



Stamfordham Primary School

Stamfordham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE18 0NA

Chair of Governors: Revd Rachel Scheffer

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@StamfordhamPS



“Learning, Caring and Achieving Together”

Thank you for your interest in the post of Teaching Headteacher at Stamfordham Primary School.

Our school is located within the rural village of Stamfordham, which lies in the county of Northumberland, between the city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the market-town of Hexham. Around 76% of the pupils come from Stamfordham and surrounding villages, 14% from Albermarle Barracks and 7% out of catchment. See below for lots of information about the life of our school and community.

Being a Teaching Headteacher is one of the most important jobs: being a Headteacher of a rural school, at the heart of the community, even more so. As governors, we are rightly proud of our school, conscious of the legacy we inherit and pass on, ensuring our children get the most out of their time with us. We are highly ambitious and determined that all decisions will centre on the best possible educational experience and outcome for each child.

Currently, we have a preschool which has just recently been refurbished, re-imagined and brought formally into the school governance, and four classes to support the age range from Reception to Year 6. Strong links and presence within the community are integral to the life of our school. As Headteacher, you will play a significant role in continuing to lead and develop this. We also hope that a minimum of 0.4 teaching commitment, flexible according to the needs of the school, will be an attractive part of this role. You will have engagement from the whole school community, including an active Friends of Stamfordham Primary School.

Our children make good and often outstanding progress from when they come to us in Early Years and throughout their time here. Staff work professionally and enthusiastically to ensure pupils acquire the solid foundations on which to build. All staff have the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills. Each teacher within school hold an additional area of curriculum responsibility and is allotted coordinator release time to further develop this alongside CPD opportunities.

We have an excellent relationship with our School Improvement Partner, always supportive but ever challenging, to staff and governors alike. We know we have a wonderful school but we are always looking for areas we can improve. Our ambition is to provide the best opportunities and education for our children.

We are looking for an exemplary classroom practitioner, someone who can lead, motivate and inspire a dedicated and experienced staff. We need a strong team player who will challenge and encourage, and expect to be challenged by governors. Your high expectations should be clearly understood and consistently implemented, with a keen focus on the quality of relationships within our school and excellence in the classroom.

We would welcome and encourage visits to our school to gain further insights. Please contact me, the Chair of Governors, via the contact details above if you wish to take advantage of our invitation. I would also welcome a conversation of the phone or zoom with anyone considering apply for this wonderful opportunity. I trust that you will feel encouraged to complete and return the enclosed paperwork.

In the Personal Statement section of your application; as well as responding to the Person Specification, please answer the following question in approximately 500 words: "How would you approach the design of the curriculum for our mixed age classes of small year groups, that incorporates our unique setting and ethos as a Primary school?"

We are a happy and supportive school team and are looking for a new family member.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Scheffer

on behalf of the whole governing body, Rachel Scheffer, Chair of Governors.



An Introduction to the life of our school...

Firstly, we encourage you to take a look at our fantastic website and also watch a video which was put together a couple of years ago when our school transitioned from being a first school to a primary school: <https://www.stamfordhamvillageschool.org.uk/>

The Village location...

The Village of Stamfordham lies on the southern hillside sloping down to the little river Pont, with a church at the west end. The name of Stamfordham is Old English, meaning "the homestead by the Stoney Ford".

A settlement since Saxon times, the village is at present a development which began mainly in the 17th and has continued up to the late 20th century. Though greatly reduced since earlier times, it still boasts a green, with market cross and lock-up, a Norman church, a 19th century Methodist church, recently refurbished, one public house, our primary school and a village hall, which was originally the village school.



Welcoming children from Albermarle Barracks...

As a feeder school, we have extremely positive links with the local army barracks at Albemarle. Major Squires, who is Second In Charge at the camp, is a member of our Governing Body. This ensures that we are updated regularly and can be as flexible as possible, particularly for parents who are posted overseas. 'Authorised Holiday Leave' is always granted when families are reunited. We maintain regular contact with the Unit Welfare Officer

and Community Development Worker. We enjoy fabulous support from all quarters, which in turn ensures our school continues to provide outstanding care, guidance and support for children and families too. It is a team effort. The importance of the link between 'home and school' cannot be underestimated, and at Stamfordham Primary it is central to everything we do, every conversation we share, each milestone we celebrate.

The School Life...



Stamfordham Primary School provides an outstanding education for children between the ages of two and eleven years, with all the benefits of a small rural village school. With one hundred pupils at most, five teaching staff and three support staff, personal care and guidance is especially strong. There are excellent relationships between staff, pupils and parents that produce an exceptionally positive support for teaching, learning and progress.

The school is the centre of the rural community and offers nursery day care and pre/after school care. There is strong support from parents and the community, who are regarded as essential to the success of the school.



We provide a stimulating and challenging curriculum which is differentiated to the needs of every child. Our size enables us to foster in our pupils sound moral values, self-discipline, respect for each other and the environment, and pride in themselves and their work. Our pupils leave the school as independent learners who have a positive and active approach to their future lives and society.

Sport is important for our health – both physical and mental health.



We already have a wonderful offering of sports educations and recreation but would love to develop this further in future years.

Friends of Stamfordham primary School...

The Friends of Stamfordham Primary School is primarily made up of current parents from our school but they are also supported by staff and governors. Many events and activities support the life of the school both financially, pastorally and help build community. In recent years the school campout has been a particular highlight.



We are really looking forward to meeting our new headteacher. If you think this might be you please pick up the phone for a chat, send us an email or fill out the application form. The next wonderful chapter for our school is just on the next page. We can't wait to find out if your name is written on it.

