



Chapel Street Community Primary School

Achieving excellence and making a difference for every child

Chapel Street, Levenshulme, Manchester. M19 3GH

admin@chapelstreet.manchester.sch.uk

0161 224 1269

Headteacher: Mrs Ella Hughes

Information about our school for applicants

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for expressing an interest in a vacancy at our school – we are delighted you are considering joining our team. I hope you find all the information you need in this pack but if not and you have questions, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help.

Our other on-line documents to support with recruitment are an application form, information about the role and a job description and person specification. You can also find further information on our website, which includes our most recent Ofsted Report, from December 2024: <https://www.chapelstreetprimary.co.uk/ofsted>

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is of upmost importance at Chapel Street and we have a Safeguarding Strategy, led by our Deputy Headteacher, which takes us from compliance to a culture of excellence. Our commitment to safeguarding is evident in all elements of our practice and provision and is central to our recruitment processes, which exceed the requirements outlined in Keeping Children Safe in Education including:

- At least one member of the panel trained in Safer Recruitment – usually the whole panel are;
- Sharing our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy with you in our application pack;
- Online checks of publicly available information for shortlisted candidates;
- The interview process will assess your suitability to work with children and ensure you have the right knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours to meet the high standards we expect for safeguarding;
- Any offers of employment are subject to satisfactory completion of all required vetting checks;
- Safeguarding and Child Protection are an integral part of our induction process for all new staff.

About Our School

Our school values are respect, inclusion and growth. These are incredibly important to us and shape our provision for all pupils, staff and the wider community. We are proud of our relational approach (see attached policy) which underpins the 'Chapel Street Way'. Visitors to our school comment on the warm, welcoming environment and nurturing relationships. Our commitment to wellbeing, equality and improvement is strong and can be seen through our actions at all levels across school.

Chapel Street Community Primary School serves a diverse and vibrant community. We are a large (three-form entry) urban primary school with many unique strengths and challenges as a result. Ofsted inspected our school in December 2024 and we maintained our grading of "Good". We are very proud of this achievement whilst recognising the challenging, ongoing school improvement journey still ahead of us. We value radical candour and take time to give and receive feedback with compassion and honesty. We are ambitious in our expectations for all children and staff and strive towards excellence in all areas of our school – something that is visible through our 10-year strategic plan.



Currently we have 638 pupils on roll – which includes a nursery and three classes for each year group from reception to year 6. Around 60% of our children are of Pakistani heritage, 4% are White British and the rest belong to a wide range of ethnic groups. More than 35 languages are spoken in the homes of our children, with many of our pupils being multi-lingual; a large proportion of children who start in our Nursery are unable to speak English, and many children are still in the early stages of learning English. Overall, 83% of our pupils are EAL. We have high levels of mobility, including International New Arrivals. This rich cultural diversity offers us many exciting opportunities for children and staff to learn from each other – it is something we value greatly.



Levels of social and economic need are high for a significant number of our children (64% Ever6 FSM) and approximately 13% of our pupils have diagnosed Special or Additional Needs. We are actively inclusive – for pupils and staff – and are committed to continually improving our offer for equality, inclusion and diversity.

Chapel Street holds and is working towards a number of external accreditations for our achievements, including:

- Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) – 2019
- National Safety Certification (Safety Mark) – 2019
- School Games Bronze Award – 2020
- One Education Gold Excellence in Wellbeing Award – 2020
- One Education Reading award – 2021
- Leading Parent Partnership Award – 2022
- SEND Inclusion Award - 2022



Our school provides a range of professional development experiences for all staff, to meet both individual and school priorities and aspirations. As we are a large and diverse school there are many in-house opportunities for professional growth and development as well as those that arise through our collaborative approach to school improvement and strong relationships with other agencies and professionals. We have also supported a number of staff in achieving leadership qualifications ranging from Level 3 to Level 7, NPQML, NPQSL, NASENCO, Masters and other relevant professional qualifications for example in coaching and mentoring. We also support staff in pursuing opportunities related to school-to-school support and networking outside of school - including roles as SLEs, leading training for other schools, local cluster networks and partnerships with schools across Manchester.



We have an incredibly supportive and effective governing body and an inclusive, warm and welcoming team of staff – from our teachers and TAs through to admin, premises, cleaning and lunch time staff. Staff tell us that they feel able to ask for help when needed and value working as part of the 'Chapel Street Family'. We are all very proud to work here and committed to our children and community - we work hard and it can be challenging at times but we care deeply and support each other. Our children are the highlight of our school and there is something very special about them all. Similarly, our parents / carers and wider community are respectful, positive about school and from very diverse backgrounds.

School priorities and challenges

Our school development priorities for this year are:

1. Raising attainment and outcomes in writing.
2. Improving physical development for writing across the curriculum.
3. Using high quality, timely feedback to improve outcomes.

