

**Information for applicants:  
Teacher of  
Religious Studies**



# WELCOME TO THE ESSA FOUNDATION ACADEMIES TRUST

## All will succeed

The ethos of Essa is summarised in these three words. It doesn't just refer to our learners. Our Sponsors and our Board of Trustees want all those involved in the Essa journey to succeed.

Our schools need great people in the classrooms but every part of Essa needs people who are prepared to go the extra mile, are passionate about making a difference to the lives of children and young people, love working in teams, are collaborative and generous as colleagues and value the contribution of all parts of our Trust.

We are part of a strong collaborative, caring community and our children and staff are right at the heart of that. The challenges of disadvantage which they face can be lightened by the security of having a good school on the doorsteps for their children and one where their life chances will be enhanced and secured. Every member of staff contributes to the life chances of every child and celebrates every success.

I hope you will want to be part of the Essa team and help us ensure that 'All will succeed'.

Anne Casey, Chief Executive





# THE TRUST

The Essa Foundation Academies Trust currently sponsors two academies:

- **Essa Primary School, age 4-11.**
- **Essa Academy, age 11-16.**

Essa Primary School was inspected in October 2019 and was judged to be good in all areas with outstanding early years provision.

Essa Academy was inspected in October 2021 and judged to be a good school in all areas.

## Essa Primary (October 2019)

'This is a happy and caring school. Pupils behave well.'  
'They listen attentively during lessons and they follow teachers' instructions carefully.'

'No time is wasted in class.'

'Pupils enjoy school. They are polite, and they respect the differences between themselves and their peers.'

'Children get off to a flying start in Reception.'

'Teachers in the early years have created classrooms brimming with exciting learning activities.'

Inspectors also praised the leadership of the Principal and her team who they said 'have worked tirelessly to develop the school.'



## Essa Academy (October 2021)

'Essa Academy is a community underpinned by a culture of tolerance and respect.'

'Without exception, every pupil who spoke to an inspector said that they are proud to attend Essa Academy.'

'Teachers have high expectations.'

'Across the school, all pupils achieve well.'

'Leaders have created a strong and purposeful learning environment.'





# VISION & VALUES - *All Will Succeed*

Our ethos is simple: we will make the most of our unique family of schools to give every child the best possible opportunity to flourish and develop into a decent, disciplined, well-educated and employable young person.

Here is what is at the heart of all we do:

## **Developing decent people:**

Results and qualifications are important, but they are not the whole story – far from it. Our ultimate goal is to develop well-rounded young people who will make the most of the opportunities open to them in our schools. They will have resilience, zest and passion: people that employers will want to employ; people who will play a part in the communities in which they live and work; people we can be truly proud to say came through one of our schools.

## **Achieving full potential, no excuses:**

We will do all we can to make sure every child gets the chance to reach their full potential. No child should ever get left behind; all have the capacity to learn and to achieve. We'll do this by instilling an acceptance that hard work, effort and application really does pay off. Through effort and application come self-respect, self-esteem, self-belief and success.

## **Discipline and standards:**

It is important to us that our young people demonstrate high standards and that our schools are safe, structured places in which to learn – this will enable inspiring things to happen in the classroom. We will achieve this by expressing our high expectations regularly and frequently and by paying relentless attention to detail. We attach importance to values such as respect: for ourselves, for others, for learning and for the environment.

## **Great Schools for all:**

We want the schools within our Academy Trust to be judged as great schools for all the young people that attend them. This means recruiting outstanding people to work in our schools and offering a curriculum that is engaging, challenging and responsive to individual needs.

