

St Denys C.E Infant School

Headteacher Recruitment Pack



Grow in wisdom. Live well. Love God. Love others.

Welcome to our school

Thank you for your interest in the Headteacher position at St Denys Church of England Infant School, Ibstock. We are proud to be a vibrant, inclusive and family-orientated infant school, committed to providing the very best start in education for all our children. This is an exciting opportunity to lead a dedicated and caring school community with a strong sense of purpose and vision.

St Denys CE Infant School includes a 10-place Resource Base for children with Communication & Interaction and Cognition & Learning needs, reflecting our deep commitment to inclusion. We believe every child deserves to thrive in a happy, safe and nurturing environment where learning is rooted in meaningful, real-life experiences. Our approach builds upon the individual strengths and experiences that each child brings from home, ensuring they are supported to flourish both academically and personally.

Our staff team, teaching and support alike, works collaboratively to champion every child as a unique individual. We are committed to developing pupils socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, spiritually and morally, enabling them to achieve their full potential. Our school motto, "Grow in Wisdom. Live Well. Love God. Love Others," underpins all aspects of school life and reflects our Christian foundation and values.

Partnership lies at the heart of our success. By working closely with parents, governors and the wider community, we aim to secure the best possible outcomes for our pupils and to provide a firm foundation for their future education and life beyond. We maintain strong links with Ibstock Junior School and other local schools to ensure continuity and progression in teaching and learning. As a Church of England school, we enjoy a close relationship with St Denys Church, as well as wider connections including Ibstock Baptist Church Foodbank and the Diocese of Leicester.

We are seeking an inspirational leader who will embrace our ethos, build upon our strengths and guide our school confidently into its next chapter. This pack will provide you with further insight into our school, our community and the opportunities ahead. We look forward to receiving applications from candidates who share our vision and commitment to excellence, inclusion and Christian values.

Mrs. C. Cox & Mrs. L. Wilkinson – Co-Chairs of Governors



Safeguarding Statement

St Denys Church of England Infant School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding is at the heart of our school's ethos and underpins all aspects of school life.

As this post involves regular contact with children, the successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, including a check of the barred lists where appropriate.

The possession of a criminal record will not automatically prevent an applicant from obtaining this post. All disclosures will be considered fairly, consistently and in accordance with the nature of the role and the information provided.

In line with statutory guidance and as part of our due diligence process, the school will also carry out an online search for all shortlisted candidates. This search is conducted to identify any publicly available information that may be relevant to a candidate's suitability to work with children and to uphold our safeguarding responsibilities. The search will be undertaken by a member of staff who is not part of the shortlisting panel and will only take place once shortlisting has been completed. Should any matters of concern arise from this process, candidates will be given the opportunity to discuss these at interview.

St Denys CE Infant School is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified candidates.

School History and Context

The school, which is situated in the village of Ibstock, has been built in four stages. The first wing, an open plan teaching area with a large hall attached, was opened in 1974. A small classroom for children with special educational needs was completed in 1977 and a further open plan wing and studio were added in 1980. Five further classrooms and an extended hall opened in 2015 enabling the school to cater for approximately 240 children from four to seven years of age.

Last year, the school went through a consultation process regarding its Published Admission Number (PAN) in response to declining local birth rates and reduced pupil demand across the area. Following this process, the school will move from nine mainstream classes to six mainstream classes from August 2026. This planned adjustment ensures the school can continue to provide high-quality education, maintain strong staffing and resources, and secure long-term sustainability while continuing to meet the needs of our community.

At the age of seven, the majority of children transfer to Ibstock Junior School where they remain for four years until the age of eleven. After which, most children transfer to Ibstock School. At sixteen the children may choose to attend either Ibstock School, Ashby School or Castle Rock School, a small number choose other schools in the locality.

The school has Church of England 'Controlled' status, This means that two of the Governors are nominated by the Church and are known as Foundation Governors. We aim to provide a Christian based education related to the school's Christian Foundation and to create an atmosphere of care, empathy and trust where children show respect and consideration for each other. Our daily assemblies include a Christian Act of Worship in accordance with the Trust Deed. Ministers and representatives from different churches in the village visit the school regularly.

Our Christian Vision

Jesus grew in wisdom, in health and in favour with God and people.

