

Part Time Chaplain and Director of Christian Ethos St George's School, Blackpool

Introduction

St George's School Blackpool is an 11-16 Church of England Academy with a commitment to providing young people with the knowledge, skills, experiences and confidence that prepares them for life beyond school. We are excited about having a Chaplaincy post working across the school and the local parish of St Mary's South Shore and developing this very important partnership. You can discover more at <https://stgeorgesblackpool.com> Education within our school community is about everyone achieving his or her best, while developing individual character and personality. Our motto, Believe Achieve Care, reflects our passionate belief in equipping individuals with the skills to make a success of their lives - to secure useful and rewarding work, make and sustain good relationships and contribute positively to local and global communities. The school is part of Cidari Multi Academy Trust and working in close partnership with the Diocese of Blackburn to provide an excellent education for all.

One of 14 Deaneries within the Diocese of Blackburn, Blackpool Deanery is made up of parishes across the Blackpool Fylde coast and the surrounding area. The churches of the deanery and their ecumenical partners are committed to supporting school chaplaincy and are excited about its' potential.

Diocese of Blackburn: There are a number of chaplains and Christian youth workers serving within the Diocese of Blackburn. The chaplain appointed here will join a vibrant, supportive and growing network. Within this network there are opportunities for initial and on-going training, mentoring, prayer and fellowship. You can discover more at <https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/support-educational-chaplaincy> and <https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/schools/>

Our vision

Vision 2026 The Diocesan Vision(<https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/what-is-vision-2026>) includes as a vital element 'Prioritising work among children, young people and schools to raise up a new generation for Christ.'

Our vision is that this new dual role will be a pioneering one. Our Christian schools can sometimes develop in a way that is isolated from the local parishes from which the students are drawn. The school can form a genuinely Christian ethos, but students can be largely ignorant of the parish Christian community in which they live. There is therefore a danger that when students leave the school they fail to connect with their parish and become an active member of their local worshipping community. An important purpose of this role will be to bridge that gap. It is envisaged that the Chaplain will work hard to align the ethos of the school with the normal pattern of parish life. It will be important for example to follow the Christian Calendar as nearly as possible as it is expressed in parish life.

The purpose of this chaplaincy and director of Christian ethos role is to grow leaders, form witnesses and make disciples of Jesus Christ within the school community and linked parish,

offering pastoral and spiritual care for all and being the 'public face of God' for the school and creating a living link with the surrounding parishes within which our young people live, whilst working as half time Parish Priest at St Mary's South Shore, Blackpool.

Key purpose of the role in school:

To develop chaplaincy to within schools and to develop and lead the chaplaincy team offering pastoral and spiritual care to the school communities and being responsible for the Christian ethos for the school.

Location:

St George's School, Cherry Tree Road, Blackpool. Within St George's School there is office space with IT provided and a fully equipped chapel.

Reporting to:

The Line Manager for school, on day to day issues will be the Headteacher. In regard to the parish role clergy will be licensed by the Bishop of Blackburn.

Mutual Flourishing

A key aim of the role will be to foster excellent relationships with local clergy. It is expected that this role will be an exemplar of Mutual Flourishing, encouraging excellent relationships following the Five Guiding Principles. This should allow for staff, students and parishioners to experience a full range of ministry within the breadth of the Church of England.

Key relationships:

Students, and Staff at St George's School Blackpool

Local Church Leaders in Blackpool Deanery and its ecumenical partners.

Diocese of Blackburn Board of Education High Schools Advisor and Diocesan Youth Advisor

Main Responsibilities [with deliberate flexibility to be developed in school]

A chaplain is 'the public face of God' within a school community.

The role of the chaplain, is key in:

- developing and supporting the Christian ethos and values of the school
- offering pastoral and spiritual care to all
- developing Chaplaincy as a missional and pioneering ministry
- supervising and deploying the chaplaincy team within the school
- developing and supporting the Christian ethos of the school
- driving the Christian ethos distinctiveness agenda for the whole school

It should be remembered that the role is about being an active witness for Christ as much as it is about being present. Perhaps the most important elements of a chaplain's ministry is to be seen, actively engage with the spiritual life of the school community, to meet people and listen to them where they are living out vision 2026 in all they do.

Growing leaders, being witnesses and making disciples of Jesus Christ is a key part of the Blackburn Diocesan vision and strategy. The chaplain is there to be distinctive and inclusive, to communicate God's presence by words and actions.