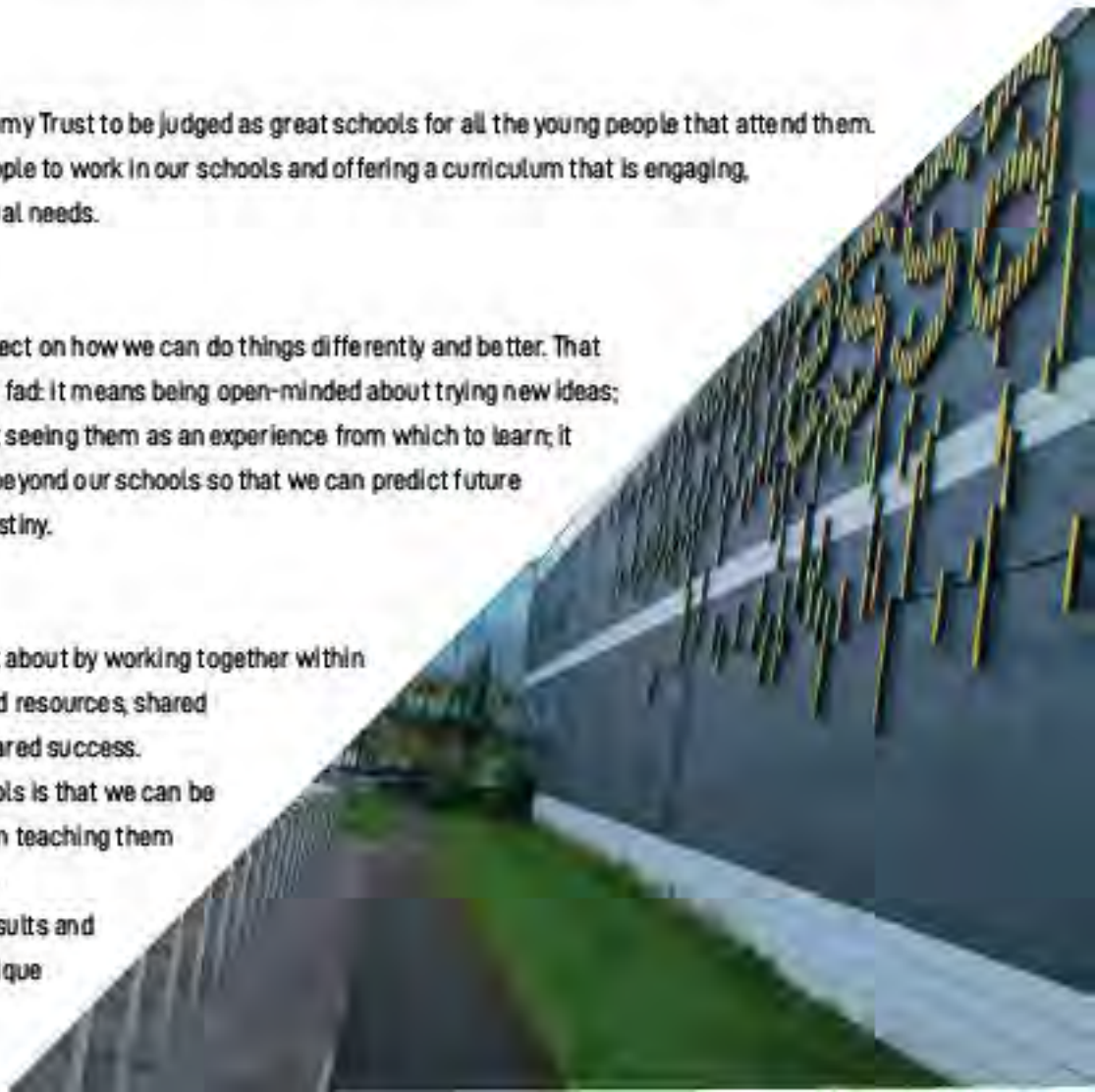
## **Big on attitude:**

We will frequently stand back and reflect on how we can do things differently and better. That doesn't mean latching on to the latest fad: it means being open-minded about trying new ideas; it means acknowledging mistakes but seeing them as an experience from which to learn; it means being aware of what happens beyond our schools so that we can predict future trends and remain in control of our destiny.

