

February 2024

Dear Prospective candidate

FAITH REFERENCES

As you are aware the person specification for the post for which you are applying states that you are asked to provide a *'positive and supportive faith reference from the priest/minister where the applicant regularly worships'*.

In the light of this and given that a priest is often managing ministry teams and/or more than one church/parish, we offer the following advice when seeking faith references.

1. Speak to the priest before completing your application and ask them to agree to act as a referee
2. Ensure that the priest is aware of
 - your involvement in parish life e.g. groups you attend/lead, Bible reading or intercession rota etc (it may be that currently you are not heavily involved in parish life due to other commitments)Note: When considering worship attendance and involvement, priests will be asked to comment on commitment beyond attendance at school services that might constitute part of any candidates employed role.
 - your present post – name of school, areas of responsibility, etc
 - the post to which you are applying – name of school, post, etcBy following the above advice, you are able to prepare the priest for the reference request and so ensure it will be completed as fully as possible.

Candidates who do not use their Parish priest/minister must explain the reason for this in the letter of application. This can be for a number of reasons, e.g. because the parish is in vacancy, or a recently appointed priest. Whatever the situation, failure to explain may lead to your application not progressing further in the process.

The following websites set out the current list of churches that are members of Churches Together in England, the Evangelical Alliance and North-West Partnership. Please ensure that your place of worship is on the list. If you have any questions with regard to your church's affiliation or the contents of this letter you should contact the Diocesan Adviser for the appointment at hwareing@dbeservices.co.uk

The list of Churches Together in England and its associated bodies can be found at www.cte.org.uk
The list of member churches of the Evangelical Alliance can be found at www.eauk.org
The list of member churches of the North West Gospel Partnership can be found at <https://northwestpartnership.com/>

Yours faithfully

Lesley Brookbanks

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