



St Thomas of Canterbury

Catholic Primary School

Dear Applicant

We are delighted that you are interested in applying for the headship at St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School.

We are obviously sad to lose Mrs Hall, our well respected and highly regarded headteacher, who has chosen to take early retirement after 5 years dedicated service, during which time she has moved the school forward from an already strong position. However, we also see this as an exciting opportunity to appoint a leader who will approach the role with a fresh perspective and take the school on to the next level.

We are looking for a leader who is

- ✓ Aspirational and inspirational
- ✓ Has a clear strategic vision for the school's future, which includes maintaining the 'Outstanding' judgements awarded by OfSTED in 2009, and as yet unchallenged; and by the Archdiocesan CES Section 48 Inspection team in 2015.
- ✓ Has the ability to communicate this vision to other members of the school community and help them to own it
- ✓ Has the ability to think both analytically, in order to meet challenges, and creatively, in order to innovate
- ✓ Focuses relentlessly on improving learning and teaching in order to secure the best possible outcomes for all children
- ✓ Has the ability to manage both their own tasks and time, and those of others who work in the school, in a way that allows all members of the school community a healthy work life balance.
- ✓ Above all, a practising Catholic whose commitment to their faith and their vocation as a teacher shines through on a daily basis as they lead the school on its journey, Growing Together in God's Love

In return we offer the successful applicant

- ✓ The opportunity to lead a popular and oversubscribed school which is held in high esteem, not only in the parishes of St Thomas of Canterbury, Windleshaw and St Mary's, Lowe House which it serves, but also in the wider community of Eccleston and Windle.
- ✓ Membership of a warm, welcoming and vibrant school community whose members' Catholic values, faith and spirituality permeate every aspect of school life as they strive to fulfil their mission statement by
 - Giving love in all they say and do
 - Rejoicing in God's friendship
 - Opening their hearts to others
 - Working to be the best that they can be

"Growing Together in God's Love"

Windleshaw, Rainford Road, St Helens WA10 6BX

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Mrs K Hall, Headteacher, B.Ed Hons.



- ✓ The opportunity to enthuse, inspire and shape the futures of our wonderful pupils. You will undoubtedly be thrilled to meet them. They are mature and confident but at the same time polite, enthusiastic, happy, hard-working and filled with a love of learning. It comes as no surprise that the vast majority of them achieve their goals, both academic and extra-curricular.
- ✓ The opportunity to foster and develop the talents of our experienced, dedicated, committed and hard-working staff. They are the school's most valuable asset. They have willingly embraced many new initiatives and it is the outstanding leadership of learning in their classrooms that underlies the excellent attainment and progress that our pupils achieve. To say that they are willing to 'walk the extra mile' would be an insult, they regularly 'run an extra marathon' for the pupils' sake!
- ✓ Supportive parents, and in many cases grandparents, who want to be actively involved in the life of the school through attendance at PTFA events, celebratory assemblies and performances. A significant number of our parents and grandparents are themselves former pupils who have remained involved for a generation or more and have a very deep and lasting love for the school
- ✓ An experienced, knowledgeable and supportive governing body who are actively involved in the life of the school in a variety of ways. As parents and grandparents of present and former pupils, and in some cases as former pupils themselves, many of our governors have seen the school develop and flourish over several decades. It holds a special place in their hearts and they are determined to recruit the best person they can find to lead it in the coming years.

There can be no finer testimony for a school than that provided by a retiring headteacher. Mrs Hall has given me permission to quote from her letter of resignation

"I have had a wonderful 5 years at St Thomas of Canterbury and I have been blessed to work with a fantastic, committed, hard working and passionate team...The children are a delight and have brought me so much joy every day. I am so proud of them all and all that they have accomplished."

"Being the Headteacher at St Thomas of Canterbury has been a great privilege...I know that I leave the school in a very strong position and I am sure that it will continue to grow from strength to strength."

Whether you are a serving headteacher looking for a new challenge, or are looking for your first headship, I firmly believe that the opportunity to become Headteacher of St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School is one that you cannot afford to miss.

Please come and visit us before you submit your application. You will not be disappointed.

I look forward to reading your application and I am confident that making our final decision will not be easy due to the calibre of candidates we expect to attract.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Bolton

Chair of Governors, St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School