You can find out more about our school improvement priorities and what this means for everyone in our school community on our website:

<https://www.chapelstreetprimary.co.uk/our-school/school-improvement/>





Some of the biggest challenges we face are:

- Low baseline of attainment on entry for pupils;
- Disadvantages that our pupils and community experience;
- Higher than average mobility of pupils in all year groups;
- Increasing attendance for all pupils – particularly in EYFS and year 1;
- Raising attainment and rates of progress so all pupils leave us ready for the next stage of their education.

Our site

Whilst we are a central Manchester school we have excellent outdoor space that we are proud of – this includes on site Forest School provision, playing field, MUGA and two large playgrounds in addition to a well-resourced EYFS outdoor area. We also work hard to offer excellent facilities within the school building and are especially excited to have a fantastic library.



Our leadership team

As Headteacher I am passionate about developing leadership at all levels and have created a successful distributed leadership model for our school – for teachers, TAs and wider support staff. This model supports with the smooth running of school, our school improvement journey, succession planning and providing personal and professional development opportunities for all. In addition to our substantive leadership structure, we offer temporary TLRs and honorariums for teachers and TAs who lead school improvement projects.

Senior leaders

We have a strong, committed and hard-working Senior Leadership Team that includes Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher, School Business Manager, Inclusion Assistant Headteacher, EYFS Assistant Headteacher, KS1 Assistant Headteacher, LKS2 Assistant Headteacher and UKS2 Assistant Headteacher.



Middle leaders

Our senior leadership team works very closely with a range of talented leaders across school including TA manager, Compliance & Project Manager, Safeguarding & Welfare Manager, HR Manager, Site Manager, SEND Lead Teacher, PE & Sport Premium Lead and subject co-ordinators.

Wider leadership

Our distributed model means there is a structure for leadership within all teams of staff including our Teaching Assistants and School Support Team.

Subject leadership

We have an Assistant Headteacher who is strategic lead for whole school curriculum and our core subjects are led by experienced teachers. All teachers are part of a specific subject leadership team and many are subject co-ordinators for core or foundation subjects.

Pupil leadership

This is an area of leadership that we are continually developing, building on our active School Council and Head Pupils to include Asthma Ambassadors, Pupil Voice Groups and Peer Mentors. Over the coming year we are excited to also be introducing Anti-Bullying Champions and developing Ambassadors for subject areas.



How we support positive wellbeing for all staff

We were very proud to achieve the One Education Gold Excellence in Wellbeing Award in recognition of our strong commitment to wellbeing for all staff. Our wellbeing strategy is by the HR Manager and supported by a very strong Wellbeing Team which is representative of all staff. Some examples of how we support positive wellbeing are:

- Policies and procedures that pay due care to workload and wellbeing in line with best practice;
- Family friendly policies and a commitment to flexible working;
- Regular presence and support from middle and senior leaders;
- High numbers of additional support staff – including specialist intervention TAs and administrative team;
- Designated funding for CPD and resources which can be requested through a clear and accessible system by all staff;
- Specific equipment and resources needed for roles are provided by school, for example laptops;
- Multiple staff and senior leaders trained in Mental Health First Aid;
- Access to professional supervision from a qualified therapist and leadership coaching for all leaders;
- Multiple mechanisms available for staff consultation and feedback – which are listened to and acted on;
- Spaces that reflect our commitment to wellbeing and relationships in the way they are resourced and curated, including a creative meeting room space. We also have a smaller, private wellbeing space that can be used by staff for a range of purposes including making confidential phone calls, expressing milk, injecting medication, prayer, quiet contemplation or stretching;
- 24/7/365 access to free, confidential support from an EAP service;
- Smart Clinic access for all staff that includes virtual GP appointments, access to free physiotherapy, online CBT, counselling, smartphone app, anxiety management, assertiveness and self-confidence training, time management support, a CPDUK approved stress management course and online wellbeing assistance.

Some examples of how we support positive wellbeing for teachers, in addition to the above is:

- All teachers receive above the statutory 10% PPA each week and this is facilitated collaboratively in year group teams to reduce workload for all;
- Policies exceed union and DfE recommendations, particularly in relation to tasks such as Planning, Feedback and Assessment;
- We don't undertake formal or graded lesson observations and instead have developed a peer-support approach following the SSAT Assessment for Learning programme;
- Wide range of internal and external professional support available including full time non-class-based SENCO, attendance officer, on site play therapists, Place 2 Be practitioner, school nursing team, speech and language, Educational psychologists;
- 1265 and annual overview agreed and shared in summer term before new academic year with careful consideration of when key events and deadlines will take place – part-time staff are provided with bespoke 1265 overviews to take account of their reduced working hours.



If you are excited by this post and by the opportunity to work in a really special school, then I look forward to receiving your completed application.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ella Hughes
Headteacher