short listing will take place: 18th September 2025.

Interviews will take place: 25th and 26th September 2025.

PLEASE NOTE: For shortlisted candidates an online search will be carried out. This will assist the panel should there be any issues they feel need to be explored in more depth at interview.

Headteacher Job Description Catholic Voluntary Aided Schools

St Brigid’s RC Primary School

Introduction

The school has been designated by the Secretary of State as a school with a religious character. Its Instrument of Government states that it is part of the Catholic Church and is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Canon Law, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the diocesan trust deed. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The post is therefore reserved for a practising Catholic who can show by example and from experience that he or she will ensure that the school is distinctively Catholic in all its aspects.

This appointment is made by the Governing Board of the school and is subject to the terms of the Catholic Education Service contract signed with the governors as employers; the current conditions of service for a Headteacher contained in the School Teachers’ Pay and Conditions document as well as all other current education and employment legislation and statutory guidance.

This job description is based on the key areas identified in the National Headteacher standards (2020). These standards are in turn built upon the Teaching Standards (2011) which apply to all teachers, including Headteacher.

The Governing Board and the diocese acknowledge the importance of the role of the Catholic Headteacher and will actively offer continuing support, encouragement, affirmation and realistic challenge to the successful candidate.

The Governing Board is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The Headteacher must ensure that the highest priority is given to following the guidance and regulations relating to safeguarding and child protection. Appointment is conditional upon receipt of satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks in relation to criminal and child protection matters.

1. The Core Purpose of the Headteacher

The core purpose of the Headteacher is to provide professional leadership and management of the school. This will promote a secure foundation from which to achieve high standards in all areas of the school’s work. To gain this success, a Headteacher must establish high quality education by effectively managing teaching and learning and using personalised learning to realise the potential of all pupils. The Headteacher must establish a culture that promotes excellence, equality and high expectations of all pupils. This will include ensuring that religious education is in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and general and norms of the Catholic Church.

The ‘preferred future’, expressed in the strategic vision and development of a Catholic school, stems from the educational mission of the Church, which is reflected in the school’s mission statement and school improvement plan.

The Headteacher, working with the Governing Board and others, is expected to draw on the person, life and teachings of Jesus Christ to create a shared vision and strategic plan, which inspires and motivates pupils, staff and all other members of the community. The vision should explore Gospel values, core educational values and moral purpose and be inclusive of stakeholders’ values and beliefs.

The Headteacher is the leading professional in the school. Accountable to the Governing Board, the Headteacher provides vision, leadership and direction for the school and ensures that it is managed and organised to meet its aims and targets. The Headteacher, working with others, is responsible for evaluating the school’s performance to identify the priorities for continuous improvement and raising standards; ensuring equality of opportunity for all; developing policies and practices; ensuring that resources are efficiently and effectively used to achieve the school’s aims and objectives and for the day-to-day management, organisation and administration of the school.

The Headteacher, working with and through others, secures the commitment of the wider community to the school by developing and maintaining effective partnerships with, for example, schools, other services and agencies for children, parishes, the diocese, the local authority, higher education institutions and employers. Through such partnerships and other activities, the Headteacher play a key role in contributing to the development of the education system as a whole and collaborating with others to raise standards locally.

Drawing on the support provided by members of the school community, the Headteacher is responsible for creating a productive learning environment which is engaging and fulfilling for all pupils.

1. The Headteacher Standards 2020

Culture and Ethos

The strategic direction and development of the school stem from the educational mission of the Church. The Headteacher will ensure that their leadership demonstrates commitment to promoting and developing the school’s distinctive Catholic identity through the search for excellence in all areas of this work.

Critical to the role of headship is working with the governing body and others to create a shared vision and strategic plan which inspires and motivates pupils, staff and all other members of the school community. This vision should express core educational values and moral purpose and be inclusive of stakeholders’ values and beliefs.

The Headteacher will:

1. Recognise the authority of the bishop in relation to the provision of education in the diocese and work within the schools and parish communities to create and promote an educational vision and values for the schools which take account of the school’s Catholic mission and of the diversity, values and experiences of the schools and the communities they serve.
2. Hold and articulate clear Catholic values and moral purpose focused on providing a world-class education for the pupils they serve and reflecting the Catholic foundation of the schools.
3. Demonstrate optimistic personal behaviour, positive relationships and attitudes towards their pupils and staff, and towards parents, governors and members of the local church and wider community.
4. Lead by example, with integrity, creativity, resilience, and clarity, drawing on their scholarship, expertise and skills and that of those around them.
5. Sustain wide, current knowledge and understanding of education and school systems locally, nationally and globally, and pursue continuous professional development that reflects the needs of a Catholic school.
6. Work with political and financial astuteness, within a clear set of principles centred on the school's Catholic vision, ably translating local, national and diocesan policy into the school's context.
7. Communicate compellingly the school’s vision and drive the strategic leadership, empowering all pupils and staff to excel thus ensuring a culture of high staff professionalism.

