

Dear Applicant

Thank you for your interest in this exciting position at William Howard School. I hope that what I have to say and the information provided will give you a flavour of the school.

I personally started my role in September 2016, having been a Headteacher for a number of years in another secondary school, and I can say with complete conviction that it was the best decision I ever made. William Howard School is a great school – it is oversubscribed and well regarded in the local community and across Cumbria.

We are a large school and have one of the most extensive catchment areas in the whole country measuring 362 square miles (that's about 40% of the area inside the M25 orbital!). Our students are therefore truly a comprehensive intake with 38 transport routes bring them to school, originating from 32 different primary schools – 18 of which are official feeder schools. It is those students who are at the heart of all decision making - they always come first. We are a forward thinking organisation with high hopes for the future. This is a fantastic time and opportunity for someone to join the school and be part of our next stage of our journey.

At William Howard, there is a clear expectation upon every student to be the best that they can be, in all that they do. This extends to all our community and you will find that staff and students work together to achieve the very best outcomes. As a school, we pride ourselves on our core values: Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. You will find these at the very heart of all that we do with and for our community.

In an ever demanding world of work and opportunities we believe that students need to be equipped with not only the very best qualifications for their progression, but they also need to be supported and encouraged to become caring, engaging and responsible citizens of the world. Many of our students come back in later life to talk about the experiences that William Howard School provided them with, which enabled them to go on and succeed in a variety of different careers.

We have an established and skilled Learning Provision team, providing bespoke and targeted support for all learners that may need specific and specialist provision. Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do, whether it is our SLD Specialist Provision students or other students with SEN, all are taught in normal lessons with appropriate support provided. We are very proud of this aspect of school life and feel it is a real strength.

We provide the opportunities that bind all the strands of learning together into life changing experiences, supporting the development of character and ethos. Whether it is taking part in the Tanzanian, Swedish or Taiwanese Links, being part of a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, or representing their House in one of the many competitions, to name but a few, it is those experiences that provide learners with the richness of challenge that is at the heart of the school.

The last few years have seen academic attainment remain strong and as the curriculum adjusts for Progress 8, these will see this figure firmly into positive territory. As a school, we recognise the importance of the continued focus on working towards outstanding outcomes, but we have always had an equal focus on enrichment and experience that will remain a clear goal and will never take a back seat. Our ultimate aim is to ensure every individual young person has the very best start in life so that they can be resilient, respectful and take responsibility, while striving relentlessly to be the best that they can be.

That said, we also recognise where our areas for development are. We agreed with OFSTED that our outcomes for disadvantaged students were not yet good enough, these have improved significantly and we know the trajectory they are on so they will show continued improvement over the coming years.

It is that exciting team of students and staff that I would encourage you to become part of.



Mr Chris McAree
Headteacher

Working and Living in Cumbria

As a place to live, Cumbria takes some beating, from the stunning beauty of the coast to the challenge of the Lake District, to the history of Hadrian's Wall, Cumbria offers something for everyone. A predominantly rural county, Cumbria is home to some of England's highest mountains and some of England's biggest lakes. Cumbria is a big county with big opportunities for those who chose to live and work here. The county is famous worldwide for its stunning scenery. Perhaps less well known are its bustling market towns, filled with shops and brimming with life.

Venturing further afield, it has great links to the rest of the country by the M6, to Scotland via the M74/75 and to Newcastle upon Tyne by the A69, connectivity to Cumbria is excellent. There are also excellent rail links to Newcastle, Leeds, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Manchester and London. If you're travelling by air, Manchester, Glasgow, Newcastle and Blackpool Airports are all within 2 hours' drive.

This is the place to be – to live and work – and to have an excellent quality of life to spend with your family and friends and to stretch yourself professionally. Housing is relatively cheap, congestion unheard of, the air really is fresher and the people are some of the friendliest you will ever encounter.

Cumbria Education Trust

William Howard School became an Academy in 2011 and in August 2014 was approved as a sponsor for other Academies. The original trust has grown extensively since then and we are now part of a trust with six other schools, called the Cumbria Education Trust – William Howard School, Workington Academy, Whitehaven Academy, Yanwath Primary School, Tebay Primary School, Longtown Primary and Yewdale Primary School.

We work as a partnership that respects, sustains, challenges and supports. As individual schools we are all unique, but we do all subscribe to a set of shared values, principles and operational processes that ensure quality education for all our young people. Our ambition is to enable every young person to reach their potential and achieve the success they deserve, and to be the employer of choice.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

- www.williamhowardschool.cumbria.sch.uk
- www.cumbriaeducationtrust.org



How to Apply

Thank you for taking the time to read through and find out more about this exciting opportunity. We hope that it has given you enough of a flavour of the school and the post, to decide to make an application.

To apply please complete the enclosed application form and in addition please outline in approximately 1000 words, the following:

- Your reasons for applying
- Your educational philosophy

Your application should be returned by the closing date. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted by email and invited for interviews.

Please note we do not give feedback to unsuccessful applications.