Lydiate Primary and Nursery School

Lydiate Primary and Nursery School
Lambshear Lane
Lydiate
L31 2JZ
0151 526 2657
www.lydiateprimary.co.uk
admin.lydiate@schools.sefton.gov.uk
Twitter: @lydiateprimary1
Headteacher: Mrs G Forshaw

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the post of Headteacher at Lydiate Nursery and Primary School and for taking the time to consider joining our community at such an important point in our journey. As Chair of Governors, and having worked in close professional partnership with our current Headteacher for many years, I am very aware that this appointment is so important. Our school has benefited from strong, principled and values-led leadership, and we are seeking a Headteacher who can honour that legacy while confidently shaping the next chapter for Lydiate.

Our most recent inspection confirmed that Lydiate continues to be a good school and recognised what we see every day: that pupils are nurtured, well cared for and genuinely happy in school. They trust staff, feel safe and know they will be supported when challenges arise. Our strong culture of safeguarding and care is non-negotiable, and we are looking for a Headteacher who will continue to place children's welfare, wellbeing and protection firmly at the centre of school life. Inspectors also noted the calm, positive climate across the school, the pride pupils take in their behaviour and values, and the strength of our work in supporting pupils' emotional wellbeing, including the highly regarded Blossom Room and the leadership roles pupils take in supporting one another. Visitors frequently comment on the calm, welcoming and purposeful atmosphere they experience when they walk through our doors. These qualities matter deeply to us and are central to who we are as a school.

At the same time, our children are eager to learn and ambitious for themselves. Our curriculum is broad, carefully designed and increasingly strong. A whole-school focus on oracy is helping pupils communicate their ideas and thinking with growing confidence and clarity, and reading sits firmly at the heart of our curriculum. Children develop positive reading habits early, and our phonics and early reading provision is delivered consistently and well, with timely support in place for pupils who need it. We are also particularly proud of the way our school identifies and supports pupils with special educational needs and disabilities at an early stage, enabling them to learn successfully alongside their peers. Our inclusive culture, strong commitment to pupil voice and wide range of enrichment opportunities help ensure that pupils' wider development is supported and that they are well prepared for life beyond our gates.

As a governing body, we aim to be honest and reflective about where we are. While outcomes for current pupils are improving strongly, we recognise that the next stage of our journey is to continue strengthening curriculum implementation, ensuring that pupils remember more and build securely on their learning over time across all subjects.

This role offers a rare and genuinely transformative professional opportunity. Over the coming years, the school will expand from a one-form entry to a two-form entry school and move into a brand-new, state-of-the-art building. At the same time, the Governing Body has taken the strategic decision to transition to academy status and join Southport Learning Trust. These developments bring significant opportunity, but they will also require calm, credible and resilient leadership. We are therefore seeking a Headteacher who can lead the school confidently through a period of growth and change while protecting what matters most: the quality of education, the wellbeing of children and staff, and the inclusive, nurturing culture that defines Lydiate. Everything we do is guided by our motto: **Inspire. Achieve. Prepare for Life.**

We are looking for a Headteacher who will truly live these words in practice through curriculum leadership, professional development, decision-making and daily interactions with pupils and families. The successful candidate will be a leader who:

- Is a visible and approachable presence in school: someone who understands the importance of relationships and who creates a culture in which pupils and adults alike feel valued, listened to and supported to do their best
- places children unequivocally at the centre of every decision and is ambitious for pupils' learning and life chances
- brings the vision, resilience and professional credibility required to lead a school through growth, academisation and significant change
- balances clear strategic leadership with strong day-to-day operational leadership
- understands the importance of high-quality early years and primary education and strong progression through to secondary readiness
- leads with integrity and fairness, and can handle difficult conversations with clarity, confidence and humanity
- prioritises staff development, wellbeing and high-quality teaching as the foundation for sustained improvement
- builds trust and shared purpose with pupils, staff, families, governors and Trust colleagues

The move to a new building and the expansion of the school provide a unique opportunity to shape learning environments, organisational systems and curriculum delivery within a purpose-built setting, and to design structures that will serve our community well into the future. Alongside this, our transition into a Trust will require thoughtful and collaborative leadership to ensure continuity, stability and ambition while protecting and celebrating Lydiate's distinct identity and ethos.

The Governing Body has a clear and honest understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development, and we are fully committed to playing our part in supporting and challenging school leadership. We see our relationship with the Headteacher as a genuine professional partnership. If you are an experienced and ambitious school leader who is excited by the opportunity to lead at a defining moment in a school's history, and motivated by the chance to make a lasting difference for children and families, we would very much welcome your application.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Moore
Chair of Governors

Mental Health First Aider
MHFA England
Green Tree School
Woodland Trust
Gold Award
Step into Quality 2022
PSQM
Primary Science Quality Mark
Valid 2022 - 2025
PSQM
NCSL
Networked Learning Communities