Curriculum and Teaching

In a Catholic school the Headteacher leads a learning community rooted in Catholic belief and principles. The search for excellence is given expression in learning and teaching which recognise pupils’ individual worth as made in the image and likeness of God. The Headteacher will lead the school community in promoting positive attitudes to learning amongst pupils and staff which stem from Christ’s vision for humanity.

The Headteacher has a central responsibility for raising the quality of teaching and learning and for pupils’ achievement. This implies setting high expectations and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of learning outcomes. A successful learning culture will enable pupils to become effective, enthusiastic, independent learners, committed to life-long learning.

In accordance with the school’s Catholic ethos, the Headteacher will:

1. Demand ambitious standards of achievement and attendance 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. Ensure high quality personal, social, health education and citizenship in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church. Ensure quality provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural education in line with the distinctive Catholic nature, purpose and aims of the school.
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' wellbeing, taking full account of the school’s Catholic foundation.
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 based on Catholic values 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. Hold all staff to account for their professional conduct and practice.

Organisational effectiveness

In the Catholic school all deployment of staff, finance, material resources, time and energy should promote the common good of the community in accordance with the school’s Mission Statement.

The Headteacher needs to provide effective organisation and management of the school and seek ways of improving organisational structures and functions based on rigorous self-evaluation. The Headteacher should ensure that the school and the people and resources within it are organised and managed to provide an efficient, effective and safe learning environment. These management responsibilities imply the re-examination of the roles and responsibilities of those adults working in the school to build capacity across the workforce and ensure resources are deployed to achieve value for money.

The Headteacher should manage themselves and their relationships well. Headship is about building a professional learning community which enables others to achieve. Through performance management and effective continuing professional development practice, the Headteacher supports all staff to achieve high standards. To equip themselves with the capacity to deal with the complexity of the role and the range of leadership skills and actions required of them. The Headteacher should be committed to their own continuing professional development.

The Headteacher should work in partnership with others. In a Catholic school the Headteacher is responsible for the mission of the school to the local and wider Catholic community and beyond. They will collaborate with the parish and other Catholic organisations as well as with the wider educational community for the benefit of the school’s community and others. They will demonstrate a belief that community and school are interdependent and that engagement with the community promotes school development.

The Headteacher should commit to engaging with the internal and external school community to secure equity and entitlement. The Headteacher should collaborate with other schools to share expertise and bring positive benefits to their own and other schools. The Headteacher should work collaboratively at both strategic and operational levels with parents and carers and across multiple agencies for the wellbeing 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.

In accordance with the school’s Catholic ethos, the Headteacher will:

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 within the Catholic context. Ensure arrangements for the daily act of Collective Worship and the spiritual life of the school. Ensure the diocesan policy for Religious Education is fulfilled.
2. Provide a safe, calm and well-ordered environment for all pupils and staff, focused on safeguarding pupils and developing their exemplary behaviour in the schools 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 body to understand its role and deliver its functions effectively – 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, the school's sustainability and its Catholic character.
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.

Working in a spirit of collaboration to secure Catholic principles of equity and entitlement, the Headteacher will:

1. Create an outward-facing school which works with other schools, organisations and the local community, in a climate of mutual challenge, to champion best practice and secure excellent achievements for all pupils. Build a school culture and curriculum based on Gospel values, the teaching of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, which take account of the richness and diversity of the school’s communities.
2. Develop effective relationships with fellow professionals, colleagues in other public services, parents/carers and the parish community 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 of all staff.
5. In the context of the school’s Catholic ethos, 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 especially within a Catholic context.

This job description forms part of the contract of employment of the person appointed to the post. It reflects the position at the present time only and may be reviewed in negotiation with the employee in the future. The appointment is subject to the current conditions of employment in the School Teachers’ Pay and Conditions Document as they relate to a Headteacher.

Person Specification/Selection Criteria for Headteacher at St Brigid’s RC Primary School

The school’s Instrument of Government states that it is part of the Catholic Church and is to be conducted as a Catholic school in accordance with Canon Law, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church and the Trust Deed of the Diocese of Salford. At all times the school is to serve as a witness to the Catholic Faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ. The post therefore requires a practising Catholic who can show by example and from experience that he or she will ensure that the school is distinctively Catholic in all its aspects.

St Brigid’s RC Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

The applicant will be required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

Source Key:

A = Application Form I = Interview R = References CC = Checking Certificates

Note: Candidates failing to meet any of the essential criteria will automatically be excluded.

