



# Maryport Church of England Primary School

## Headteacher Candidate Pack

Maryport Church of England Primary School is a happy school where pupils feel safe, secure and enjoy their learning. Our vision is 'Teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain upon it' (Proverbs 22:6), which we promote with all our children. We are a well-recognised school at the heart of the local community with strong links to St Mary's Church. We are looking forward to recruiting a new Headteacher who shares our values and can incorporate their own experience to lead and develop our school.

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Deadline for applications:  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 10am**

Post available:  
**Autumn Term 2026**

Pay Scale:  
**Group 2: L12-L18**

Maryport Church of England Primary School is committed to safeguarding and the welfare of children.

## About Our School

Maryport Church of England Primary School is a warm, welcoming and inclusive community built up of 297 pupils and 45 members of staff. Guided by our Christian values, we provide a rich, ambitious curriculum, meaningful enrichment opportunities and well-being support that enable the whole child to flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We are committed to providing children with firm foundations—guiding them on to ‘the right path’ - so that they grow into respectful, compassionate and responsible citizens of the future.

Our school benefits from a uniquely large site, including extensive playing fields and a woodland area, which provides the ideal setting for our on-site Forest School provision.

Our Little Acorns provision for two-year-olds is currently undergoing refurbishment, modernising facilities and creating additional space. The Early Years Foundation Stage benefits from a vast space that is well-equipped both indoors and outdoors. In Key Stages One and Two, classrooms open directly onto terraced and grassed outdoor spaces. Both key stages also enjoy access to large playgrounds featuring grassed areas, tarmac and adventure play equipment.

We are fortunate enough to have a school hall with a large stage area, which incorporates high end audio equipment and lighting, where school performances are regularly held. Our wonderful PTA utilise this space for successful events.

As an Apple Regional Training Centre, we embed the effective use of technology throughout everyday learning. Pupils benefit from a 1:1 iPad provision in Key Stage Two and a 2:1 ratio in Key Stage One, alongside access to a fully equipped computer suite.



*'At the very core of the school's Christian vision is the image of the right path. This is deeply embedded throughout the school and is the everyday language of adults and pupils, inspiring and directing all. Pupils articulate how walking on the right path guides them in their behaviour and learning decisions, leading to them flourishing.'*

## SIAMS December 2022



## Letter from the Chair of Governors

Thank you for your interest in the position of Headteacher at Maryport Church of England Primary School. We are very excited to hear from candidates with a real passion for teaching, learning, eager to lead and build upon the success of our school.

After 10 years of dedicated service to our school community, our beloved Headteacher has decided to retire from her position at the end of the Summer Term 2026.

Our school's Christian vision, "Teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain upon it" is at the heart of everything we do. This starts with our early year's children creating a lifelong love of learning to inspiring our Key Stage 2 students to take their next courageous steps.

Located in the historic coastal town of Maryport on the edge of the Lake District, the area boasts beautiful views and wonderful sunsets over the Solway Firth, with easy access to the stunning fells and lakes. Our school has unique grounds allowing for onsite forest schooling and is the perfect place for OPAL Play.

If this sounds like the right position for you, please read the application pack, and we look forward to receiving your application.

Elizabeth Kett  
Chair of Governors

*"Leaders have high expectations of pupils' learning and behaviour. They encourage pupils to 'choose the right path' and to embody the school values, including friendship, compassion and forgiveness. Pupils, including children in the early years, live out these values. They are kind, respectful and considerate."*

**Ofsted March 2023**



## What We Are Looking For

- A strong, enthusiastic, resilient leader who will build on the current success of our school and promote high standards of learning and ensure that our curriculum remains innovative and creative, nurturing the whole child.
- Places children at the heart of decisions, ensuring all feel valued and supported.
- Demonstrates high emotional intelligence and awareness of diverseness, with positive behaviour management.
- Inspires and supports all staff, fostering a collaborative and supportive environment.
- Embraces and strengthens our OPAL play and woodland provision.
- Continues to embrace the school's Christian values and ethos including Prayer Space Days and 'Experiences in Church'.



## What We Offer

We maximise use of our unique school grounds and surroundings, extending learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Children who are well-behaved, motivated and proud of their school. Hard-working, skilled, enthusiastic, dedicated staff committed to child development. Established relationships with parents, the local community, other schools and a welcoming ethos. A proactive, positive and supportive governing body.

## OPAL Play

At Maryport Church of England Primary School, play is valued as an essential part of learning and wellbeing for children of all ages. Through our commitment to the OPAL Outdoor Play and Learning programme, we recognise that high-quality play supports confidence, creativity, social development and emotional wellbeing throughout the school.

We are proud to have recently achieved the OPAL Platinum Award for Outdoor Play, reflecting our whole-school approach to enriching play opportunities. OPAL promotes managed risk-taking, resilience, and problem-solving, enabling children to learn how to assess challenges safely and develop independence.

This joined-up approach brings together children, staff, and parents, with children's voice central to the ongoing development of play. Children consistently speak positively about their play experiences, valuing the freedom, responsibility, and sense of belonging that OPAL play brings to our school community.



## Forest School

Forest School is a long-term approach to education, for children, young people, families and adults, that maximises the benefits of learning in the outdoors. Whilst its roots are planted firmly in the best understanding of the theory of how children learn, its practise puts the learner at the heart of their learning experience.