Luke 2 v 52

At St Denys we are seeking to build a school founded upon Christian values in which children can grow in wisdom through learning and reflection, stay safe and well under the care and guidance of passionate and well-trained staff and volunteers, and develop a healthy spirituality that is demonstrated through our values, and which form the basis for a compassionate, inclusive and generous hearted community.

As we seek the holistic development of each child, we will recognise their unique potential and the part they can play in building a loving, learning community. When Jesus met Simon the disciple he said to him, you are Simon, you will be Peter, my rock. (John 1 v 42) He saw the potential for good in the person before him. All our staff and governors strive to look on our children in the same way and we encourage the same vision for all members of our community.

By embedding our Christian values deep into our curriculum, our policies, our collective worship, and our relationships both within and without the school community we will seek to set children on a path that will lead them to becoming wise, kind and caring members of society. The story of the Good Samaritan carries the command to go and do the same. (Luke 10 v 37) That is both our challenge and our inspiration.

Grow in wisdom. Live well. Love God. Love others.

St Denys School Values



Our curriculum aims

Improving progress for all our children, to enable them to achieve their full potential.

At St Denys CE Infant School, we place a sharp focus on the delivery of a carefully crafted curriculum which expands the potential of our learning community through:

- An immersive and collaborative curriculum
- Creative and purposeful learning opportunities
- Curiosity, critical thinking and 'brain skills'

Our rigorous, well-planned curriculum, combined with high quality teaching and resourcing, ensures that children are supported to be well-rounded, empathetic young people who have a genuine thirst for learning. Children develop a strong sense of moral purpose in addition to a respect for- and understanding of- people.

The curriculum encompasses the planned activities that we as a school organise in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also a range of extra- curricular activities that the school organises in order to enrich the experiences of our children. We also have a commitment to ensuring all our children flourish through 'essential learning experiences. Embedded in our 'hidden' curriculum is the transmission of values and beliefs that the children learn from the way they are treated and expected to behave.

We aim to teach children how to grow into positive, responsible people who can work and co-operate with others, whilst developing knowledge, skills and attitudes towards learning, in order to unlock their true potential.



Our curriculum intent

It is our aim that the pupils of St Denys CE Infant School will embrace new learning opportunities, and through varied experiences, pupils will be empowered to become responsible, resilient, open-minded, and well-rounded individuals who will have a positive impact on society. We have designed and implemented a curriculum specifically with this in mind. Through this, we aim to stimulate their imagination, develop empathy, critical thinking and creativity, and open their minds to global issues.

Through a sequentially organised curriculum and high-quality teaching and learning, we aim to offer creative, challenging and inspiring opportunities to reflect our vision as a community of faith. Raising aspirations and enabling our pupils to become the best version of themselves is central to who we are.

At the heart of all our learning is our focus as a reading school. Therefore, we have implemented a curriculum that will not only build their confidence as learners but also provide relevant experiences to develop their fundamental reading skills.

- Our curriculum creates inquisitive, resilient and ambitious learners.
- Our pupils are confident, enjoy learning, make progress and achieve.
- Our curriculum is inclusive and appreciates the diversity of cultures and religions in Modern Britain.
- Our curriculum is literacy rich and provides our children with opportunities to read widely and often.
- Our curriculum develops the skills, attitudes and knowledge for a successful life within and beyond St Denys.

Teaching and Learning

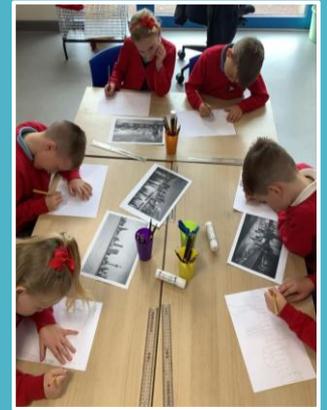
Collectively we use a variety of teaching styles across all classes, so that children are able to learn through a range of differing experiences.

Children work as a whole class, in smaller mixed and single ability groups and also as individuals. They experience through speaking and listening, investigating, researching and exploration.

Learning is presented in a variety of forms which includes writing, pictures and diagrams, spoken presentations, recorded media and drama. Computing is used to support learning throughout the curriculum through the use of interactive whiteboards, ipads and other forms of computing equipment/apparatus.

