

St Agnes Catholic Primary School

Headteacher

Job Description

**Key Areas of Responsibility**

1 Catholic Purpose and Identity of the School

2 Leadership in Catholic Education

3 Strategic Leadership

4 Educational Excellence

5 Managing the Organisation

1. **Catholic Purpose and Identity of the School**

**Key Area of Responsibility:**

*The Headteacher must understand the nature and purpose of Catholic education and know that his or her first responsibility is to establish and sustain the Catholic identity of the school and safeguard the teaching of the Church.*

He or she must ensure that this Catholic identity is reflected in every aspect of the life of the school, in particular in the curriculum, the day to day organisation of the school, staff development, staff and pupil relationships and the partnership between school, home, parish, local community, other schools, the LA and other agencies. This duty provides the context for the proper discharge of all other duties and responsibilities.

1. **Leadership in Catholic Education**

**Key Area of Responsibility:**

*The Headteacher is the leader of a Catholic educating community and the discharge of this vital role requires a significant theological insight and vision of the development of a Catholic school.*

Each Catholic Headteacher has responsibility to develop his or her understanding of this leadership role through regular reading and participation in appropriate courses, together with frequent reflection. The Headteacher must provide professional leadership and management for 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 pupils. The Headteacher must establish a culture that promotes excellence, equality and high expectations of all pupils.

**3. Strategic Leadership**

**Key Area of Responsibility:**

*The strategic vision and development of the Catholic school, stems from the educational mission of the Church, which is reflected in the school’s mission statement. The Headteacher, working with the governing body 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 uses Gospel values, core educational values and is inclusive of stakeholders’ values and beliefs.*

The new Headteacher must:

* 1. Understand and communicate the mission of the Catholic school and promote Gospel values in policy, practice and relationships and ensure that the Religious Education programme is given full regard both in terms of classroom religious education and in the whole Catholic life of the school.
  2. Ensure that the vision for the school is clearly articulated, shared, understood and acted upon effectively by all.
  3. Be aware of their own strengths, weaknesses and areas for their own professional development and how their leadership behaviours impact on others so that they can maximise their impact as a leader.
  4. Have a focus on improvement, setting tough objectives and take on challenges in order to achieve and be accountable for high performance throughout the school.
  5. Demonstrate resilience and emotional maturity when faced with the demands of the job, especially when faced with adversity and setbacks, so that they do not lose sight of their personal and organisational values.
  6. Draw upon their experience in education and their own lives to make sense of issues as they occur and to create strategic solutions and be able to explain them to others.
  7. Recognize opportunities and implement change so that the school continues to improve in both the short and in the long term and have the ability to bring about such change with the minimum of disruption.
  8. Inspire and influence pupils, colleagues, governors and the community, articulating a compelling vision to create an energising learning environment for all and to be able to modify their approach to create the desired impact and outcomes.

**4. Educational Excellence**

**Key Area of Responsibility:**

*In a Catholic school the search for excellence is expressed in learning and teaching which responds to the needs and aspirations of its pupils and acknowledges their individual worth as children of God. The Headteacher, supported by the governing body, has a central responsibility for raising the quality of teaching and learning and for pupil achievement. This implies enabling pupils to achieve their God-given potential, 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.*

This requires the Headteacher:

1. To develop their vision in the light of Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church so as to identify the priorities which lead to improvements in teaching and learning, leading in turn to improved outcomes for all pupils.
2. To determine and organise the curriculum so there are real, relevant and planned opportunities to embed purposeful links and connections with religious education, collective worship, liturgy, prayer and provision for pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
3. To be able, as the leading professional in the school, to identify excellence in teaching and be able to demonstrate how teaching can be improved and sustained so that learning and achievement for all pupils is maximised.
4. To ensure strategies for inclusion, diversity and access to a diverse, flexible and relevant curriculum that are based on our equality as children of God, which compels us to care for the well-being of one another, including those with Special Educational Needs, with English as an additional language and more able pupils, drawing on the Gospel values of truth, justice, tolerance and service.
5. To have a passion for learning and to communicate this to others so establishing a climate of learning and teaching throughout the school and ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to succeed.
6. To recognise the need to build partnerships locally, regionally and nationally in order to achieve goals raise standards and improve the education system.
7. To be aware of their impact on the governing body, local parishes and the local community and to use this influence wisely to improve outcomes in the school.
8. to promote the notion of ‘vocation’ in your work, articulating and demonstrating your headship as a calling to do God’s work.

**5. Managing the Organisation**

**Key Area of Responsibility:**

*Headteachers need to provide effective organisation and management of the school and seek ways of improving organisational structures and functions based on rigorous self-evaluation. Headteachers 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. Headteachers should also seek to build successful organisations through effective collaborations with others.*

This requires the Headteacher:

1. To work with the chair of governors to enable the governing body to meet its responsibilities in relation to specific requirements of governance in a Catholic school in terms of the trust deed, admissions, personnel and financial matters.
2. To monitor, evaluate and review the work of the school to determine its effectiveness as a Catholic school.
3. to deploy the resources available to ensure the school’s goals are achieved and to ensure that the systems and processes used to achieve this are subject to regular review and evaluation.
4. To take responsibility for the school’s performance and present that performance in a form appropriate to a range of audiences, including governors, the Diocese of Westminster Education Service, the LA, the local community, OFSTED and others, to enable them to play their part effectively.
5. To effectively analyse and use data and break down problems and challenges in a systematic way in order to provide clear direction and management.
6. To be able to make interventions where needed and hold others to account in order that expectations are met and school improvement is sustained.
7. To demonstrate a genuine commitment to developing others in a way that helps them achieve their potential and motivates them to perform at their best.