1. **Faith Commitment**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Source** |
| 1. | Practising Catholic  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 2. | Involvement in parish community  |  | D | A/I/R |

**To be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the following in the context of a Catholic school.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Source** |
| 3. | Leading school worship  |  | D | A/I |
| 4. | Ways of developing religious education and worship  | E |  | A/I |
| 5. | A commitment to strategic thinking and planning that builds, communicates and carries forward a coherent and shared vision for the Catholic ethos of the school*.*  | E |  | A/I |
| 6. | How relationships should be fostered and developed between the school, parish and its community and Diocese of Salford  | E |  | A/I |
| 7. | Has completed the Catholic Leadership Programme or equivalent or has a commitment to do so. | E |  | A/I/CC |

1. **Qualifications**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Source** |
| 8. | Qualified teacher status  | E |  | A/CC |
| 9. | Degree  | E |  | A/CC |

1. **Professional Development**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Source** |
| 10. | Evidence of appropriate professional development for the role of headteacher  | E |  | A |
| 11. | Evidence of recent leadership and management professional development  | E |  | A |
| 12. | Up to date safeguarding training and knowledge of legislation for the protection of young people   | E |  | A/I/CC |
| 13. | Has successfully undertaken Designated Safeguarding Lead training  |  | D | A/I/CC |

1. **School leadership and management experience**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Source** |
| 14. | Recent successful leadership as a headteacher  |  | D | A/I/R |
| 15. | Recent successful leadership as a deputy headteacher or assistant headteacher  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 16. | Evidence of successfully leading school improvement | E |  | A/I |
| 17. | Evidence of the application of strategies to review, implement, evaluate and improve learning and teaching  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 18. | Experience of curriculum leadership and development | E |  | A/I/R |
| 19. | Experience of working constructively with parents | E |  | A/I |
| 20. | Experience of monitoring staff performance | E |  | A/I/R |
| 21. | Experience of effective budget management and financial analysis |  | D | A/I/R |
| 22. | The ability to provide advice and support to the Governing Body to enable it to meet its responsibilities  |  | D | A/I/R |
| 23. | An understanding of strategic financial planning in relation to its contribution to school improvement, curriculum development and pupil achievement  |  | D | A/I/R |
| 24. | To have experience of guiding, coaching, mentoring or training individuals or teams  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 25. | Is able to demonstrate a good awareness of current national education policy and strategy  | E |  | A/I/R |

1. **Experience and knowledge of teaching**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Source** |
| 26. | Successful teaching of pupils in the primary phase  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 27. | Experience of teaching in more than one school  |  | D | A/I/R |
| 28. | To have a working and current knowledge and understanding of the Key Stages in the primary phase  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 29. | Displays commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people, showing an awareness of legislation and working with other agencies where appropriate  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 30. | Experience of providing professional challenge and support to others through the performance management process  | D |  | A/I/R |
| 31. | To be able to effectively use data and assessment to raise standards/address weaknesses  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 32. | To be able to exemplify how the needs of all pupils (SEND, AEN, AGT, EAL, GRT) have been met through high quality teaching  | E |  | A/I/R |

1. **Professional Attributes**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Source** |
| 33. | Be able to demonstrate an understanding, awareness and empathy for the needs of the pupils at the school and how these could be met  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 34. | Be able to demonstrate a clear rationale for behaviour management and a proven track record of the effective implementation of a range of behaviour management strategies | E |  | A/I/R |
| 35. | To have excellent written and oral communication skills (which will be assessed at all stages of the process)  | E |  | A/I |
| 36. | To be a leader of learning demonstrating, promoting and encouraging outstanding classroom practice  | E |  | A/I/R |
| 37. | Show a good commitment to sustained attendance at work  | E |  | A/I/R |

1. **Professional Skills**

**(Based on the National Standards for Headteachers 2020)**

The headteacher is expected to have a good knowledge of the National Standards for Headteachers (2020) upon which the job description is based and be willing to work towards the achievement of these standards. In addition, the Headteacher will be expected to work with the governors to set annual personal objectives within the framework of these standards:

* Culture and Ethos
* Curriculum and Teaching
* Organisational effectiveness including Governance and Accountability

***Candidates are therefore asked to structure their supporting statement under the above headings***

1. **Personal Qualities**

All of the following are considered essential for the post and will be assessed through interview and reference:

* Continue to promote the school's strong educational philosophy and values
* Inspire, challenge, motivate and empower teams and individuals to achieve high goals
* Demonstrate personal enthusiasm and commitment to leadership aimed at making a positive difference to children and young people
* Build and maintain quality relationships through interpersonal skills and effective communication
* Demonstrate personal and professional integrity, including modelling values and vision
* Manage and resolve conflict
* Prioritise, plan and organise themselves and others
* Think analytically and creatively and demonstrate initiative in solving problems
* Be aware of their own strengths and areas for development and listen to, and reflect constructively and act upon as appropriate, feedback from others
* Demonstrate a capacity for sustained hard work with energy and vigour
* Uphold the 7 Nolan principles of public life
1. **Confidential References and Reports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A positive and supportive faith reference from a priest where the applicant regularly worships.  | E |
| Positive recommendation from all referees, including current employer.  | E |
| A supportive reference from the Local Authority, if possible, or a further supportive professional reference  | E |

The governors reserve the right in exceptional cases to seek additional references from other former employees where this seems appropriate.

1. **Application Form and Supporting Statement**

The form must be fully completed.  The supporting statement should be clear, concise and related to the specific post, ***following the guidance outlined in section G above.***

***The CES Leadership Application Form must be fully completed. The supporting statement should not exceed 1300 words in length, be clear, concise and related to the post and setting applied for.***