

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, LEYLAND

Post of Deputy Headteacher

Lead for Data, Assessment & Curriculum



WELCOME

Thank you for considering St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland.

We are a school community that continues to thrive and build on the successes of recent years. At St Mary's, we unashamedly set high standards and expect the very best of our pupils. In so doing, every child is given the opportunity to flourish and fulfil their God-given potential.

Our school has a calm and purposeful working environment, with a rich extra-curricular provision, allowing pupils the opportunity to excel. They are aided wonderfully by a staff body who are hard-working, caring and committed. In short, we are a community where all members are valued and respected.

The inspiration for all we do comes from our Catholic faith and is based on the Gospel values of love, honesty, respect and forgiveness. In so doing, we believe our Mission, which is to 'let your light shine', comes alive, allowing pupils to feel safe and have the confidence to develop their talents.

Our school mission extends, of course, to staff as well, and every opportunity is given to allow for professional development. The successful applicant will be working in a school that is both welcoming and supportive.

This opportunity has arisen due to the planned retirement of the existing postholder. As such, it offers a wonderful opportunity for a colleague who is looking to progress their career, drive further improvement at St Mary's and make a tangible difference to the lives of the pupils we serve.

Applicants considering St Mary's are encouraged to book an appointment and visit as I would be delighted for you to see the school in action.

Phil Thompson

Headteacher



THE SCHOOL

St Mary's was established in 1957 and has remained on its current site ever since. Previously under the stewardship of the Benedictine Order, the school now falls under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Half of the school was rebuilt following a catastrophic fire in 2013, and as a result, now boasts a fine array of equipment and facilities. The installation of a FIFA-approved 4G pitch in 2023 is further proof of how St Mary's continues to develop.

Pupil numbers are strong, with the school enjoying support from parents and the local community. The school is in a sound financial position, with scope to use these funds for further development in key areas.

THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Senior Leadership Team comprises of the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, three Assistant Headteachers and the Business Manager.

Each member of SLT has specific whole-school areas of responsibility, whilst in addition to line-managing department areas. Colleagues are expected to keep-up-to-date with all relevant developments in their job role, and report back as required at all relevant SLT and governor meetings. The school operates a 50 period 2-week timetable, with SLT meetings currently held at 2.15pm on alternate Mondays and Tuesdays.

THE POST OF DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

The governors are seeking to appoint an experienced and well-qualified graduate teacher who is ambitious to succeed. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a sustained track record of achievement in their career to date, and be keen to develop further. The successful candidate will see this move as the next step in their career, and may aspire to Headship in future years. As a Deputy Headteacher, you will be in a unique position to shape the strategic direction of the school.

The successful applicant will be ready for the next step in their career. Whilst any teaching specialism will be considered, candidates must be able to demonstrate impact in their current position. Once appointed, they will oversee all aspects of data, assessment and curriculum within the school. As such, in-depth and up-to-date knowledge of the latest developments within education is crucial, as is the ability to interpret and present data in a way which is accessible for all stakeholders.

As Deputy Headteacher, the post-holder will possess the confidence and ability to lead the school in the Headteacher's absence and as such will be heavily involved in all aspects of school life. This will include overseeing the school's timetable and ensuring the school runs smoothly on a day-to-day level.

Relevant support and development opportunities will be offered to the successful candidate, ensuring that they are given every opportunity to excel in their role.



In your letter of application, please outline your philosophy of education, including details of how you ensure all pupils have the opportunities to realise their full potential.

We are ambitious and the successful candidate must be able to demonstrate a commitment to change as well as the ability to take risks in moving forward. With these points in mind this post represents a huge opportunity to influence the direction of this school in the short and long term.

A sense of vision, enthusiasm and energy will be looked for as well as the abilities needed to contribute to a spirit of teamwork. As a teacher, there must be an enthusiasm for, and commitment to, your specialism. Your teaching load will be determined by the demands of the school. Senior Leaders may also be asked to teach outside of their specialism should the need arise.

All staff are expected to make a positive contribution to the life of the school. There is a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and all staff are encouraged to become involved with this important aspect of school life. Applicants are asked to indicate particular interests and activities.

A programme of professional and pastoral support is given to all new appointments. The appointment will be based on the **Catholic Education Service contract of employment** which will be offered to the successful candidate by the governors.

RELATED MATTERS

We were inspected by the Catholic School Inspectorate in March 2024 and Ofsted in June 2025. Comments from these inspections include:

Catholic School Inspectorate:

- *'Community, inclusivity and belonging are hallmarks of the school, making it a genuine family of faith'*
- *'It is a happy community. Pupils say 'We all feel like a family' and feel valued and respected'*
- *'Staff are impressive role models to the young people in their care, and pastoral care is expert, committed and well organised'*
- *'Parents are central to the school's life and surveys reveal an overwhelmingly positive view from parents of the care and education their children receive'*

Ofsted:

- *'The school is ambitious for its pupils'*
- *'Pupils are proud to be part of this inclusive school'*
- *'Staff foster strong relationships with pupils'*
- *'Pupils feel safe when they are in school'*
- *'The school's curriculum is broad and ambitious'*
- *'Teachers are knowledgeable about their subjects'*
- *'leaders [and] governors have played a significant role in ensuring that the school has sustained its performance since the last inspection'*



THE PLACE

South Ribble is a very pleasant area in which to live and work. The school is situated not far from the centre of Leyland, with easy access to the rail and motorway network as well as the semi-rural and rural areas of southwest and west Lancashire.

THE PROCESS OF APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW

Applicants must complete the CES application form, together with a letter supporting your application. Your application should be addressed to the Chair of Governors, Mrs Donohoe and submitted to head@ismchs.com. The school will acknowledge its receipt. We invite prospective candidates to visit us and experience the school ethos. Please call us if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity. The Head's PA, Mrs Owens will be able to make suitable arrangements. Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 24th November and interviews will take place on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd December. Candidates selected for interview will complete a variety of tasks in school on the first day. Shortlisted candidates after this will be invited to panel interviews and full interview on the second day.

AND FINALLY

I hope you will feel encouraged to apply for this post and we look forward to receiving your application. You should attach a covering letter of no more than three A4 sides (min. font size 11) to your application. Our mission is to appoint the best candidate available for the post. Thank you for showing interest in St Mary's and in this post. Good luck!

Phil Thompson

Headteacher