We are fortunate to have a woodland on our school site, providing termly Forest School sessions for all pupils, led by our inhouse Forest School lead.



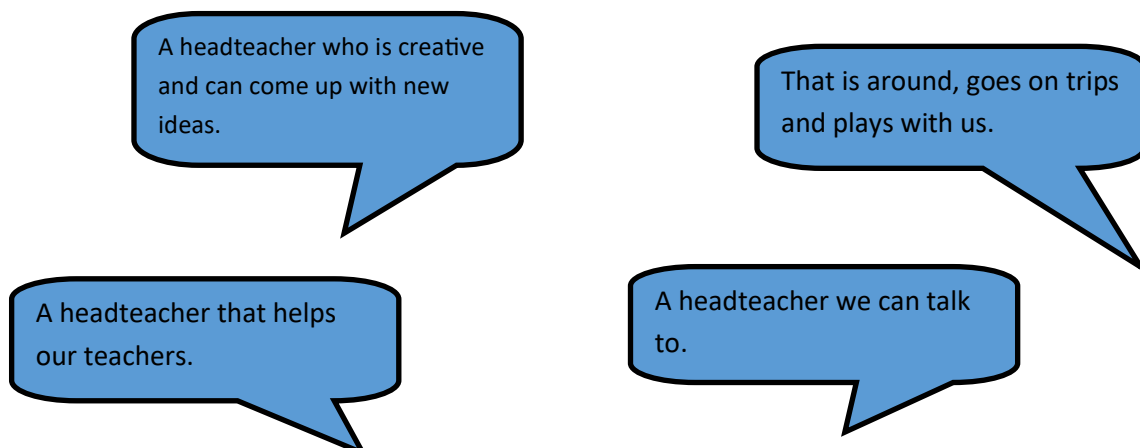


## Voice of the School

Quotes from our enthusiastic Student Council:



They would like a headteacher:



# Maryport Church of England Primary School

## Headteacher Person Specification

|  | Essential  | Desirable   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Qualification</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>qualified teacher status (QTS)</li> <li>evidence of continuing professional development relating to school leadership</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christian leadership qualification and/or experience</li> <li>(CE)NPQH or other relevant qualification</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Experience</b><br><i>Recent and successful experience of:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>best practice in safeguarding</li> <li>teaching and leadership in more than one key stage in a primary school (for a minimum of 5 years)</li> <li>leading curriculum development</li> <li>tracking pupil progress and attainment to inform and evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and interventions</li> <li>positive behaviour management</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>leading safeguarding</li> <li>working in the church school sector</li> <li>working with governors</li> <li>working with external agencies for the wellbeing of pupils and their families</li> <li>strategic financial planning and budget setting in line with a school vision</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Knowledge</b><br><i>Demonstrate an understanding of:</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the distinctive Christian character of Church of England schools, as expressed through contextually relevant, theologically underpinned vision, values and ethos</li> <li>principles for the development of effective teaching and learning to reflect the needs and worth of every pupil</li> <li>principles of school self-evaluation and strategies for school improvement to enable flourishing for all (pupils and adults)</li> <li>strategies to develop community and living well together through partnership with families, and relationships with church and the local community</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the particular context of Maryport CE School</li> <li>the legislative framework for a voluntary controlled school, including governance, curriculum and inspection frameworks and the requirements for statutory assessment</li> <li>personnel issues relevant to school leadership</li> <li>the importance of collaboration with other local schools</li> </ul> |
| <b>Skills</b><br><i>Ability to:</i>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inspire, motivate and challenge staff, pupils and others to live out the school's Christian vision, <i>"Teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain upon it"</i></li> <li>develop teaching and learning to enable all pupils to fulfil their potential</li> <li>lead collective worship that reflects the Christian identity of the school and supports the spiritual development of pupils and adults</li> <li>monitor and evaluate the performance of people and policies in line with the vision and ethos of the school</li> <li>develop and maintain positive relationships with the Governing Body, external agencies, the Diocese and the Local Authority</li> <li>ensure all children are kept safe from harm and nurtured in an environment where all God's children are valued</li> <li>create and maintain an effective learning environment and culture that positively recognises individual strengths and needs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>experience of developing and implementing a contextually relevant, theologically underpinned Christian vision in a Church school</li> <li>lead the development of RE that reflects the context of the school</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Personal attributes</b><br><i>Evidence of:</i>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>commitment to supporting and further developing the Christian identity and vision of the school</li> <li>courageous thinking, imagination and action</li> <li>integrity, resilience and emotional intelligence</li> <li>ability to inspire confidence in others</li> </ul>  |   |

## Key dates

**Closing date: Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 10am**

**Shortlisting: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Interview dates: 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

We aim to respond to all applicants by 11th March and we hope to make an offer on, or just after, the interview day.

The school is committed to the safeguarding of its pupils and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An online search will be carried out on shortlisted candidates, as directed in 'Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025'.

We will run AI plagiarism checks over applications.

## How to apply

Visits to our school are warmly welcomed and will take place on 9th February PM and 23rd February PM. If you wish to arrange a visit please contact Chris Freeland, Clerk to Governors via e-mail ([admin@maryport.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@maryport.cumbria.sch.uk)) or telephone (01900 812299).

Application forms and further details are available from the school website at [www.maryport.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.maryport.cumbria.sch.uk)

Completed applications should be emailed to [clerk@maryport.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@maryport.cumbria.sch.uk)