Conditions of Grant for Chaplaincy work at St George's Academy

- **Distinctive and Inclusive:** A Christian chaplain should be clear and distinctive about what s/he believes. Following the example of Jesus, a chaplain also needs to meet and welcome people where they are, accepting them unconditionally and without judgement. A chaplain can prompt and respond to questions of faith, and there are many wonderful opportunities for teaching, discussion and discipleship, but a chaplain does not proselytize.
- **Developing a team:** The chaplain will call, train and support a team which will include a youth worker and collective worship coordinator and a team of honorary associate chaplains from local churches. This team will fulfil a variety of the roles outlined below with some specialising [for instance in mentoring or leading a CU] and others having a more general role. All will be safely recruited.
- **Working with local churches:** The chaplain will work with all of the local churches, reporting regularly and seeking partnerships for prayer and other forms of Christian ministry and especially enabling links between existing youth and children's ministry projects and the schools.
- **Listening:** A chaplain goes into school to listen. Corporate and Collective Worship Bible Clubs, CU's, prayer meetings and worship are all hugely important part of chaplaincy ministry, but the chaplain is there, first and foremost, to meet people where there are, to listen and to develop trusting relationships. It is out of these relationships that arise the opportunities to share faith and teach and Growing leaders, being witnesses and making disciples of Jesus Christ.
- **Prayer and Worship:** The chaplain is there to pray for and with a school, and, in liaison with SLT, to lead worship, collectively and corporately and to enable prayer, worship and reflection through projects such as prayer boxes or trees, Easter Crosses, Christmas Stars or other creative and reflective activities.
- **Celebrations, Charities and Crises:** In liaison with SLT a chaplain will enable some of the great celebrations, faith festivals, anniversaries, etc. Jesus was good at parties and a chaplain can follow that example in a wonderful diversity of ways. A chaplain can be the charity coordinator, working with groups of students and enabling an outward focus. A chaplain can have a key support and leadership role amidst crises, whether caused by bereavement, redundancy, illness, major emergency, SIAMS or Ofsted! In such contexts the chaplain can signpost to specialist support, listen to and support everyone and lead or enable any appropriate services.
- **Mentoring:** The chaplain will be involved in mentoring any Christian youth worker employed by the school. The Chaplaincy can also involve one to one or small group mentoring for students. It is important not to mistake this with counselling and have clear referral processes.
- **On the edge and in the centre:** A chaplain is at the centre of the school with a direct link person within the senior leadership [the Pastoral Deputy Head or equivalent]. A chaplain is

also one step removed from the organisation that s/he serves; able to take a wider view and reflect back pastorally and prophetically. A chaplain also has support from the local churches.

- Clubs: Alongside Christian Clubs, the chaplain can also be involved in a wide diversity of activities, sport, performing arts, projects such as youth Pilgrimage to Walsingham, Duke of Edinburgh, Homework Clubs, Breakfast Club, Rainbows Bereavement group... The list is endless and will depend on the skills and interests of the chaplain and the time available.

The possibilities for chaplaincy are endless [some are outlined above] and the time is limited. Each school is distinct, as is each chaplain, and there is a continual cycle of educational change. Therefore, it is important for the chaplain to work alongside the academy's senior leadership team and the Diocesan Board of Education team. This will include meeting with them termly to reflect on the past term and discuss, discern and agree the priorities for the term ahead. Also attendance at all diocesan chaplaincy network meetings to foster cross school and inter-diocese collaboration.

Key Knowledge and Skills

Ordained Priest of the Church of England of good standing in the Church of England able to hold a licence of the Bishop of Blackburn
Ability to give a considered and informative account of the Gospel, framed with a contemporary context
Ability to reflect theologically on youth/children's work
Familiarity of the SIAMS and Ofsted Inspection schedules
Excellent organisational skills and an ability to work effectively under pressure
Confident in leading pupil pilgrimage and outdoor worship experiences
Familiarity of the operational strategies of schools/academies
Experience working in a school or other educational context
Have a proven track record in creating Secondary Phase worship materials for both pupils and teachers
Familiarity with the educational structures of the Church of England
Sensitivity to working with young people, staff and others from all faiths and none
Confident in leading on worship / assembly to a variety of audiences some small, some in excess of 500
Relate easily to the whole school community – staff, pupils and parents
Confidence in dealing with a variety of stakeholders
Friendly and approachable with an ability to appropriately build positive relationships
Be committed to ongoing professional development
Competency with ICT
Experience of leading and delivering training
Training or employed experience in working with people from a variety of faiths
Commitment to the safeguarding and welfare of all students
Hold an up to-date DBS (a DBS will be carried out on appointment)
Commitment to equality of opportunity
Full driving licence and access to a car or demonstrable alternatives available