



"Deo Reddite Dei"

"Give back to God what belongs to God"

CHAPLAIN

Full Time, Permanent (Term time only)
Salary Medway C2 Full Time Equivalent £24,496 - £32,020
Pro rata equivalent actual salary £20,529- £26,835
Required from Easter 2023 or as seen as practicable after this date

The governing body seek an enthusiastic and suitably qualified Chaplain who is keen to play a proactive and collaborative role in developing the Catholic ethos of our school and the spiritual formation of all within it.

St John Fisher Catholic School is very proud of our strong and vibrant Catholic ethos, having achieved an 'Outstanding' judgement in our 2021 Section 48 Inspection. The school is voluntary aided, within a selective unitary authority, and falls under the guidance of the Education Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

We are seeking a chaplain who will engage students with a modern and vibrant Catholic ethos so that all of our community are in a position to thrive and give back in a multifaith and multicultural society. The successful candidate will work closely with their SLT line manager and with the Head of RE to engage and inspire students of all faiths and none, both in and out of the classroom. This will involve helping to plan and deliver lessons, organising events based on the liturgical calendar, and creating extracurricular opportunities and closer links with the Diocese, local community, and parish. The Chaplain will also support staff in nurturing their own faith and understanding through opportunities such as prayer, reflection, retreats and other faith formation activities.

This is a very exciting and exceptional time to be joining St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, as we continue to grow and develop in our new building which opened in February 2023. Working in brand new chapel within a school building is a unique and rare opportunity giving the successful candidate an opportunity to continue to build on the outstanding faith formation that greatly enriches our whole community

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an enhanced DBS check.

Application forms can be downloaded from the school website: www.stjohnfisher.school. They should be completed and emailed to both E.Liffen@stjohnfisher.school and L.bennett@stjohnfisher.school

Closing Date: March 24th 2023
Interviews shortly after

MRS D.LENNON
HEADTEACHER

St. John Fisher Catholic
Comprehensive School,
City Way, ME1 2FA.

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Job Description

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

This job description should be read alongside the National Standards document for School Chaplains. In this document, "Chaplain" refers to both ordained and lay Chaplains. The Chaplain, through their work and witness, will contribute to the spiritual and pastoral care of all members of the school community. They will have a central role in implementing the school vision statement and work with the Headteacher in leading and developing the Catholic life of the school. They will nurture the faith formation and liturgical life of the school community. The Chaplain will also work to enhance the Religious Education curriculum and other areas where appropriate.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chaplain as witness

- Help people to recognise God's love for them and their need of God
- Inspire through example
- Ensure that students enjoy their experience of the religious heart of the school and recognise development in their own faith
- To encourage staff and pupils to live the faith by being involved in projects relating to social justice, national and global citizenship
- Assist students and staff in the effective planning, preparation and execution of the liturgy so that each celebration is a catechetical moment as well as a time of personal encounter with Jesus Christ

The Chaplain as pastor

- Be visible and approachable around the school for students and staff (in recreational areas)
- Accompany students and staff at particular stages of their journey through life
- Get to know people individually and use every opportunity for contact to the best advantage
- Support the Headteacher in her role as faith leader in school

The Chaplain as leader

- Support and further develop the spiritual, religious and liturgical life of the school.
- To offer opportunities of prayer for staff and students.

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- If a priest, celebrate Mass and the sacraments regularly in school; if not, plan for the same to occur with local clergy
- Develop suitable activities to mark and celebrate the major feasts and seasons of the Church
- To support staff and pupils in their planning, preparation and leading of liturgies and collective worship
- Help with the provision of suitable resources for the prayer life and worship of the school
- Ensure the school environment and displays reflect the school's Catholic Christian identity
- Promote and care for the school Chapel as a sacred space
- Develop a school retreat programme for pupils
- Support students to participate in the sacramental life of the Church, where appropriate
- To celebrate and share the faith life of the school with the wider community
- To include the local parishes in school celebrations, where appropriate
- Help with sensitive issues, advising on the Church's teaching

