

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Malmesbury



## Headteacher Job Description

**Post:** Headteacher

**Contract:** Permanent

**Salary:** Leadership 6-12

**Base:** St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Malmesbury

**Accountable to:** St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Governing Body

**Reports to:** the Chair of the Governing Body

**Start Date:** January 2026

### Job Summary:

The role of the Headteacher covers three main domains

- Culture and ethos, school culture, behaviour and professional development.
- Curriculum and learning, teaching, curriculum and assessment and additional needs and inclusion
- Organisational effectiveness, management school improvement and working in partnership

### Main Duties and Responsibilities the Headteacher will be accountable for:

#### Ethics and Professional Conduct

The Headteacher is expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of principled and professional conduct. They are expected to meet the headteachers' standards and be responsible for providing the conditions in which teachers can fulfil them.

Headteachers uphold and demonstrate the Seven Principles of Public Life at all times. Known as the Nolan principles, these form the basis of the ethical standards expected of public office holders and reflect the principles influenced by the Gospel message and Church teaching:

- selflessness
- integrity

- objectivity
- accountability
- openness
- honesty
- leadership

The Headteacher upholds public trust in school leadership and maintains high standards of ethics and behaviour. Both within and outside school, the Headteacher:

- builds relationships rooted in mutual respect, and at all times observes proper boundaries appropriate to their professional position
- shows tolerance of and respect for the rights of others, recognising differences and respecting cultural diversity within contemporary Britain, recognising everyone's individual worth as made in the image and likeness of God
- upholds fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- ensures that personal beliefs are not expressed in ways which exploit their position, pupils' vulnerability or might lead pupils to break the law

As leaders of their school community and profession, the Headteacher:

- serves in the best interests of the school's pupils
- conducts themselves in a manner compatible with their influential position in society by behaving ethically, fulfilling their professional responsibilities and modelling the behaviour of a good citizen and of a leader inspired by Christ
- upholds their obligation to give account and accept responsibility
- knows, understands, and acts within the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities
- takes responsibility for their own continued professional development, engaging critically with educational research
- makes a positive contribution to the wider education system

## **Headteachers' Standards**

### **School Culture**

The Headteacher:

- strengthens and sustains the school's Catholic ethos and strategic direction in partnership with those responsible for governance and through consultation with the school Parish and community
- ensures a culture where pupils experience a positive and enriching school life
- upholds ambitious educational standards which prepare pupils from all backgrounds for their next phase of education and life, reflecting the distinctive characteristics of Catholic Education.
- promotes positive and respectful relationships across the school community and a safe, orderly and inclusive environment to promote Gospel values which unite society in a commitment to social justice and the common good.
- ensures a culture of high staff professionalism

## **Teaching**

The Headteacher:

- ensures and sustains high-quality, expert teaching across all subjects and phases, built on an evidence-informed understanding of effective teaching and how pupils learn
- ensures teaching is underpinned by high levels of subject expertise and approaches which respect the distinct nature of subject disciplines or specialist domains
- ensures effective use is made of formative assessment

## **Curriculum and Assessment**

The Headteacher:

- ensures a broad, structured and coherent curriculum entitlement which sets out the knowledge, skills and virtues that will be taught
- ensures effective curricular leadership, developing subject leaders with high levels of relevant expertise with access to professional networks and communities
- ensures that all pupils are taught to read through the provision of evidence-informed approaches to reading, particularly the use of systematic synthetic phonics in schools that teach early reading
- ensures valid, reliable and proportionate approaches are used when assessing pupils' knowledge and understanding of the curriculum

## **Behaviour**

The Headteacher:

- Ensures and sustains high expectations of behaviour for all pupils, built upon relationships, rules and routines, based on the Gospel values, which are understood clearly by all staff and pupils
- ensures high standards of pupil behaviour and courteous conduct in accordance with the school's behaviour policy
- implements consistent, fair and respectful approaches to managing behaviour
- ensures that adults within the school model and teach the behaviour of a good citizen and be inspired by the life of Christ.

## **Additional and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

The Headteacher:

- ensures that the school holds ambitious expectations for all pupils with additional and special educational needs and disabilities
- ensures and sustains cultures and practices that enable pupils to access the curriculum and learn effectively
- ensures the school works effectively in partnership with parents, carers and professionals, to identify the additional needs and special educational needs and disabilities of pupils, providing support and adaptation where appropriate
- ensures the school fulfils its statutory duties with regard to the SEND code of practice

## **Professional Development**

The Headteacher:

- ensures staff have access to high-quality, sustained professional development opportunities, aligned to balance the priorities of whole-school improvement, team and individual needs
- prioritises the professional development of staff, ensuring effective planning, delivery and evaluation which is consistent with the approaches laid out in the standard for teachers' professional development
- ensures that professional development opportunities draw on expert provision from beyond the school, as well as within it, including the Diocese and nationally recognised career and professional frameworks and programmes to build capacity and support succession planning

## **Organisational Management**

The Headteacher:

- ensures the protection and safety of pupils and staff through effective approaches to safeguarding, as part of their duty of care
- prioritises and allocates financial resources appropriately, ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and probity in the use of public funds
- ensures staff are deployed and managed well with due attention paid to workload and well being
- establishes and oversees systems, processes and policies that enable the school to operate effectively and efficiently
- ensures rigorous approaches to identifying, managing and mitigating risk

## **Continuous School Improvement**

The Headteacher:

- makes use of effective and proportional processes of evaluation to identify and analyse complex or persistent problems and barriers which limit school effectiveness, and identify priority areas for improvement
- develops appropriate evidence-informed strategies for improvement as part of well-targeted plans which are realistic, timely, appropriately sequenced and suited to the school's context ensures careful and effective implementation of improvement strategies, which lead to sustained school improvement over time
- inspires and influences others—within and beyond the school—to believe in the fundamental importance of Catholic education in young people's lives and to promote the value of education

## **Working in Partnership**

The Headteacher:

- forges constructive relationships beyond the school, working in partnership with parents, carers, the Parish, the Trust and the local community
- commits their school to work successfully with the other Trust schools and organisations in a climate of mutual challenge and support

- establishes and maintains working relationships with fellow professionals and colleagues across other public services to improve educational outcomes for all pupils

### **Governance and Accountability**

The Headteacher:

- understands and welcomes the role of effective governance, rooted in faithful stewardship of Gospel values, upholding their obligation to give account and accept responsibility
- establishes and sustains a professional working relationship with those responsible for governance
- ensures that staff know and understand their professional responsibilities and are held to account
- ensures the school effectively and efficiently operates within the required regulatory frameworks and meets all statutory duties