## **Strength in sharing:**

We believe there is a strength brought about by working together within a multi-academy trust, enabling shared resources, shared knowledge, shared experience and shared success.

What's great about our family of schools is that we can be with a child every step of the way, from teaching them to tie their shoe laces right through to congratulating them on their GCSE results and their future plans. That puts us in a unique position; it's also a tremendous responsibility.





# ESSA FOUNDATION ACADEMIES TRUST

The Essa campus is very well placed for both motorway access and public transport. M61 J4 is very close by giving access to the Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire motorway networks and is close to Bolton railway and bus station.

For more information on our family of schools please visit our website [www.efatrust.org](http://www.efatrust.org)

## Essa Primary School

We are proud of our pupils, and their achievements. Our key objective is to provide our children with the best opportunity to achieve their potential during their time with us as we help them to develop into independent learners who are able to actively engage and contribute to the ever changing society and wider world.



## Essa Academy

At Essa Academy we have a universal belief in our mission 'All Will Succeed', with access to outstanding resources and a strong sense of belonging, ownership and community underpinning our work. Our students and staff are amazing and reflect the ethos of the academy.



## EFAT Support Services

We provide administrative and business support such as HR and Finance Support throughout the trust.

## Essa Education Ltd

Essa Sports Centre is a modern, state of the art sports facility and community asset, used for a variety of academic and sporting needs, as well as events, meetings, conferences birthday parties and more. Our facilities include a full-sized 3G pitch, multi-use sports hall, dance studio and MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area). Other facilities available for hire include theatre with stage, classrooms & communal dining area.



**Essa Education Ltd** is a wholly owned subsidiary of **Essa Foundation Academies Trust**.

## THE POST

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Essa Academy's Religious Studies faculty are seeking to recruit a dynamic, talented individual who believes that all students can succeed. The successful candidate will be joining a unique, supportive, happy faculty and will work alongside dedicated, forward thinking practitioners. We teach a rigorous academic curriculum with a clear focus on supporting all students achieve positive outcomes. You will work with the head of department, and the wider school team to continually drive attainment and standards across the department.

Our carefully planned curriculum enables our students to access engaging , informative and thought provoking lessons, through a variety of delivery methods and experiences to interest and inspire our learners. We firmly believe that for students to be successful citizens, they must have a clear understanding of religions in the world and the misconceptions faced. We believe that all students should have a clear understanding of the world around them and show respect and tolerance whilst also having a clear understanding of different worldviews.

The successful candidate will be a passionate and inspirational teacher with a real desire to build resilience in their students and improve teaching and learning. Upholding our high standards and a commitment to achieving excellent results for our students is essential. To allow teachers to do this effectively, we offer **generous levels of PPA**, which allows our team to collaborate and move the faculty forward at a rapid pace while maintaining work life balance.

We particularly welcome applications from newly qualified teachers or main scale teachers with a thirst for progression.

Our curriculum engages students of all abilities. We strive to create a love of learning and we are committed to developing the holistic child. Our curriculum incorporates careers and real- life problems and addresses the needs of all our students across a range of abilities.

This role is a permanent position.

Closing date: 27/2/23

Interviews: week beginning 27/2/23

Start date: 1/9/23

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

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Post:	Teacher of Religious Studies (RS)
Responsible to:	Faculty Leader of Humanities
Responsible for:	Design and delivery of RS Lessons
Terms:	Teacher Terms
Hours:	1265 hours per annum

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***Essa Foundation Academies Trust and all its schools and academies are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.***

### **The role:**

The Religious Studies Faculty is a successful, thriving department within the Academy, where students succeed and achieve exceptional GCSE results. We are seeking an ambitious, committed, and hard-working colleague to join our RS Faculty and become part of our cohesive, professional and supportive team. Under the direction of the Faculty Lead (FL), the post holder will be expected to carry out the professional duties of a teacher as set out in the current School Teachers Pay and Conditions document (STPCD). To secure the highest standards of teaching and learning and achievement for students within an atmosphere where students feel challenged, valued, safe and secure. Awe and wonder and love of learning should be at the heart of the vision to drive improvement within the RS department. The post holder will also be instrumental to the drive for improving and supporting the Academy in our vision to improve the opportunities for our students. This post represents a superb career opportunity for a motivated professional who wants to challenge and engage pupils across the full 11-16 age range and who has a passion for delivering an innovative and creative curriculum.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

