



Together we are exploring our special gifts; Together we are growing towards God

February 2018

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our advertised post. We hope that you find the following information useful in helping you with your application. We are aware that there's an awful lot of information here but want applicants to have a real understanding and feel for our school. After all, you wouldn't buy a house by simply looking at the ad online!

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

St. Francis Catholic Primary School takes in children from the local Bradford parish of Our Lady Immaculate & St. Francis, as well as Catholics from further afield. We also serve the neighbouring community, which includes children from various ethnic and religious backgrounds. Over 85% of our children are Baptised Catholics.

Our school was founded originally by Fr. Denis Kennedy who would bus the children from the Parish of St Francis to the Thackley open air site while St Francis Catholic School was being built at a cost of £46,000. The land for the new site was allegedly bought by a Protestant middleman as the owner would not sell to Roman Catholics. Building work commenced on the new school during November 1955 on the site off Myers Lane in the Bolton area of Bradford. The school was designed to accommodate 280 pupils. The school 'officially' opened in 1958, Mr Martin Walsh was the first Headteacher and Fr Kennedy was the Parish Priest at the opening of the school. By 1962 the buildings were too small and 'Standard 3' (Year 5) were taught in the Church hall on Norman Lane for two years. Rumour has it the children used to walk down to Myers Lane for lunch, unsupervised! The field 'below' the school, now Grovelands, had cows in it – as did the 'new' Pendragon Lane. Children 11+ (Year 6) went on to St Joseph's Catholic College and St Bede's Grammar School. Above the school (where the Co-op is today) at Bolton Junction was a Bradford City Transport Tramshed – although not quite as posh as the old Tramshed in Saltaire!

St Francis is well provided for and has eight classrooms, a large hall, a small hall, a large Media Suite, a purpose built EYFS Unit with fantastic outdoor provision, and extensive grounds. The school has completed a huge refurbishment and building project costing £1.5 million. This has resulted in a huge improvement in resources for our children, which include a flexible second hall space for worship, dance, drama, music etc, as well as Food Technology areas, a fantastic new library and computer areas, wireless networks throughout school, a new staffroom, a new main entrance, offices and meeting areas. Externally the school grounds have been developed to incorporate a 'MUGA' pitch (Multi Use Games Area), an outdoor classroom, a developing forest school, and play building resources, a new car park and separate pedestrian entrance and access.

We have approximately 250 children on roll. We have an Early Years Unit where up to 26 children are currently admitted in Foundation 1, while admission numbers in Foundation 2 are 30. Foundation 2 children attend school full time from September of the year they start school. This year the children are organised into 8 classes. The school has a Breakfast Club.

Our staff team currently consists of 10 teachers (including Executive Head) plus about twenty five excellent support staff, mid-day supervisors, cleaners, admin staff and a site manager.

St. Francis is a friendly, warm, welcoming place where, by ensuring a Catholic atmosphere and following the Gospel values shown to us by Jesus, we provide the opportunity for pupils to achieve their potential, explore and develop the gift that they are and grow alongside others as children of God.

The school has close links with our parish and plays an important pastoral role in the community. We support many varied local initiatives and raise considerable funds for various charities each year.

St. Francis is committed to developing excellent Early Years and Primary practice. Children are recognised and treated as the individuals they are and all school staff work hard to encourage and facilitate individual and group achievement. We seek to enable every child to become a responsible and caring member of both the school and the wider community in which they live. An extensive support system helps children with special needs and our school has an excellent record of pastoral care.

We have regular school teams for football, rugby and netball and also take part competitively in other sports such as gymnastics, dance, athletics, uni-hoc, multi-sports, basketball, cricket, and frisbee. The school has an excellent reputation for sporting success. Extra-curricular activities are encouraged and flourish with staff and other adults providing many opportunities for involvement in cooking, music, sport, ICT, dance, drama and other areas.

There is a growing active Parent Council which organises many social and fundraising activities. This group has become very proactive in accessing funding for the school. Parents are very welcome in school and are considered important and very valuable partners in their children's education and our development. We are also keen to support life-long and family learning and regularly host and run courses for our parents and their children.

St Francis was last inspected in February 2013 and was judged to be 'an Outstanding Catholic School by Section 48 Inspectors. The school was inspected by Section 8 Inspectors in January 2018 and continued to be judged 'A Good school where pupils feel completely safe in the school's warm and friendly atmosphere... pupils make good progress because they are taught well and take pride in what they are able to achieve.'

Other external benchmarks which reflect our concern for the wholeness of our pupils', parents' and staff lives are our Music Mark, Activemark, the National Healthy School award, the Speakers' School Council Award and an accreditation for Let's Get Cooking.

As you can tell, our staff are very hardworking and enthusiastic. We are very open, friendly and very supportive of each other. We have lots of laughs (and the occasional tear) in pursuing our common aim of doing the best for all our children at all times.

We aim to provide a quality Catholic education, in a safe, stimulating environment with a happy, purposeful, calm atmosphere where there is enjoyment and pride in individual and collective success.

St Francis is an excellent place to work and to begin a career. We take a pride in supporting the continuing professional development of all our staff, in particular in supporting newly qualified teachers (NQT's) and furthering our school as a Learning Community.

Our school has a partner school, St Cuthbert & The First Martyrs' who we work closely with. Staff from both schools often work together for support in planning, moderation and professional development. St Cuthbert's is a Teaching School and is part of the wider Catholic Schools Partnership Teaching School Alliance (CSPTSA). There is an nationally recognised career development pathway, (from NQT to Executive Headteacher) for all our staff through the CSPTSA. Please follow the link for further details about the CSPTSA www.csptsa.org.uk

ABOUT THE POSTS

This is an exciting opportunity for the right candidates. We are looking for practicing Catholics or someone with a commitment to the Catholic life and ethos of the school to join our successful school and help contribute to the focussed and highly driven staff team. We are looking for two teachers who can teach in either Key Stage 1 or 2. There may also be subject leadership as part of this role. One of the posts is fixed term for one year, in the first instance, to cover a maternity leave. The other post is permanent. Please express your interest and expertise clearly in your application.

HOW TO APPLY

If you want to be part of this and help lead and influence our future, please reflect on our Mission Statement, information about the school and the post and, if possible, come and have a look around.... and then, if happy, fill in an Application Form!

If you wish to apply, you should do so by completing the Catholic Education Service Application Form which is available for viewing and downloading from the CES website.

www.cesew.org.uk

Click on the Employment Documents tab at the top of the CES homepage and then follow the Application Form option from the drop-down menu. You will need to complete the Teacher Application Form.

Applicants are advised to also read the CES Contract of Employment under which our Teachers will be employed and will be required to sign. This is also available for viewing at the above web address. In your pack you will find the job description and Personnel Specification.

We can only accept applications using the CES application form.

Closing date for applications: 9am on Thursday 8th March 2018.

As mentioned, visits to the school are most welcome. Please speak to Sheila Laptew or Deborah Howley, our Administrative staff, to make an appointment.

Thank you for your interest in our school. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Copley
Executive Headteacher

Andrea Haines
Head of School