The inspiring teachers and staff endeavor to provide 'wow' moments in our pupils learning to generate excitement and a thirst for learning.

We encourage children to extend their learning at home. All children are expected to undertake tasks for homework on a regular basis. The extent of this work increases with age. Reading is of fundamental importance to all learning and we ask parents/carers to read regularly with their children at home and to share the enjoyment of books.



**NO
OUT
SIDERS**



Historic
England



Working with

National Centre
for Excellence in the
Teaching of Mathematics



LEICESTERSHIRE
MUSIC

Accredited School **R**
ROUTE TO RESILIENCE
IN SCHOOL | AT HOME | FOR LIFE



NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE
school sports partnership



Ofsted and Siams Inspections

Ofsted

The school was extremely proud to have received a very positive Ofsted report in February 2025. The school was graded as 'Good' in all areas. Read our Ofsted report [here](#).

"Pupils flourish in this happy and welcoming school. All staff know each child individually well. Pupils show great confidence in a nurturing environment. They are well supported if they feel any worries or insecurity".

Siams

The school received it's last Siams inspection in September 2019 and was graded '**Good**'.

"Uniqueness and individuality is celebrated, welcoming everyone especially those pupils with learning difficulties. This school is in the top 20% of schools nationally for the number of pupils with special needs and all are nurtured by adults who 'go the extra mile' to ensure they have access to the spiritual provision available to others in the main body of the school."

A Unique Opportunity to Lead and Shape Our Future...

A strong foundation to build on

In February 2025, Ofsted judged the school Good across all areas, praising our skilled phonics teaching, the warmth of relationships, the confidence of our pupils and the richness of our curriculum. This secure starting point offers the new Headteacher an exciting opportunity to build on firm foundations and lead the school into its next chapter.

A clear moment for organisational redesign

The planned PAN reduction presents a genuine opportunity to shape the school's next chapter. It allows leadership to refine staffing and curriculum structures and to design learning environments that will support children and staff to flourish well into the future.

Strength in Early Years and Reading

Ofsted praised the quality of EYFS provision and the effectiveness of early reading. There is genuine potential to deepen this further through high-quality continuous provision, oracy development, outdoor learning, and strong parental engagement.

Strong partnerships and collaborative networks

The established Collaborative 360 group offers rich opportunities to learn with and from other schools—through shared CPD, leadership development, moderation and curriculum design. For the next Headteacher, this partnership provides a supportive professional community that can help drive improvement and widen the impact of their leadership.

A Unique Opportunity to Lead and Shape Our Future...

A committed, values-driven community

The school benefits from strong links with St Denys Church, engaged governors, a motivated staff team and supportive families. This creates a warm and positive environment in which to continue strengthening our Christian distinctiveness, community outreach and family-school partnerships.

Enhancing the outdoor and experiential curriculum

With rich outdoor learning spaces and a curriculum grounded in meaningful real-world experiences, the school is wonderfully placed to ignite even greater curiosity, joy and wonder in our youngest learners. There is real scope for a leader with vision to deepen environmental learning and create memorable, hands-on opportunities across EYFS and KS1 that truly bring learning to life.

Potential to shape culture and wellbeing

Governors are committed to improving staff wellbeing, communication and strategic clarity. A new Headteacher has a genuine opportunity to shape a refreshed culture of relational leadership, staff empowerment and sustainable workload practices.



Why Lead St Denys?

- Lead a nurturing, inclusive infant school with a strong Christian ethos.
- Benefit from strong partnerships including the Collaborative 360 network.
- Join a school with a 'Good' Ofsted (Feb 2025) and a thriving reading culture.
- Support a community-centred school with a 10-place SEND Enhanced Resource Base.
- Receive supportive induction from governors, LA, and Diocese.



Virtual Tour



How to apply:

We warmly encourage prospective applicants to come and see the school in action. A visit will give you the chance to meet our staff and children and to get a real sense of the St Denys ethos.

If you would like to arrange a visit, please contact our Business Manager, Mrs Jacqui Fardell via:

Email: office@stdenysinfantschool.org

Telephone: 01530 260004

Submitting your application:

Should you have any questions about the role or for an informal conversation, please contact Mrs. Fardell who will arrange this. Please submit your application via Eteach. CV's will not be accepted.