The Chaplain as educator

- To support and enhance the Religious Education curriculum, where appropriate
- To undertake student group work, where appropriate
- To liaise with other areas of the school, for example, performing arts, to support liturgical and spiritual experiences
- Be involved where appropriate and where directed in the curriculum
- Ensure that students make a positive contribution in the school community and beyond through charity work, participating in liturgy and working with outside communities

The Chaplain as professional

- Have input into the School Improvement Plan, its operation and review
- Advise the Senior Leadership Team, where appropriate
- Challenge and support on standards, morals and the values of the Christian life
- To meet regularly with the line manager
- To manage the Chaplaincy budget accordingly
- To engage in a regular process of appraisal
- To report to and work with Governors to promote the Catholic ethos and distinctive nature of the school
- Attend where possible staff meetings and any other meetings as appropriate
- To engage with Continual Professional Development (CPD) relevant to the role of chaplain
- To avail of opportunities for enhancing own spiritual well-being
- To lead school based CPD for staff in relation to the Catholic life of the school
- To liaise with Diocesan agencies, groups and individuals, where appropriate
- To undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required by the Headteacher

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PERSON SPECIFICATION: CHAPLAIN

Education	Essential / Desirable
Minimum of GCSE (O Level) at grade C (or equivalent) in English and maths	E
University degree or equivalent	D

Experience	Essential / Desirable
Practicing Catholic- have a good understanding of the Catholic religion and commitment to its teachings including preparing and leading collective worship– faith references will be sought. Please provide details of a faith referee on the application form	E
Experience of working with children in an educational setting	D
Previous experience working with young people	E

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities	Essential / Desirable
A track record of creating positive relationships	E
Able to lead staff training and projects	E
ICT Literate	E
Good interpersonal skills	E
Ability to lead, motivate and inspire students	E
Ability to work in an organised and methodical manner with time management skills	E
Excellent communication skills	E
Ability to deal with sensitive and confidential issues and information, discreetly and in a caring manner	E
Have high expectations of students	E
Be confident, professional, and able to work, independently, with minimal supervision and as part of a team	E
Ability to manage and prioritise a workload	E
Flexible attitude to work	E
Ability to play a musical instrumental	D

Other Attributes	Essential / Desirable
Commitment to the spiritual formation of all students	E

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Commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people	E
Possession of an enthusiastic and positive attitude	E
Commitment to sustaining attendance at work	E
Commitment to health & safety	E
Commitment to equality and diversity	E

Our History

St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School has a proud history of educating our local Medway community. Established in 1964, we are the only Catholic secondary school in the local authority and the only secondary school operating across two sites. One of several secondary modern schools in the area, we are a diverse community, proud to educate Catholic students as well as those of other faiths and none.

Our students often refer to us as their second family, and it is a great place to work as a member of staff. Our community of staff is incredibly supportive of each other, and our personalised CPD programme means that everyone's career development is supported in a way that is specific to them. We are passionate about work-life balance, finishing lessons early on a Wednesday afternoon so that CPD and meetings can largely take place during normal school hours, and we provide counselling services free of charge to those who need them.

The school has been on a trajectory of improvement since the appointment of the Headteacher, Dympna Lennon, in September 2016. This was recognised in our 'Good' Ofsted in May 2019, with inspectors commenting that 'standards across the school have improved since the last inspection' and 'Teaching, learning and assessment are strong across subjects.' Our August 2022 GCSE results were some of the best in Medway. In 2021, we were awarded an 'Outstanding' judgment in our Diocesan inspection. SJF's sixth form offers a wide range of academic and vocational qualifications. It has a comprehensive intake, ranging from students who are re-taking Level 2 qualifications, all the way to those who are enrolled in our Oxbridge programme, helping students to reach the top universities.

SJF is the recipient of a multimillion-pound grant from the Department for Education's Priority Schools Building Programme which will be used to build new school facilities for our students so that they have the resources they deserve. We will move into our new school in January 2023.

SJF undoubtedly has a proud history, but we are even more excited about the future. We hope that you'll want to be part of it.

Our Mission Statement

St. John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School inspires students, spiritually and educationally forming them through Faith so that they can achieve their aspirations and contribute to their community.

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