All teachers are expected to contribute to the following processes:

- Raising student achievement through high quality teaching and learning within the RS department.
- Planning schemes of work, lessons and blended learning.
- Joint planning and team teaching opportunities, co planning with other members of the RS team.
- Rigorous assessment of student progress, target setting and record keeping.
- Reporting of student progress as directed by the FL.
- Celebrating student achievement.
- Intervention and support for underachieving students in GCSE RS.
- To have a clear understanding of the demands of the AQA GCSE syllabus
- Liaising with parents/carers on attainment and progress made within RS lessons.
- To continually review and maintain a high level and standard of subject specific knowledge to support the delivery of the curriculum. Taking part in RS specific subject enhancement
- To be a Form Tutor to an assigned group of students and to contribute to Tutor time and other tutor based curriculum activities
- Contribute to a stimulating but safe learning environment within which risks are regularly assessed
- Contribute to meetings and discussions at levels around curriculum intent, implementation and impact.
- To support the establishment of robust assessment and evaluation and relevant processes to establish successes and improvements.
- To contribute to the evaluation of academy performance and support appropriate actions on issues arising – setting realistic deadlines where necessary and reviewing progress on action taken.

### **Day to Day responsibilities:**

- To continually review, develop and improve systems, processes and services in support of the Trust's pursuit of excellence in service delivery. To recognise the value of its people as a resource.
- Be a role model for students and staff, demonstrating high standards of personal presentation, professional conduct and time keeping.
- Ensure planning takes account of the needs of EAL and SEND pupils, seeking support from The Bridge when necessary.
- Ensure planning considers all elements of the students' learning experience including in-classroom, home learning, Essa Live and extra-curricular / Essa Experience and form periods.
- Ensure challenge is built into the curriculum.
- Ensure appropriate intervention is in place to support students where necessary.
- Track pupil progress and use assessment data to inform planning and target setting.
- Use progress and assessment data to close the gaps in learning.
- Ensure formative assessment methods are used regularly within the classroom.

### **Develop oneself and others**

- To make every effort to access development opportunities and ensure you spend time with your manager identifying your development needs through your personal development plan.
- Understand the need to take responsibility and to keep up to date with research and developments in pedagogy and in RS
- To be ready to share learning with others in Faculty specific training.
- Develop effective working relationships with all teachers, parents, senior leaders and Governors.
- Develop and implement practices which reflect the academy's commitment to high achievement through effective teaching and learning.

### **Valuing Diversity**

- To accept everyone has a right to his or her distinct identity.
- To treat everyone with dignity and respect, and to ensure that what all our customers tell us is valued by reporting it back to the organisation.
- To be responsible for promoting and participating in the achievement of the departmental valuing diversity action plan.

### **Generic Requirements**

- It is a requirement of all posts within the Trust that Health and Safety requirements are upheld in the performance of all duties.
- All employees of the Trust are required to uphold the Equality and Diversity Policy and the Trust's Code of Conduct.
- All staff will ensure that they are aware of and work within the requirements of all Keeping Children Safe in Education policies, seeking clarity from a member of Senior Leadership if necessary.
- All staff are expected to uphold all EFAT HR related policies.

This job description is current at the time of date shown. It will be reviewed at least annually and in consultation with you, it may be changed by the principal to reflect or anticipate changes in the job commensurate with the grade and job title.

Employee Name .....

Date .....

Signed.....



## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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### Role Specific Criteria

		Essential	Desirable*
<b>Qualifications and Training</b>		✓	✓
1.	5 GCSEs A*-C including Maths and English, or equivalent	✓	
2.	A Level qualifications, or equivalent	✓	
3.	Hold QTS/QTLS (Secondary) or equivalent	✓	
4.	Willingness to achieve a leadership qualification in the next 12 months	✓	
5.	Working towards further qualifications		✓
<b>Skills, Knowledge and Experience</b>			
6.	Experience of leading and managing		✓
7.	Evidence of effectiveness in terms of enabling student progress	✓	
8.	Ability to build strong positive relationships with colleagues	✓	
9.	Evidence of strongly scaffolded planning that can be shared across the Faculty	✓	
10.	Evidence of working within an environment where experiences include taking initiative and self motivation	✓	
11.	Awareness and understanding of the Mastery curriculum and a desire to drive this forward	✓	
12.	Ability to develop robust assessment and evaluation processes	✓	

13.	Have experience of developing a whole school initiative		✓
14.	Awareness of current developments in education and the implications of these for students and teachers	✓	
15.	Evidence of having raised standards within learning	✓	
16.	Practical understanding of effective strategies for teaching and learning and evaluation of these	✓	
17.	Experience and/or understanding of planning learning to accelerate numeracy development across the Academy		✓

\* In the event of a large number of applicants meeting the essential criteria, the desirable criteria will become essential.

**The following criteria are applicable to all employees of Essa Foundation Academies Trust**

<b>Personal Attributes</b>			
•	Ability to promote a positive ethos and role model positive attributes	✓	
•	Effective team player	✓	
•	Sensitive to the needs of others	✓	
•	Good listening, oral and numeracy skills	✓	
•	Ability to successfully organise time and successfully work to deadlines	✓	
•	Awareness of own development needs	✓	
•	Person of integrity	✓	
•	A good sense of humour	✓	
<b>Valuing Diversity</b>			
•	Listen, support and monitor the diverse contributions made to service development without prejudice	✓	
•	Challenge behaviours and processes, which do not positively advance the diversity agenda whilst being prepared to accept feedback about own behaviour	✓	
•	Recognise people's strengths, aspirations and abilities and help to develop their potential. Understand how Valuing Diversity	✓	



	can improve our ability to deliver better services and reduce disadvantage		
<b>Customer Care</b>			
•	Listen and respond to children/young peoples needs, seek out innovative ways of consulting and engaging with them	✓	
•	Network with others to develop services for the benefit of the children/young people.	✓	
<b>Developing self and others</b>			
•	Coach and mentor others and be willing to share learning and encourage others to do the same	✓	
•	Listen to others and respond to their needs	✓	
•	Apply a range of development activities to develop and train staff	✓	
•	Strive for improvement and take responsibility for own development	✓	
•	Be self-confident and lead by example	✓	
<b>Work related circumstances</b>			
•	Essa Foundation Academies Trust and all its schools and Academies are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.	✓	
•	All staff will ensure that they are aware of and work within the requirements of all Keeping Children Safe in Education policies, seeking clarity from a member of Senior Leadership if necessary.	✓	

## HOW TO APPLY

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Please read the information in this pack. If you decide to apply you should include a letter with your application form on no more than two sides of A4, giving your reasons for applying for the post, addressing information you have read in the pack and particularly the person specification, and outline any relevant experience and personal qualities you would bring to Essa Foundation Academies Trust. The application form can be found on the vacancies pages of our Academy websites:

Essa Academy <https://www.essaacademy.org/vacancies>

Essa Primary <http://www.essaprimary.org/current-vacancies>

Please do not send a general letter; we really are looking for someone who is prepared to respond to us as an individual. You can be sure we will take time and care in reading your letter; we appreciate how much energy goes into it. **Please ensure that you address your application to: Anne Casey, CEO, EFAT, Lever Edge Lane, Bolton, BL3 3HH. Telephone: 01204 333 222 or E-Mail: [hr@efatrust.org](mailto:hr@efatrust.org)**